

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL DURING ITS FIFTIETH SESSION

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1563 (L). Accession of the Republic of Korea to the Convention on Road Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the communication¹ dated 16 February 1971 from the Republic of Korea concerning the desire of that State to become a party to the Convention on Road Traffic, signed at Geneva on 19 September 1949,

Declares that the Republic of Korea is eligible to accede to the aforementioned Convention on Road Traffic.

*1742nd plenary meeting,
28 April 1971.*

1564 (L). Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the Statistical Commission, at its sixteenth session, adopted a set of principles and recommendations for the improvement of vital statistics,²

Recalling that paragraph 78 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, provides that developing countries will, as appropriate, establish or strengthen their planning mechanisms, including statistical services, for formulating and implementing their national development plans during the Decade,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 on the United Nations Development Decade, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to develop proposals for the intensification of action in the fields of economic and social development with particular reference to the need to review facilities for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of statistical and other information required for charting economic and social development and for providing a constant measurement of progress towards the objectives of the Decade,

Further recalling its resolution 1307 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake a World Programme for the Improvement of Vital Statistics,

Recognizing the important role of vital statistics as a primary source of national data for achieving the above-mentioned purposes,

¹ See E/4972.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/4938)*, paras. 100-106.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to publish the "Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system"³ in English, French, Russian and Spanish and to distribute them widely to States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, to regional economic commissions and other appropriate regional bodies, and to specialized agencies;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to give assistance to developing countries in the implementation of these principles and recommendations by mobilizing all available resources, both international and bilateral, to help in the very large task of assisting those countries to develop, improve and maintain civil registers of vital events and to use these registers for statistical purposes as well as other sources of vital statistics as provided in the World Programme for the Improvement of Vital Statistics.

*1744th plenary meeting,
30 April 1971.*

1565 (L). Emergency assistance to Palestine refugees

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the acute financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East which endangers the minimum services provided to Palestine refugees,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970 and 2672 B (XXV) of 8 December 1970,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 by which the Assembly approved the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East⁴ and endorsed the Working Group's recommendations, thereby, *inter alia*, urging all organizations of the United Nations system to study ways by which they might assist the Agency or undertake activities helpful to the refugees which would lessen the financial burden of the Agency, to the maximum extent possible,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made so far by the Working Group with regard to the organizations of the United Nations system in soliciting increased assistance to the Palestine refugees,

Noting also with appreciation the assistance already offered by some organizations within the United Na-

³ E/CN.3/411 of 15 September 1969 and E/CN.3/411/Annex of 26 June 1970.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 35, document A/8264.*

tions system in response to those efforts, in recognizing that, especially in cases of emergency, concern for human welfare requires an extra interagency solidarity,

Being convinced, however, that further contributions and assistance for the benefit of the Palestine refugees are urgently needed,

1. *Welcomes* in particular the decisions already taken under the World Food Programme to provide emergency food aid up to \$2 million;

2. *Welcomes also* the contacts initiated with the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization with a view to obtaining services to the maximum extent possible;

3. *Welcomes further* the positive steps taken by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in launching an appeal for funds to maintain the educational services for Palestine refugees and the encouraging results obtained so far;

4. *Expresses the hope* for an early implementation of the above-mentioned decisions, particularly of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2672 B (XXV), as well as manifestations of concrete results of the above-mentioned contacts and steps in accordance with constitutional procedures;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the executive heads of specialized agencies, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme as well as the non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to consider appropriate ways and means of rendering all possible assistance to the Palestine refugees;

6. *Requests further* all organizations of the United Nations system to include in their annual reports information on their possible present and future assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and on their activities that benefit the Palestine refugees, and thus lessen the financial burden of the Agency.

*1747th plenary meeting,
3 May 1971.*

1566 (L). Co-ordination of work in the field of statistics

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of reliable and complete statistical data for socio-economic analysis, particularly as regards the monitoring of progress achieved under the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind the current expansion of activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the statistical field,

Noting the interest which the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Statistical Commission and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination have demonstrated in the co-ordination and integration of statistical activities of the various organs and agencies in the United Nations system,

Further noting the necessity to avoid deficiencies, parallelism and duplication in this field as suggested in the report of the Statistical Commission on its sixteenth session,⁵

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/4938).*

Taking note of the Statistical Commission's intention to make a critical review of the strategy of statistical activities, as well as the basic ideas underlying such a review,⁶

Reaffirming its resolution 8 (I) of 16 February 1946 concerning the establishment of the Statistical Commission, as amended by resolution 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, which indicated that the Commission shall assist the Council:

(a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability,

(b) In the co-ordination of the statistical work of the specialized agencies,

(c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat,

(d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information,

(e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally,

1. *Requests* the Statistical Commission to assign high priority in its work programme to the task of assisting the Council in the co-ordination of activities of United Nations organs and agencies in the statistical field;

2. *Considers* that the ultimate goal of the work of the Statistical Commission and that of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in this respect should be the achievement of an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising economic and social progress, particularly in the context of the policy measures and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the needs of the developing countries;

3. *Requests* the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development to continue to co-operate fully with the Statistical Commission in their efforts to carry out these tasks and to regard them as of first importance in co-ordinating their work programmes, especially long-term programmes, and also work in new directions;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance for Member States to seek improved procedures for ensuring that statistical matters at the national level were dealt with in a co-ordinated manner;

5. *Recognizes* the interest of the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office in matters related to the use of computers in the United Nations system and draws attention to this field where further co-ordination is likely to be most required;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake, in co-operation with the specialized agencies and in the context of the United Nations Development Programme, concerted action to assist the developing countries in strengthening their statistical systems as the basis for their development plans and the evaluation of their economic and social progress;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations system of organizations, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-

⁶ *Ibid.*, para 69.