

specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in consultative status, with a view to encouraging further scientific and technological studies leading to wider economic applications of the new sources of energy other than the atom, especially solar and wind energy;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other appropriate specialized agencies, for the twenty-seventh session of the Council, a progress report on developments in these fields, together with recommendations regarding the agenda of an international conference on the new sources of energy other than the atom and their economic applications, to be convened as early as feasible thereafter.

*990th plenary meeting,
26 July 1957.*

654 (XXIV). World economic situation

A

INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR TRADE CO-OPERATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 614 A (XXII) of 9 August 1956 on measures for the development of trade co-operation, and *having considered* the report by the Secretary-General on the comments of Governments concerning international machinery for such co-operation,⁶

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1027 (XI) of 20 February 1957, particularly in regard to the establishment of the Organization for Trade Co-operation,

Recognizing the need for improved co-operation in questions of international trade in order more effectively to promote the development of international economic relations in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recognizing that opinions differ about specific ways and means of accomplishing this objective,

Noting the report by the Secretary-General, and *noting further* that only twenty-one replies have been received to the invitation contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 614 A (XXII),⁷

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep under review developments in the field of trade co-operation, in particular with respect to international machinery for trade co-operation, and to submit to the Council at its twenty-sixth session a further report pursuant to resolution 614 A (XXII), taking into account the replies already received and others that may be received;

⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 2 (a), document E/3004.*

⁷ *Ibid.* and documents E/3004/Add.1, 2 and 3.

2. *Expresses* the hope that Governments will cooperate fully in making the international machinery for trade co-operation as effective as possible.

*993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.*

B

REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS EXPENDITURE BY STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that in many countries huge sums are currently being spent on armaments,

Noting further that this expenditure imposes a heavy economic and fiscal burden on many countries and absorbs resources which might otherwise be devoted to peaceful uses,

Recognizing that a concerted reduction in armaments would reflect a relaxation of international tension and could also facilitate the consolidation of peace, a reduction in the burden of taxation imposed on the peoples by the current levels of armament expenditure, and the development of economic relations between States,

Recalling that efforts are being continued through the United Nations Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee to achieve agreement on the problem of disarmament,

Expresses the hope that these efforts may progress steadily towards the goal of internationally supervised disarmament, thus leading to a significant reduction in armament expenditures and thereby freeing additional resources which could be used to accelerate economic and social development, including the economic development of under-developed countries and areas.

*993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.*

C

WORLD ECONOMIC SURVEY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the *World Economic Survey, 1956*,⁸ and the contents and uses of the full employment and balance of payments questionnaire through which information is obtained for the World Economic Survey from Governments,

Recalling the appropriate resolutions on the *World Economic Survey* and the questionnaire on full employment and the balance of payments and the recommendations of the Co-ordination Committee,⁹

Bearing in mind the various opinions expressed at the twenty-fourth session of the Council,

⁸ E/2982. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1957.II.C.1.

⁹ See resolution 664 (XXIV), annex, para. 3 (c).

I

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the *World Economic Survey, 1956*;

2. Considers that the *Survey* in its present form is a most valuable document dealing with the current economic situation and economic outlook and with selected economic problems of long-term significance to the world as a whole;

3. Reaffirms the desirability of continuing to have the *World Economic Survey* prepared with these objectives in mind, and with particular attention to the analysis of economic problems of primary importance for the economic development of less developed countries and areas and the economic progress of the world as a whole;

4. Expresses the desire that this information be made available to Governments at the earliest possible date, and in this regard suggests to the Secretary-General that he should consider the feasibility of issuing part I, dealing with selected long-term economic problems, in advance of part II;

II

1. Notes that the information obtained through the questionnaire is used fairly extensively in the *World Economic Survey*;

2. Notes that over the years the questionnaire has been modified to elicit information relating more directly to the problems and developments covered in the *World Economic Survey*;

3. Suggests that the changed nature of the questionnaire should be reflected in its title.

993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.

