

1726 (LIII). Identification of the least developed among the developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2768 (XXVI) of 18 November 1971, in paragraph 5 of which it requested the Council to instruct the Committee for Development Planning to continue, in close co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the review of criteria for the identification of the least developed among the developing countries,

Noting paragraph 109 of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its eighth session,²⁹

Bearing in mind that the case of land-locked developing countries should be taken into account in determining the criteria for identification of the least developed among the developing countries,

Recognizing that the Committee for Development Planning may not have had at its disposal at the time of drawing up the list of the "hard-core" least developed countries the latest up-dated statistical information on the relevant economic and social variables in respect of all developing countries,

1. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee for Development Planning in paragraph 109 of its report on its eighth session to consider the review of criteria for the identification of the least developed among the developing countries as part of its work on the review and appraisal of progress during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of resolution 64 (III) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of 19 May 1972,³⁰ which recognized, *inter alia*, that the initial list of "hard-core" least developed countries should be reviewed in the light of future work on this matter, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2768 (XXVI), and recommended that the appropriate international regional and sub-regional bodies initiate, within their respective fields of competence, work on criteria for the identification of the relatively disadvantaged countries;

3. *Requests* the Committee for Development Planning, without prejudice to the review mentioned in paragraph 1 above, to undertake an examination of the latest up-dated statistical information on the relevant economic, social and other variables in respect of the developing countries, with a view to making recommendations to the Council at its fifty-fifth session on any modification that may appear necessary in the list of "hard-core" least developed countries on the basis of the criteria used in drawing up that list;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to take, as soon as possible, all necessary

²⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5126).*

³⁰ 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.

measures to give further assistance to those developing countries which, in the light of the progress in the updating of the relevant statistical information by the Committee for Development Planning, meet the present criteria for identification as being in the category of the least developed among the developing countries.

*1837th plenary meeting
28 July 1972*

1727 (LIII). The elimination of mass poverty and unemployment through the adoption of national development strategies and the International Development Strategy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, in which the Assembly proclaimed the Second United Nations Development Decade starting from 1 January 1971 and adopted the International Development Strategy for the Decade, in which the need to provide increasing opportunities to all people for a better life is emphasized,

Recognizing that people are both the primary object of development and its principal determinants,

Recognizing that, though some economic and social progress has been made by developing countries in recent years, large numbers of people in these countries continue to live at marginal levels of subsistence, and are unemployed or under-employed,

Recognizing therefore, as a short-term and long-term solution, the need for laying down a national plan of action relating to the fixing of basic economic and social priorities in the developing countries, bearing in mind the unified approach to development endorsed in the International Development Strategy and in General Assembly resolution 2681 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, entitled "Unified approach to economic and social planning in national development",

Recalling that the Committee for Development Planning is charged with the task of furnishing expert advice on major development policy issues,

Having examined the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its eighth session and its analysis of the problems of mass poverty and unemployment,³¹

Noting the view of the Committee for Development Planning, expressed in paragraph 9 of that report, that such information as is available suggests that, in some developing countries, the distribution of income and wealth has become even more unequal in recent years,

Recognizing that for the solution of these problems it is important for Governments of developing countries to adopt appropriate development strategies which would make the goal of maximizing economic growth and

³¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5126), chap. I.*