



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/694/Add.6
12 December 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 69 (g)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: FOOD PROBLEMS

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 69 (see A/36/694, para. 2). Action to be taken on subitem (g) was considered at the 25th and 45th to 47th meetings of the Committee, on 27 October and 1, 7 and 10 December 1981. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/36/SR.25 and 45-47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.14 and A/C.2/36/L.148

2. At the 25th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.14), entitled "Report of the World Food Council", which he orally revised by transposing the ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs. The draft resolution, as orally revised, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Recalling also its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

"Recalling further its resolutions 35/68 of 5 December 1980 on the report of the World Food Council, and 35/69 of 5 December 1980 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/71 of 24 July 1981 on the report of the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session,

"Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Yugoslavia for the excellent facilities and generous hospitality provided to the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session,

"Noting that the World Food Council emphasized the need to adopt, according to priorities identified in the field of food, comprehensive national and international measures with a view to realizing the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the promotion of food and agricultural development in the developing countries,

"Recognizing that a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries is essential for adequate financing of their over-all economic development and their imports of food and agricultural inputs,

"Expressing concern that trade barriers constitute a serious handicap to the developing countries in their efforts to realize their economic potential and to the international community in its efforts to overcome recession and inflation and to expand over-all productivity,

"Noting in that context with deep concern increasing domestic subsidies to agricultural production in developed countries and lack of progress being made towards the solution of the long-standing problems of agricultural trade which seriously affect production in and exports from developing countries, and disrupt international trade,

"Noting with great concern, despite its various decisions, the growing hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries and the severe imbalances in the world food situation, which foreshadow a deepening food crisis in the 1980s in the developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, and particularly those in Africa,

"1. Welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session, 1/ held at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, from 25 to 29 May 1981, and calls upon all Governments and appropriate international organizations to give earnest attention to their implementation;

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/36/19).

"2. Expresses its concern at the unsatisfactory progress being made in the international efforts to improve the production and consumption of food and at the critical deterioration of the food outlook for many developing countries in the 1980s, especially in the least developed countries and particularly those in Africa;

"3. Recognizes that the long-term structural solution to the problems of food and agriculture in the developing countries is related to the over-all development of those countries within the framework of the restructuring of international economic relations;

"4. Reaffirms the strong commitment of the international community to overcoming hunger and malnutrition and, in that context, the need for more effective international action to support agricultural development and food production in developing countries and to improve the distribution of food, particularly in low-income countries with food deficits;

"5. Urges developed countries to take effective and prompt measures to eliminate protectionism affecting the agricultural exports of developing countries through the phasing out of the tariff and non-tariff barriers, which will bring about the removal of distortive patterns of production maintained through a system of subsidies and protectionism, and to extend the Generalized System of Preferences to cover a wider range of agricultural commodities, including processed and semi-processed products of direct export interest to developing countries;

"6. Reaffirms that since access to food is a fundamental human necessity and a universal human right, food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure;

"7. Calls upon the international community to support the national efforts of developing countries to increase their food and agricultural production by increased technical and capital assistance, in particular for the food-sector strategies that have already been adopted by interested developing countries, within the framework of respect for national sovereignty and the recognition that food strategies and policies remain the concern of the countries adopting them;

"8. Expresses satisfaction over the growing number of countries that are adopting a more integrated approach to food policy as one of the means for interested developing countries to translate their own priorities into effective action and to mobilize, within the context of their national plans and priorities, increased technical and financial resources and co-operation from international development assistance agencies;

"9. Calls upon developed and other donor countries to achieve without delay the minimum target of the 1980 Food Aid Convention of 10 million tons of cereal aid annually and the minimum target of 500,000 tons of grain for the International Emergency Food Reserve, as agreed upon by the General Assembly in relevant decisions;

"10. Reaffirms the need to give urgent consideration to a revision of the target of the Food Aid Convention of 1980, taking into account the estimated requirement of 17 to 18.5 million tons of cereal, which provided a useful indicator of the over-all requirement of food aid by 1985, as agreed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; 2/

"11. Urges developed and other donor countries, and international institutions to increase external assistance to the food sector, for which the estimated necessary element of external assistance is \$US 8.3 billion, growing to \$US 12.5 billion by 1990 (both figures in 1975 prices), to take urgent steps for the adequate and equitable replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to conclude the sixth replenishment of the International Development Association, and to grant increased development assistance to the developing countries in order to help them become self-sufficient in food production through, inter alia, an early establishment of a world food security net;

"12. Calls upon all countries to consider strengthening their national food security within the framework of their national priorities;

"13. Urges the conclusion, as soon as possible, of a new Wheat Trade Convention that includes substantial economic provisions for safeguarding the interests of both exporters and importers and that recognizes the need for special provisions for developing countries;

