

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL DURING ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1734 (LIV). Recommendations of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken note of resolution 7 on international combined transport¹ adopted by the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic, held at Geneva from 13 November to 2 December 1972,

Considering the benefits which may be derived from the new techniques of unitized and intermodal transport, and the need of the developing countries for assistance in order to participate in these benefits,

Recognizing that, despite the valuable exchange of views at the Conference, the developing countries are still apprehensive of the consequences of international intermodal transport,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic that further studies be carried out and completed by the end of 1974 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in co-ordination with the regional economic commissions and with the co-operation of the appropriate regional and sub-regional bodies and other international organizations, in particular the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, on all the relevant aspects of international combined transport of goods, including such matters as repercussions in the field of international trade and transport, balance of payments, costs of international transport, insurance and the consistency of the international combined transport of goods with national policies on transport, trade and insurance, bearing in mind particularly the needs and requirements of the developing countries and taking into account the report of the Third Main Committee of the United Nations/IMCO Conference² and the studies already made on the subject;

2. *Requests* the Trade and Development Board to establish, following the pattern of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences,³ an intergovernmental preparatory group for the elaboration, in consultation as appropriate with other bodies of the United Nations system, of a preliminary draft convention on international intermodal transport, taking into account the report of the Third Main Committee of the United Nations/IMCO Conference, other relevant reports and,

once they are ready, also the result of the studies referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Further requests* the Trade and Development Board to authorize the intergovernmental preparatory group, referred to in paragraph 2 above, to meet as early as possible in 1973 and to make available its conclusions on the subject to the Economic and Social Council early in 1975, with a view to the convening of a plenipotentiary conference as envisaged in subparagraphs (c) and (d) of paragraph 1 of resolution 7 of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic.

*1850th plenary meeting
10 January 1973*

1735 (LIV). Admission of Bangladesh to membership in the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that Bangladesh, which is situated within the geographical scope of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, has expressed its desire to become a member of that Commission,

Considering that the presence of Bangladesh in the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East would further the purposes of that Commission,

Considering further that Bangladesh is a member of various specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

1. *Decides* accordingly to amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, on condition that Bangladesh agrees to pay each year an equitable contribution, the total amount of which will be determined periodically by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedure established by the Assembly in similar cases;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to enter into consultations and to take the steps necessary for Bangladesh and the General Assembly to reach agreement on the contribution which this State will be required to make to the budget of the United Nations.

*1852nd plenary meeting,
17 April 1973.*

1737 (LIV). Permanent sovereignty over natural resources of developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the inalienable right of each State to exercise sovereignty over its natural resources has been

¹ See E/CONF.59/44.

² E/CONF.59/39/Rev.1.

³ See General Assembly resolution 3035 (XXVII).

repeatedly recognized by the international community in numerous resolutions of various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that an intrinsic condition of the exercise of the sovereignty of every State is that its sovereignty be exercised fully and effectively over all its natural resources,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolutions 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, 2158 (XXI) of 25 November 1966, 2386 (XXIII) of 19 November 1968, 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, 2692 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 and 3016 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, and Security Council resolution 330 (1973) of 21 March 1973,

Recalling also principle II of resolution 46 (III) of 18 May 1972 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,⁴ Economic and Social Council resolution 1673 (LII) of 2 June 1972 and the recommendations contained in paragraph 88 of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session,⁵

Considering that the full exercise by each State of sovereignty over its natural resources is an essential condition for achieving the objectives and targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind that the adequate utilization of all natural resources in particular the non-renewable ones, determines the conditions of economic development of the developing countries,

Taking into account that the exercise of sovereignty over natural resources requires that action by States aimed at achieving a better utilization and use of those resources must cover all stages, from exploration to marketing,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of States to permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, on land within their international boundaries, as well as those of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof within their national jurisdiction and in the superjacent waters;

2. *Emphasizes* that both the exploration and the exploitation of such natural resources shall be subject in each country to national laws and regulations;

3. *Declares* that any act, measure or legislative provision which one State may apply against another for the purpose of suppressing its inalienable right to the exercise of its full sovereignty over its natural resources, both on land and in coastal waters, or of using coercion to obtain advantages of any other kind, is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, contradicts the principles adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 2625 (XXV) and 3016 (XXVII) and obstructs the attainment of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and that to persist therein could constitute a threat to international peace and security;

4. *Recognizes* that one of the most effective ways in which the developing countries can protect their natural resources is to promote or strengthen machinery for co-operation among them having as its main purpose to concert pricing policies, to improve conditions

⁴ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5247)*.

of access to markets, to co-ordinate production policies and, thus, to guarantee the full exercise of sovereignty over their natural resources;

5. *Urges* the international financial organizations and the United Nations Development Programme to provide, in accordance with the priorities established in national development plans, all possible financial and technical assistance to developing countries at their request for the purpose of establishing, strengthening and supporting, as appropriate, national institutions to ensure the full utilization and control of their natural resources;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the study of the political economic, social and legal aspects of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources referred to in Council resolution 1673 D (LII), and to include therein the aspects of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof within the limits of national jurisdiction and in the superjacent waters;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, the study referred to in paragraph 6 above.

1854th plenary meeting
4 May 1973

1742 (LIV). Container standards for international multimodal transport

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered resolution 4 on container standards for international multimodal transport⁶ unanimously adopted by the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic, held at Geneva from 13 November to 2 December 1972,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference,⁷

1. *Decides* that an *ad hoc* intergovernmental group be convened, in co-operation with other concerned organizations of the United Nations, as appropriate, at the end of 1975, in order to assess the work done by the International Organization for Standardization and to determine what future action to take in this field, with a view to considering the practicability of eventually drawing up an international agreement on container standards;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with other concerned organizations of the United Nations, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session a report suggesting the terms of reference of the group and a provisional agenda of its meeting, as well as the financial and administrative implications of that meeting.

1854th plenary meeting,
4 May 1973

1743 (LIV). International carriage of dangerous goods and their identification and marking

The Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the need to establish standards of safety in the transport of goods, particularly in view of the

⁶ See E/CONF.59/44.

⁷ E/5250.