

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.

second session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, a report on the existing technical assistance of the United Nations system of organizations to the developing countries as well as on the steps envisaged to assist those countries in improving their statistical services with a view to meeting the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

*1747th plenary meeting,
3 May 1971.*

1568 (L). Preparation for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision taken at the forty-eighth session that a Conference on International Container Traffic should be convened jointly by the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization,⁷

Having received the Secretary-General's note on the preparation for the Conference,⁸

Aware that technological advancements in international container transport have important economic implications for conditions of development in developing countries,

Recognizing the desirability of more extensive discussion among Governments with respect to elaborating more precisely the scope and objectives of the Conference,

Noting that the Conference is supposed to deal, among other questions, with the legal problems concerning in particular the liability of combined transport operators and related questions,

Noting that a preliminary draft of a Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods (TCM) has been considered by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting further that the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its resolution 17 (V) of 3 April 1971,⁹ recommended that the Economic and Social Council be invited to consider undertaking a study on the economic implications, in particular for developing countries, of the proposed Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods so that such implications may be fully taken into account,

1. *Agrees* that the Conference on International Container Traffic should begin at Geneva on 13 November 1972 and that it should not extend beyond five weeks;

2. *Stresses* that the Conference should have its scope limited to the international aspects of containerization, including in particular those international aspects related to combined transport and its requirements, and that this scope should not comprehend over-all transport control;

3. *Stresses further* that the Conference should have as its guiding principle the development and facilitation of container traffic on a global basis while safeguarding the interests of the developing countries;

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Resumed Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A* (E/4832/Add.1 and Corr.1), p. 17.

⁸ E/4963.

⁹ See E/L.1380.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of Governments of Member States as to their priorities for the Conference from among the topics and areas of action referred to in the decision taken by the Council at its forty-eighth session;

5. *Requests further* that a small intergovernmental preparatory group, half of its members to be designated by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the other half by the Chairman of the Council of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, with due regard to geographical representation, be convened as early as practicable to review the responses of Governments and propose a specific provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Requests also* that the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, and in consultation with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, prepare a study on the economic implications, in particular for developing countries, of the proposed Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods, such study to be conducted with the assistance of experts, after ascertaining the views of Governments of Member States on those aspects and questions which in their view require clarification;

7. *Requests also* that the Secretary-General distribute the study to the Governments of Member States as soon as it is available;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization to review the matter in the light of the results of the study in order to consider whether the draft Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods or alternative proposals are ready for international consideration.

*1757th plenary meeting,
10 May 1971.*

1569 (L). Preparation for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision taken at the forty-eighth session that a Conference on International Container Traffic should be convened jointly by the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization,¹⁰

Having considered the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his note on the preparation for the Conference,¹¹

Decides that all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency and, in an advisory capacity, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and also, as observers, interested intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations having con-

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A* (E/4832/Add.1 and Corr.1), p. 17.

¹¹ E/4963.