"14. Welcomes the decision of the International Monetary Fund to integrate compensation for excesses in the costs of cereal imports with that for shortfalls in receipts from exports under the Fund's compensatory financing facility;

"15. Calls upon the international community to encourage and accord high priority to support for the efforts of developing countries to strengthen and supplement their programmes of mutual co-operation in the field of food and agriculture;

"16. Urges the World Food Council to continue to support meetings requested by interested Governments at the national and regional levels in order to facilitate the exchange of experience in the food sector;

"17. Urges the World Food Council, within the context of its mandate from the General Assembly, to mobilize and sustain greater efforts in the struggle to overcome hunger, to continue to review and report on major problems and policy issues and the steps being taken to resolve them, and to continue to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade, food aid, and other related matters, by all the agencies of the United Nations system;

2/ See General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

"18. Urges the international community, in adopting multilateral measures in the food sector, to take particularly into account the problems and interests of food-producing and food-exporting developing countries."

3. At its 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.148) submitted by Mr. Gerben Ringnalda, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.14. In introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.148, the Vice-Chairman orally corrected the text.
4. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.14 was withdrawn by the sponsors.
5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.148, as orally corrected without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).
6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Canada, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.128 and A/C.2/36/L.153

7. At the 45th meeting, on 1 December, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.128), entitled "Situation of food and agriculture in Africa", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Noting with concern that, over the last two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has undergone a drastic deterioration, resulting in a decline of food production per capita and a reduction of average dietary standards below essential requirements,

"Deeply concerned at the unabated encroachment of the desert in many countries of Africa, which has continued to accentuate the food problem on that continent,

"Taking note of the decision on food and agriculture adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 23 February to 1 March 1981,

"Deeply concerned at the continuing and worsening food crisis in Africa, which necessitates for the countries of the region a disproportionate allocation of scarce foreign exchange for the import of food-stuffs, to the detriment of their over-all development,

/...

"Recognizing the commitment and determination of Africa to devote its limited resources on a priority basis to agricultural development in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 3/

"Recognizing the central role of science and technology in raising global agricultural productivity and output, as well as the importance of appropriate infrastructure such as storage facilities and a system of transport conducive to the efficient distribution of agricultural products within each country and throughout the continent,

"Recalling its resolution 36/____ on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

"Stressing that the current shortages of food-stuffs demonstrate the continued vulnerability of many countries in the region to food crises owing to, inter alia, crop failures, drought, soil erosion, low reserves and the high level of post-harvest losses,

"Recalling its resolution 35/69 of 5 December 1980, devoted mainly to the deteriorating situation of food and agriculture in Africa and to the need for the international community, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other bodies to provide urgently the specific aid called for in the resolution,

"Noting the document entitled "Famine in Africa", 4/ published jointly by the Organization of African Unity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which explains in more detail the nature of famine and the means of eradicating it in Africa,

"Noting with appreciation the assistance provided to African countries by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank and other competent organizations in implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and of resolution 35/69,

"Recognizing the vital role played by transport infrastructure in emergency food situations,

"Reaffirming that the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos 5/ provide the guiding principles that should be followed by aid organizations operating in Africa,

3/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

4/ CM/1106 (XXXVI).

5/ A/S-11/14, annex II.

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on food problems in Africa 6/ and expresses its concern at the inadequacy of the results achieved in the implementation of resolution 35/69;

"2. Urges all the countries of Africa to implement, in accordance with their national development programmes and priorities, measures to increase substantially their food and agricultural production;

"3. Calls upon the international community to continue to support efforts undertaken by African countries at the national, subregional and regional levels to increase food production through, inter alia, the provision, on a priority and long-term basis, of additional financial and technical assistance to Africa by organizations of the United Nations system, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations involved in the financing of agricultural development, and an increase in lending by the World Bank to the agricultural sector in Africa;

"4. Stresses that the assistance should not only take the form of food aid and the corresponding additional support but should also provide for the restoration of agricultural production, specifically crops and livestock, in the regions affected;

"5. Urges Governments and the international organizations concerned to provide the necessary technical, financial and food assistance to food security projects in the region, especially in the countries of the Sahel and the Sudano-Sahelian countries, in the framework of their own activities, including strengthening the Food Security Assistance Scheme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through the participation of current and prospective donors;

"6. Calls for the adoption of a more flexible approach to the financing of agricultural development by external institutions and Governments, which would finance, inter alia, recurrent expenditure in connexion with investment and the cost of factors of production, and for the granting of concessional terms whenever necessary;

"7. Commends the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its efforts to alleviate the effects of the food crisis currently prevailing in Africa by mobilizing emergency food aid, and requests the donor countries to increase the resources needed by that organization to meet African needs for emergency food aid and agricultural development;

