

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL DURING ITS RESUMED FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

### SOCIAL QUESTIONS

#### 1492 (XLVIII). The social factors in improving nutrition

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling the mandate to the Commission for Social Development in Council resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966 to give priority attention to programmes furthering, *inter alia*, the aim of eliminating hunger and raising the levels of health and nutrition,

Reaffirming the statement in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development<sup>1</sup> that the elimination of hunger and malnutrition should be a primary social objective, particularly in relation to the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Noting with appreciation the report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on social questions in the improvement of the nutrition status in developing countries<sup>2</sup> which draws attention to: (a) the present low levels of food consumption and nutrition in developing countries and their adverse effects on the health and productivity of the population; (b) the conclusion of the study on the Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development<sup>3</sup> that, despite the attainment of food production objectives, malnutrition would continue until 1985 mainly due to inequalities in the distribution of staple foods; and (c) the possibility of a serious gap between effective demand and supply of protein by 1985 that would aggravate the problem of unequal distribution of protein foods in most developing countries,

Deeply concerned at the serious and possibly irreversible physical and mental harm inflicted by malnutrition on over 300 million children, and on other vulnerable groups, in the developing countries,

Realizing that adequate nutrition is essential to the health and social well-being of the family and nation and is a vital factor in national development,

Recognizing the importance of improving social and economic structures, based on social justice, in bringing about conditions conducive to adequate nutrition in the framework of a better life for all groups of the population,

Convinced that the situation calls for urgent and concerted action by Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, at the national, regional and international levels,

1. *Recommends* that Governments, in consonance with the principle of balanced, integrated economic

and social development, should adopt, in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade, adequate food and nutrition policies based on adequate studies of social and cultural factors in relation to consumption, as an integral part of their national development plans, with the aim of eliminating hunger and malnutrition and making available the benefits of proper nutrition to all sectors of the population, particularly the children and other vulnerable groups;

2. *Recommends* that Governments participating in regional bodies or associations, within or outside the United Nations, should give due importance to co-operation for the attainment of adequate nutrition for their peoples;

3. *Requests* the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in co-operation as appropriate with the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other agencies concerned, to strengthen further United Nations assistance to Governments in the formulation and implementation of sound food and nutrition policies. Such assistance should take due account of the importance of education and research, the necessity for effective interdisciplinary and inter-agency collaboration, and the key role of women and the family as a whole. But above all, such assistance should be action-oriented, in view of the urgent need for improving the nutritional situation of the developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen programmes aimed at augmenting the development of national food resources and improving the quality and distribution of food in the developing countries, particularly the extensive production of protein foods of marine origin in view of their promising potential;

5. *Requests* the World Health Organization in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund and other appropriate organizations in the United Nations system to intensify action and research on the health aspects of malnutrition in order to meet the situation of malnourished populations, particularly infants, children and expectant and nursing mothers;

6. *Recommends* that the present resolution be brought to the attention of all United Nations bodies concerned with plans and programmes for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

1690th plenary meeting,  
26 May 1970.

<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

<sup>2</sup> E/CN.5/446.

<sup>3</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Provisional Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development*, vols. I and II (Rome, August 1969).