

## SOCIAL, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

### 1797 (LV). Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling its resolution 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 concerning the tragic plight of the people of the Sudano-Sahelian region threatened by famine and economic devastation,

Noting the strenuous efforts of Governments of affected countries to meet the needs of their peoples in the drought-stricken areas,

Aware of the significant steps taken by Governments of affected countries, in particular the setting up in March 1973 of the Permanent Inter-State Committee, to achieve the maximum regional co-operation and co-ordination in emergency, medium-term and long-term assistance efforts,

Appreciative of the substantial response of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the urgent needs of the people and Governments of the affected countries,

Acknowledging the effective contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and especially of its Director-General, in co-ordinating, at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the activities of the United Nations system in response to the emergency needs of the peoples and Governments of the affected countries,

Noting with appreciation the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, taken at its 390th meeting on 22 June 1973, in which, *inter alia*, the Administrator of the Programme was authorized to use additional funds over the period 1973-1976 for aid to be given to the drought-stricken Sudano-Sahelian countries,<sup>84</sup>

Recognizing that the generous assistance already furnished by the international community is not adequate to meet the existing and anticipated needs created by this catastrophic drought,

Deeply concerned that all additional assistance action be undertaken with the highest sense of urgency by all sources of external aid.

1. *Urgently appeals* to Governments, specialized agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide additional emergency assistance, either directly to the Governments of affected countries, or through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which has been designated as focal point for emergency relief efforts of the United Nations system, with particular emphasis on the critically needed transport of food to the affected populations;

2. *Urges* that preliminary steps be taken to avoid, to the maximum extent possible, an emergency situation in 1974 and 1975 comparable to that of 1973;

3. *Expresses its hope* that those measures already initiated by the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1759 (LIV), pertaining to medium-term and long-term needs of the region, will be carried forward with the utmost urgency and with the full co-operation of Governments, of all elements of the United Nations system concerned and of other interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of representatives of organizations of the United Nations system<sup>85</sup> which resulted from the meeting, convened at the direction of the Secretary-General and held at Geneva on 28 and 29 June 1973, to prepare for the medium-term and long-term needs of the people and Governments of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

5. *Solemnly appeals* to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to furnish, either directly to the affected countries or through the Secretary-General, the maximum financial, technical and other assistance in response to requests that may be made by Governments of affected countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region for medium-term and long-term assistance, as soon as such requests are submitted;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all organizations and programmes of the United Nations system concerned to devote the largest possible volume of financial, technical and other resources within the framework of their terms of reference, and in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to meeting the requests of Governments of affected countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region for medium-term and long-term assistance, as soon as such requests are submitted;

7. *Requests* the international financial institutions to give urgent and sympathetic consideration to any requests that affected countries may make for loans and credits for medium-term and long-term programmes and to ensure that such loans and credits are of the greatest possible magnitude and granted on the most favourable terms;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed fifty-fifth session, on the implementation of the present resolution and on the development of the situation.

*1868th plenary meeting  
11 July 1973*

<sup>84</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 2A (E/5365), para. 323 (e).

<sup>85</sup> E/5374, annex.