"8. Recommends that the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, endorsed by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twentieth session in its resolution 8/79 of 28 November 1979, should be strengthened on

an urgent basis under the over-all co-ordination of that organization and with the active financial and technical support of the international community;

"9. Urges all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their activities in Africa to assist Governments, inter alia, in the areas relating to food production, agricultural processing, integrated research and extension services;

"10. Also urges the international community to assist countries in the African region to achieve, by 1985, the following goals:

"(a) A significant improvement in their food situation and the laying of the foundations for the attainment of self-sufficiency in cereals, livestock and fish;

"(b) Significant progress towards attaining a 50 per cent reduction in post-harvest losses, through, inter alia, the construction of storage facilities;

"(c) An improved transport infrastructure to facilitate food distribution at the national, subregional and regional levels;

"(d) Expanded and more effective agronomic research, with special emphasis on improved seeds and an adequate supply of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals suitable for African conditions;

"11. Further urges all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to expand their training programmes in the building up of national capabilities for the preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development projects;

"12. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to take every necessary measure to hold joint meetings with a view to considering the possibilities for implementing resolution 35/69 and the present resolution;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and organs and bodies of the United Nations system, in his final report called for in resolution 35/69:

"(a) To identify the perceived problems in the attainment of goals set forth in paragraph 10 above;

"(b) To estimate the amount of external resources wanted to attain those goals;

"(c) To report on the level of technical and financial resources which the United Nations system will deploy towards the attainment of those goals, and suggest ways of attracting extra funding;

"(d) To report on the action-oriented plans of the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system which will implement the present resolution."

8. At its 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.153), submitted by Mr. Gerben Ringnalda, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.128. In introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153, the Vice-Chairman orally corrected the text.

9. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.128 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Nigeria.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.136

12. At its 46th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.136) submitted by the Philippines, entitled "Food and agriculture".

13. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to transmit the text of the draft resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session for its consideration (see para. 15).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Report of the World Food Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

/...

Recalling also its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling further its resolutions 34/110 of 14 December 1979, 35/68 of 5 December 1980 on the report of the World Food Council and 35/69 of 5 December 1980 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action, as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, 7/

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/71 of 24 July 1981 on food and agriculture,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Yugoslavia for the excellent facilities and generous hospitality provided to the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session,

Noting that the World Food Council emphasized the need to adopt, according to priorities identified in the field of food, comprehensive national and international measures with a view to realizing the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade 8/ in the promotion of food and agricultural development in the developing countries,

Recognizing that a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries is essential for adequate financing of their over-all economic development and their imports of food and agricultural inputs,

Expressing concern that trade barriers constitute a serious handicap to the efforts of developing countries, in particular, to realize their economic potential and of the international community to overcome recession and inflation and expand over-all productivity,

Noting in that context the need for adoption by all countries of policies designed to avoid disruption of international trade and to facilitate access to international markets of agricultural exports, particularly from developing countries,

Noting with great concern that the food situation remains extremely precarious for many developing countries despite significant increases in production and improved distribution in some countries in the past year,

7/ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), part one; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

8/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

Noting also with great concern the growing hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa,

Expressing its deep concern at the fact that a substantial part of world resources, material as well as human, continues to be diverted to armaments with a detrimental effect on international security and on efforts to achieve the new international economic order, including the solution of food problems, and calling upon Governments to take effective measures in the field of real disarmament that would increase the possibilities of allocation of the resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, especially development of developing countries, and to upgrading their food conditions,

1. Welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council as adopted at its seventh ministerial session, 9/ and calls upon all Governments and appropriate international organizations to give earnest attention to their implementation;
2. Expresses its concern at the critical deterioration of the food outlook for many developing countries in the 1980s, especially in the least developed countries and particularly those in Africa, and affirms that international efforts should be intensified to support improved production of food in developing countries;
3. Recognizes that the long-term solution to the problems of food and agriculture in the developing countries depends on increased self-sufficiency in food as part of the over-all development of those countries within the framework of structural changes in international economic relations;
4. Reaffirms the strong commitment of the international community to overcoming hunger and malnutrition and, in that context, the need for more effective international action to support agricultural development and food production and distribution in developing countries, particularly in low-income countries with food deficits;
5. Calls upon the Governments concerned to implement agrarian reform and rural development within the framework of their national plans and objectives and in accordance with the recommendations as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; 7/
6. Notes with deep concern that only limited progress has been achieved towards the solution of the long-standing problems of international trade in agricultural products, including access to international markets of agricultural exports, which adversely affect production in and exports, particularly of developing countries, and whose solution could make an important contribution to improving over-all food production in the world;

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/36/19), part one.

