

QUESTIONS RELATING TO OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

1806 (LV). Dissemination of information and mobilization of public opinion relative to problems of development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Council resolution 1357 (XLV) of 2 August 1968, General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969 and resolution 43 (III) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of 17 May 1972, on the mobilization of public opinion in favour of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind paragraph (84) of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Conscious that, in implementing the Strategy, the Governments of Member States need the support of public opinion,

Noting with concern that in many cases public interest in development is not commensurate with the gravity and urgency of the task,

Convinced that to redress that situation, notwithstanding efforts at dissemination of information in other fields of international co-operation, renewed efforts must be made to inform public opinion accurately about development problems, including both accomplishments and short-comings, and to mobilize it convincingly, which must be done as a matter of urgency both at the national level by Governments and national bodies, on which the main responsibility falls, and at the international level, in a co-ordinated manner, by the organizations of the United Nations system and in particular by their information services,

Considering that, in the course of such renewed efforts, information should be directed particularly at such sectors of public opinion as are not yet fully aware of or attuned to the spirit and objectives of the Strategy and that, alongside the traditional methods of disseminating information, use should be made of new methods corresponding to the characteristics and motivations of the public to be reached, and conducive to a free, frank and lively exchange of ideas,

Mindful of the impact of modern means of mass communication upon public opinion,

Noting with interest the ideas outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information and mobilization of public opinion relative to problems of development⁵⁶ and the views of Governments as reflected in the report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifth special session;⁵⁷

1. *Invites* the Governments of Member States to continue and, where necessary, to step up their efforts to earn the support of national public opinion for the imperatives of global economic and social development, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries, especially those of the least developed;

2. *Stresses* the importance of global and national approaches as complementary aspects of a development-oriented information policy;

3. *Suggests* that public opinion, particularly in developed countries, needs to be exposed to the concept of over-all development and global partnership, as well as to its factual illustrations, rather than be confined to isolated themes such as aid alone;

4. *Points out* the desirability of encouraging contacts and mutual exchanges of views between developed and developing countries in order to keep public opinion in their respective countries informed on the complementary aspects of global development;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to support, at the request of Member States, the efforts of any of them which wish to set up governmental, semi-governmental or private national bodies designed to disseminate information and to mobilize public opinion according to the terms of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) and paragraph (84) of the International Development Strategy;

6. *Invites* the Governments of Member States and the organizations of the United Nations system to associate interested and competent non-governmental organizations more closely with their efforts, as recommended in its resolution 1739 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, and expresses the hope that these organizations will make the fullest possible promotional use of the information made available to them within their sphere of action;

7. *Recommends* the Governments of Member States to include the question of the mobilization of public opinion among the items scheduled for the mid-term review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade at the national level;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to investigate, with the assistance of the Consultative Panel on Public Information, at an intergovernmental expert level, the possibilities of making increased use of modern techniques of mass information to encourage the mobilization of public opinion, especially that of developed countries, in favour of the purposes, objectives and measures set out in the International Development Strategy and further requests him to submit to the Council at its fifty-eighth session his comprehensive proposals for action, taking into account the advice of these experts in the application of modern means of mass communication;

⁵⁶ E/5358 and Corr.1 and E/5358/Add.1.

⁵⁷ TD/B/440; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/9015)*.

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to co-ordinate their information programmes on economic and social development, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts, using the Centre for Economic and Social Information of the Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat as the focal point;

10. *Notes with interest* the proposals made in the note by the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information and mobilization of public opinion relative to problems of development⁵⁸ and in the report annexed thereto⁵⁹ concerning the celebration on 24 October 1973 of the first World Development Information Day provided for in General Assembly resolution 3038 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972, invites the Governments of Member States to assist in securing appropriate publicity for this Day and expresses the hope that the Day will provide an opportunity to encourage continuing informational activities;

11. *Draws the attention* of the General Assembly to the suggestions made in the report of the Secretary-General relating to the functioning of the Centre for Economic and Social Information⁶⁰ and to the views expressed on that subject during the discussions at the Council's fifty-fifth session.⁶¹

*1877th plenary meeting
8 August 1973*

1821 (LV). Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its session in New York in April/May 1973.⁶²

Recalling Council resolution 1709 (LIII) of 28 July 1972 and General Assembly resolution 3015 (XXVII) of

⁵⁸ E/L.1553.

⁵⁹ TD/B/431.

⁶⁰ E/5358/Add.1, paras. 8 and 9.

⁶¹ See E/AC.6/SR.649 and 650, E/AC.6/SR.660 and 661; and E/SR.1877.

⁶² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5317).*

18 December 1972, which, *inter alia*, urge Governments and other donors to make every effort to increase their contributions to the Fund so as to enable it to reach the target figure of \$100 million by 1975,

Noting with satisfaction the agreement in the Executive Board on the Fund's basic assistance policies, which are to include concentration on younger age groups, emphasis on assistance for children in deprived areas, stress on innovative measures and continued efforts to link the Fund's assistance to national development programmes, which involves co-ordination with other sources of development aid and engages the support of the people of the assisted country at all levels, including the local level,

Commending the Executive Board's exploration of new approaches in the field of non-formal education, in co-operation with other international organizations concerned,

Observing with satisfaction that the Fund continues to respond effectively to the emergency needs of mothers and children.

Commending the Fund for its continued close co-operation in all its activities with other members of the United Nations system of organizations,

Noting with concern the lack of sufficient resources to enable the Fund to meet increasing requests for assistance and to play a more vital role in its field of responsibility during the Second United Nations Development Decade,

1. *Endorses* the policies of the United Nations Children's Fund and commends its work as an important factor in furthering economic and social development;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Governments and other donors for their sustained support of the Fund over the past twenty-seven years;

3. *Urges* Governments and other donors to make every effort to increase their contributions to the Fund for 1974;

4. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider holding in 1974 during its twenty-ninth session a special pledging conference for voluntary contributions to be made with a view to helping to reach the target figure of \$100 million in 1975.

*1878th plenary meeting
9 August 1973*

DECISIONS

Report of the Committee for Development Planning (Agenda item 6)

At its 1877th meeting, on 8 August 1973, the Council took note of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its ninth session.⁶³

⁶³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5 (E/5293 and E/5293/Add.1/Rev.1).

Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

(Agenda item 8 a)

At its 1878th meeting, on 9 August 1973, the Council took note of the reports of the Governing Council of