

Nations to increase their active support to the regional commissions and requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, "to make every effort to strengthen the secretariats of the regional economic commissions".

*Having considered* the views, solicited in General Assembly resolution 1518 (XV), of the regional economic commissions, as recorded in their annual reports to the Council, and of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency as expressed in the twenty-fifth report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,<sup>5</sup>

*Reaffirming* the view that the regional economic commissions have an increasingly important role to play in assisting Governments in the initiation, implementation and co-ordination of economic and social programmes and activities at the regional level, including technical assistance activities,

*Recognizing at the same time* that certain matters relating to operational activities require consideration and action on a global basis,

*Endorsing* the suggestion of the Secretary-General that steps towards strengthening the regional secretariats, whether through reassignment or additional staff, will have to be contemplated,

1. *Appreciates* the favourable response of the regional economic commissions to the above-mentioned resolutions and to the proposals for decentralization of activities and operations;

2. *Confirms* the understanding by the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency that the agreements between members of the United Nations system apply in respect of relationships at the regional, no less than at the headquarters level, and requests the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure close co-operation and co-ordination between their respective organizations at the regional as well as the headquarters level, taking full account of the functions of the regional economic commissions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General in reporting to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session, as requested in resolution 1518 (XV), to submit an up-to-date account of the administrative and organizational measures and changes that have been adopted, and are required to be adopted, to advance the process of decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities, including the proposed expansion of the supporting substantive and administrative staff of the regional economic commissions, in such a way as to ensure efficiency, economy and the most effective execution of the United Nations operational programmes;

4. *Recommends* that in accordance with the suggestion made in the note by the Secretary-General on decentralization,<sup>6</sup> the question of the establishment of technical assistance units in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions, so as to enable full utilization to be

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Annexes*, agenda item 4, document E/3495 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, document E/3522, para. 4.

made of the resources of the regional secretariats in United Nations technical assistance activities in their respective regions, be left to the determination in each case of the executive secretary concerned;

5. *Recommends also* that neither the manner of handling technical assistance requests of countries not members of regional economic commissions, nor the volume of such assistance, should be affected by decentralization of economic and social activities of the United Nations.

*1172nd plenary meeting,  
20 July 1961.*

## **828 (XXXII). Reports of the Governing Council of the Special Fund**

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Governing Council of the Special Fund (fifth and sixth sessions).<sup>7</sup>

*1176th plenary meeting,  
28 July 1961.*

## **831 (XXXII). International commodity problems**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that the economic development of primary producing countries, particularly the less developed countries, has been adversely affected by instability in their receipts of foreign exchange, resulting from sharp fluctuations in the value and volume of their exports of primary commodities.

*Bearing in mind* the importance of expanding the export earnings of primary producing countries and to this end of exploring measures to improve the import purchasing power of such earnings,

*Recognizing* the urgency of the problems faced by such countries, particularly the less developed countries, in pursuing their efforts to increase the rate of growth of real national income *per capita*, under conditions of internal as well as external equilibrium,

*Recalling* paragraph 4 (a) of General Assembly resolution 1515 (XV) of 15 December 1960, which *inter alia* recommends that Member States and international organs, including the Commission on International Commodity Trade, urgently seek ways and means of eliminating restrictive practices which have unfavourable repercussions on the trade in basic products of the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary products, and to expand trade in these products.

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Commission on International Commodity Trade on its ninth session,<sup>8</sup> endorses the programme of work proposed therein, and approves the agenda of the joint session

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Supplements No. 11 (E/3435) and 11-4 (E/3521).*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 6 (E/3497)*