

Noting further that, in resolution 73 (III) on restrictive business practices adopted at the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,¹⁵ considering the possible adverse impact of restrictive business practices, including among others those resulting from the increased activities of multinational enterprises, on the trade and development of developing countries, the Conference decided that an *Ad hoc* Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices should be set up to make a further study of restrictive business practices followed by enterprises and corporations which have already been identified and which are adversely affecting the trade and development of the developing countries, including among others such practices which may stem from cartel activities, business restrictions practised by enterprises and multinational corporations, export prohibitions, agreements on market distribution and allocation, the tying of the supply of inputs including raw materials and components, restrictions specified in contracts for the transfer of technology, arbitrary transfer pricing between the parent company and its affiliates, and monopoly practices,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, to appoint from the public and private sectors and on a broad geographical basis a study group of eminent persons intimately acquainted with international economic, trade and social problems and related international relations, to study the role of multinational corporations and their impact on the process of development, especially that of the developing countries, and also their implications for international relations, to formulate conclusions which may possibly be used by Governments in making their sovereign decisions regarding national policy in this respect, and to submit recommendations for appropriate international action, the study group to consist of not less than 14 nor more than 20 persons;

2. *Recommends* that the study group appointed by the Secretary-General be informed of the conclusions of the *Ad hoc* Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its third session, and the comments on them of the Trade and Development Board's Committee on Manufactures, so that, among the various aspects of the problem, the important one referred to the *Ad hoc* Group of Experts can be taken into account in the global study of multinational corporations envisaged in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Recommends further* that the study group take advantage of and take into account research being carried out in this field by other international organizations, particularly that of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office as a result of the resolution concerning the social consequences of the activities of multinational corporations adopted at the fifty-sixth session of the International Labour Conference;

¹⁵ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (to be issued as a United Nations publication), annex I.

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report of the study group, together with his own comments and recommendations, to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session at the latest, and to inform the Council at its fifty-fifth session of the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

1836th plenary meeting
28 July 1972

1722 (LIII). Multilateral trade negotiations

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the discussions and decisions on trade negotiations and monetary reform at the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

1. *Affirms* the need for a full participation of developing countries in all multilateral world-wide negotiations and decisions concerning international economic relations and having a bearing on their trade and economic interests;

2. *Stresses* the need, in this context, to make possible the full, effective and continuous participation of developing countries in the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and in the decision-making process in the reform of the international monetary system, as envisaged in resolutions 82 (III) and 84 (III) respectively of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;¹⁶

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, as requested in Conference resolution 82 (III), to continue their efforts and co-ordinate their activities to assist developing countries to prepare for and participate in the various stages of the multilateral trade negotiations arranged for 1973;

4. *Endorses* the view stated in paragraph 7 of Conference resolution 84 (III) that problems in the monetary, trade and finance spheres should be resolved in a co-ordinated manner, taking into account their interdependence, with the full participation of developed and developing countries;

5. *Invites* the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to co-operate fully with the appropriate international agencies in achieving the objectives of the present resolution.

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¹⁶ *Ibid.*