

1703 (LIII). Annual report of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut covering the period 15 April 1971 to 14 April 1972.⁷

1830th plenary meeting
11 July 1972

1707 (LIII). Agrarian reform

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on land reform⁸ and the summary of the report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,⁹

Noting with concern the Special Committee's conclusion in paragraph 5 of its report that the record of implementation of agrarian reform in the 1960s was inferior to that of the previous two decades,

Recalling its resolution 1495 (XLVIII) of 26 May 1970 on land reform and the policy measures in this field included in paragraph (75) of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Mindful that in almost all developing countries agriculture is still the basic sector of the national economy affecting, in particular, employment and national income and is still a crucially important source of export earnings,

Mindful also that one of the main causes of the state of stagnation and slow progress is to be traced to this sector of the economy and that socio-economic systems based on outmoded forms of land tenure, other agrarian structures and related institutions impede indispensable programmes of modernization of agriculture and the elimination of hunger and malnutrition and the full participation of the rural population in economic, social, cultural and political activities,

Considering that the natural increase of population could aggravate in some of these countries development problems already existing,

Considering that organizations of peasants and rural workers, such as trade unions, constitute a form of social participation in the effective realization and administration of agrarian reform,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring that agrarian reform programmes are planned and implemented in ways which will help to bring new technology within the

reach of peasants, small farmers and agricultural workers and facilitate their participation in the implementation of these programmes,

Considering also that the necessity of the implementation of agrarian reform has become even more urgent because of the rapid progress in technology and agricultural science, the results of which, if not applied in parallel with structural changes, will lead to an aggravation of social tensions,

Recognizing that in many countries comprehensive agrarian reform measures, including land tenure reform and effective socio-economic supporting services, should be considered as one of the principal instruments to achieve social progress and justice and as a basic element of the economic and social development strategy of individual countries within the context of their development plans and/or priorities,

Believing that the success of agrarian reform policies depends basically on the political will and determination of Governments to create conditions in which outmoded agrarian structures can be reformed and an equitable distribution of productive resources and national income can take place,

Conscious that, as indicated in the report of the Special Committee, agrarian reform constitutes a prerequisite for economic and social progress and development in many developing countries,

Recognizing that effective agrarian reform is not only a condition for increasing agricultural production, but also a basic means for the fulfilment, by Member States, of relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Bearing in mind that agrarian reform is in many countries a precondition for the implementation and achievement of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade and that without such reform in the countries concerned a further widening of the gap between various groups of the population is likely to occur,

1. Endorses the major conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and resolution 3/71 adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its sixteenth session;¹⁰

2. Urges Governments to consider agrarian reform as an important and integral part of national strategies for the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and to undertake, where required, vigorous measures to initiate and implement effective agrarian reform programmes;

3. Recommends Governments of countries in need of agrarian reform to avail themselves of the advice and assistance of appropriate United Nations agencies in

⁷ E/5137.

⁸ E/5100.

⁹ *Ibid.*, annex I.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, annex II.

accelerating the implementation of their agrarian reform programmes and in particular to make full use of the country programming procedures of the United Nations Development Programme;

4. *Determines* that the acceleration of the implementation of agrarian reform in the developing countries concerned deserves high priority in the further activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5. *Requests* that all competent agencies of the United Nations system consider effective means necessary for co-ordinated action to assist developing countries in the implementation of agrarian reform, including a more effective use of United Nations resources of technical assistance aimed at the acceleration of the implementation of agrarian reform, in accordance with the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade and, in particular, the improvement of training programmes for specialists from the developing countries, so as to make these specialists better acquainted with the basic elements of agrarian reform and thus to enable them to be more effectively involved in its implementation;

6. *Stresses* that in such co-ordinated action proper means must be found to enhance, through continuing education, the maximum participation of peasants and rural workers in the problems of the implementation of agrarian reform, as well as in economic, social, cultural and political activities;

7. *Stresses* the necessity of creating favourable conditions for the establishment and development of associations of peasants and rural workers;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its fifty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council in 1975 the sixth report on progress in land reform, together with the results of the further work of the Special Committee on Agrarian Reform and other bodies of the United Nations system concerned with agrarian reform;

10. *Decides* to take the reports mentioned in paragraph 9 above into account in the mid-point review and appraisal in 1975 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and to consider goals for the further implementation of agrarian reform during the second half of the Decade;

11. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, during its discussion of the report of the Economic and Social Council and of matters related to the Second United Nations Development Decade, devote particular attention to agrarian reform, give favourable consideration to the present resolution and take appropriate action in this field.

*1836th plenary meeting
28 July 1972*

1708 (LIII). Report of the Industrial Development Board

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Industrial Development Board on its sixth session¹¹ and transmits the report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session;

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly, for its approval, the guidelines for the operation of the special industrial services programme as contained in paragraph 1 of resolution 35 (VI) of the Industrial Development Board.¹²

*1836th plenary meeting
28 July 1972*

1721 (LIII). The impact of multinational corporations on the development process and on international relations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, according to the Charter of the United Nations, the creation of conditions of stability and well-being is necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

Recognizing the growing interdependence of economic and social development in the various parts of the world,

Aware that economic and social conditions are continually undergoing changes which require regular scrutiny to ensure unimpeded and equitable progress towards the attainment of an integrated world economy within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Taking note of the statement in the *World Economic Survey, 1971* which says, with reference to the multinational corporations, that "while these corporations are frequently effective agents for the transfer of technology as well as capital to developing countries, their role is sometimes viewed with awe, since their size and power surpass the host country's entire economy. The international community has yet to formulate a positive policy and establish effective machinery for dealing with the issues raised by the activities of these corporations",¹³

Noting also the resolution adopted at the fifty-sixth session of the International Labour Conference, concerning the social consequences of the activities of multinational corporations¹⁴ and the convening by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office of a meeting concerning the relationship between multinational undertakings and social policy,

¹¹ ID/B/113; transmitted to the Economic and Social Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/5171).

¹² See ID/B/113, annex I.

¹³ See E/5144 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.72.II.C.2), p. 10.

¹⁴ See International Labour Conference, *Provisional Record No. 2, Fifty-sixth Session, Geneva, 27 May 1971*.