

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

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

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.

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

productivity compatible with and complementary to that of achieving an equitable distribution of their benefits, and which would include social policies designed to eliminate the phenomena of mass poverty and unemployment,

Further recognizing that the implementation of such development strategies demands the concomitant action by Governments of the developed countries, especially the provision of a substantially greater volume of assistance on concessionary terms, and the fulfilment of their undertakings to liberalize trade from the developing countries, including the adoption, where appropriate, of suitable adjustment assistance policies,

Noting with appreciation that assistance on generous terms is in fact being provided by certain countries,

Noting also that net financial flows and the share of official development assistance from the developed countries as a whole, expressed as a ratio of their gross national product, have declined,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the analysis and recommendations relating to mass poverty and unemployment in developing countries contained in the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its eighth session;

2. *Expresses the hope* that all concerned with development problems will make appropriate use of this report;

3. *Recommends* to Governments of developing countries which have not yet done so, that they, within the framework of their national priorities and plans, define the magnitude and causes of poverty and unemployment prevailing in their economies and prepare action programmes laying down national development strategies designed to eradicate these conditions;

4. *Recommends* that Governments of developing countries give appropriate consideration, in the establishment of their short-term and long-term social and economic objectives and in the formulation of their national development plans, to the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning concerning the reduction of mass poverty and unemployment, utilizing *inter alia* the unexploited potential in major areas of economic and social activity, including public construction, land improvement, agrarian reform and co-operatives, as an integral part of their national development strategies;

5. *Urges* Governments of the developed countries to enlarge the volume of their assistance to the developing countries, and to provide this assistance on such concessionary terms as are necessary to make its contribution to the attack on mass poverty and unemployment meaningful, and to fulfil their undertakings to liberalize trade from the developing countries, including the adop-

tion, where appropriate, of suitable adjustment assistance policies;

6. *Requests* the Committee on Review and Appraisal and other intergovernmental organizations involved in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy to take into account the analysis and conclusions of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its eight session and the provisions of the present resolution, especially when recommending new goals and policy measures;

7. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to give due consideration to the report of the Committee for Development Planning, with a view to fostering the development of new technology designed to eliminate both open and hidden unemployment and to raise levels of productivity in the developing countries;

8. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association and the regional development banks to give due attention, in both their studies and their action programmes, to the problems of mass poverty and unemployment in developing countries and to the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning;

9. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation, in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, actively to continue the examination of the important problems raised by the relationship between international trade development, labour and employment;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and Governments to take all possible measures to publicize the analysis and conclusions of the Committee for Development Planning and related publications of the International Labour Organisation, in order to inform public opinion, especially in the developed countries, of the problems of mass poverty and unemployment in the developing countries and the measures required to resolve them;

11. *Invites* the Committee for Development Planning to continue its work on this matter, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution and the views expressed in the Council at its fifty-third session,³² with a view to recommending further measures for the eradication of mass poverty and unemployment in the developing countries.

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³² See E/AC.6/SR.584 and E/AC.6/SR.587-589.