D

WORLD ECONOMIC SURVEY 1957

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that an upward movement of price levels is a problem affecting all countries of the world, both the more and the less developed,

Taking account of the importance which many countries attach to the curbing of inflationary pressures as one of the primary aims of their domestic economic policy,

Considering that both the economic and the social progress of the world would be impeded by continuing inflation of price levels,

Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General has announced his intention to deal with a major topic of public policy in future *World Economic Surveys*,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in selecting a major topic for treatment in part I of the "*World Economic Survey, 1957*", to take into account the views expressed during the twenty-fourth session of the Council on the importance of the problem of inflation and the need for further study of the extent of inflation, its causes, its impact on social and economic development, its international aspects, and measures used or contemplated by various countries for curbing inflation in the

future, bearing in mind the urgent need for the economic development of the under-developed countries;

2. Urges Governments of Member States to give the Secretary-General such assistance as he may require for the purpose of obtaining relevant information.

993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.

E

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its basic task of promoting international co-operation with a view to a steady and balanced growth of the world economy,

Recognizing that despite the fact that in many countries economic activity has in recent years been advancing at a satisfactory rate, nevertheless large segments of the world did not show an adequate rate of growth,

Mindful of the fact that an extremely important factor for the balanced growth of national economies is constituted by international economic conditions,

Recognizing that there exist at present various institutions and forms of machinery which provide for international consultation in the economic field among Member States,

Stressing the desirability for more effective international exchange of views within the framework of the United Nations regarding means of improving international economic conditions,

Noting the observations of the Secretary-General in his opening statement to the present session of the Council¹⁰ regarding possible benefits that might flow from more systematic consultation between Governments on the general outlines of their economic policies,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the facilities and methods which now exist for the conduct and development of consultations between Governments in the economic field and to transmit this report to Member States, together with such observations and questions as he may deem appropriate in the light of paragraph 2 below:

2. Invites Member States, taking into account the above-mentioned report, to submit to the Secretary-General at an early date comments on possible methods for ensuring more effective consultation between Governments, with a view to promoting a balanced growth of world economy and, in particular, the acceleration of the economic development of the under-developed countries;

3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to use experts or groups of experts from different regions to assist him in carrying out the tasks assigned to him under the terms of the present resolution;

¹⁰ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-fourth Session, 973rd meeting.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its twenty-sixth session a report containing the information requested in operative paragraph 1 above, the comments received from Member States and his observations relating thereto;

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the desirability of encouraging informal contacts and meetings between economic experts of different countries with a view to promoting greater common understanding of national and international economic problems.

993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.

655 (XXIV). Annual reports of the regional economic commissions

A

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe¹¹ for the period 22 April 1956 to 15 May 1957, of the views expressed during the discussion, and the resolutions adopted, during the twelfth session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities contained in the report;

3. *Expresses* its appreciation of the excellent work done by the retiring Executive Secretary, Mr. Gunnar Myrdal, in developing and promoting the work of the Economic Commission for Europe.

993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.

B

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East for the period 15 February 1956 to 28 March 1957,¹² and of the recommendations contained in the account of proceedings of the thirteenth session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities contained therein;

3. *Approves* the changes in the committee structure of the Commission referred to in resolution 19 (XIII) of the Commission.

993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.

¹¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/2989).*

¹² *Ibid., Supplement No. 2 (E/2959).*

C

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America for the period 15 May 1956 to 29 May 1957, adopted at its seventh session;¹³

2. *Endorses* the work programme of the Commission as established by the Commission at its seventh session held at La Paz, Bolivia, from 15 to 29 May 1957, as being of primary importance for the economic development of Latin America;

3. *Endorses* the order of priorities allocated by the Commission to the individual work projects.

993rd plenary meeting,
30 July 1957.

656 (XXIV). International commodity problems

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken cognizance of the reports submitted by the Commission on International Commodity Trade¹⁴ and the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements,¹⁵

Having examined the report by the Secretary-General¹⁶ prepared in pursuance of its resolution 620 (XXII) of 9 August 1956 and the views submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the addendum to that report,¹⁷

Considering that international co-operation in seeking fair and equitable solutions to commodity price problems is calculated to promote international economic relations and particularly the development of under-developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the above-mentioned reports;

2. *Considers* that the work programme of the Commission on International Commodity Trade and the procedural arrangements recommended by it at its last session, should enable it to carry out its set tasks under Council resolutions 512 A (XVII) of 30 April 1954 and 557 F (XVIII) of 5 August 1954;

3. *Expresses the desire* that the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements, should continue to co-operate, within the framework of their respective terms of reference, in examining the problems coming within their purview;

¹³ *Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (E/2998).*

¹⁴ *Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (E/3003).*

¹⁵ *Ibid., Annexes, agenda item 7, document E/3000.*

¹⁶ E/3012.

¹⁷ E/3012/Add.1.