7. Calls for urgent action in the different negotiating forums to move towards the approval and implementation of proposals to bring about the reduction and elimination of barriers to trade in agricultural products, in particular in relation to those of export interest to developing countries, and thus to facilitate, inter alia, more efficient patterns of production;
8. Urges developed countries to make their best efforts to adjust those sectors of their agricultural and manufacturing economies which require protection against exports from developing countries, thus facilitating access to the markets of food and agricultural products;
9. Recommends that the generalized system of preferences should be expanded to cover a wider range of processed and semi-processed products and, whenever possible, agricultural commodities, and that the system of information on using the generalized system of preferences, providing technical assistance - including assistance in the field of research, development and marketing - should be enlarged and improved to enable developing countries to take full advantage of such preferences;
10. Reaffirms that food is a universal human right which Governments endeavour to guarantee their people and, in that context, stresses its belief in the general principle that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure;
11. Reaffirms that developing countries, in the context of their national development plans and priorities, firmly supported by the international community, should take all necessary measures to accelerate food and agricultural production in order to improve national and collective self-sufficiency as early as possible;
12. Calls upon the international community to support the national efforts of developing countries to increase their food and agricultural production by increased technical and capital assistance, in particular for the food-sector strategies that have already been adopted by interested developing countries, within the context of national plans and policies, and the recognition that food strategies and policies remain the concern of the countries adopting them;
13. Reiterates its belief that food aid for the least developed countries should be provided, in so far as possible, in the form of grants or on highly concessional terms and that donors should consider paying relevant transport costs;
14. Expresses its satisfaction at the growing number of countries that are adopting a more integrated approach to food policy, including food-sector strategies, as one of the means for interested developing countries to translate their own priorities into effective action and to mobilize, within the context of their national plans and priorities, increased technical and financial resources and co-operation from international development assistance agencies;
15. Reaffirms that, in the context of national development plans and priorities, effective policies and incentives should continue to be pursued and invigorated with a view to accelerating food and agricultural development;

16. Takes note of the renewal of the Food Aid Convention, and calls upon existing and new donor countries to achieve without delay the minimum target of the 1974 World Food Conference 10/ of 10 million tons of cereal aid, as agreed upon by the General Assembly in relevant decisions;

17. Takes note of the attainment of the minimum target of 500,000 tons of grain for the International Emergency Food Reserve in 1981 and expresses its appreciation to those countries whose contributions have made this possible;

18. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to carry out a review of food aid requirements in the 1980s, in the context of paragraph 88 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 11/ which calls for urgent consideration to be given to a revision of the target of the Food Aid Convention, taking into account the estimated requirements of 17 to 18.5 million tons of cereals, which provides a useful indicator of the over-all requirement of food aid by 1985, as agreed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

19. Urges developed countries, international institutions and others able to provide development assistance to increase external assistance to the food sector, for which the estimated necessary element of external assistance is \$US 8.3 billion, growing to \$US 12.5 billion by 1990 (both figures in 1975 prices), to take urgent steps for the adequate and equitable replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to conclude the sixth replenishment of the International Development Association, and to grant increased development assistance to the developing countries in order to help them become self-sufficient at the national or regional level in food production;

20. Requests the World Food Council to give further consideration to a series of feasible measures which, taken together, comprise a world food security net to ensure international market stability and continuity of world food supplies, especially for developing countries, at reasonable prices and on conditions they can afford, and to make recommendations thereon;

21. Calls upon all countries to consider strengthening their national food security within the framework of their national priorities;

22. Urges the conclusion, as soon as possible, of a new international wheat agreement that includes substantial economic provisions for safeguarding the interests of both exporters and importers and that recognizes the need for special provisions for developing countries;

10/ See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3).

11/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

23. Welcomes the decision of the International Monetary Fund to integrate compensation for excesses in the costs of cereal imports with that for shortfalls in receipts from exports under the Fund's compensatory financing facility;

24. Calls upon the international community to encourage and accord high priority to support for the efforts of developing countries to strengthen and supplement their programmes of mutual co-operation in the field of food and agriculture;

25. Urges the World Food Council, in accordance with its programme of work and within available resources, to continue to support meetings requested by interested Governments at the national and regional levels in order to facilitate the exchange of experience in the food sector;

26. Urges the World Food Council, within the context of its mandate, to mobilize and sustain greater efforts in the struggle to overcome hunger, to continue to review and report on major problems and policy issues and the steps being taken or proposed to resolve them, and to continue to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade, food aid and other related matters, by all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

27. Urges the international community, in adopting multilateral measures in the food sector, to take particularly into account the problems and interests of food-producing and food-exporting developing countries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Situation of food and agriculture in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the World Food Conference 12/ and the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, adopted by the Conference, 13/,

12/ See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), part one.

13/ Ibid., chap. I.

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development 14/

Noting with concern that, over the past two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has drastically deteriorated, resulting in a decline in food production per capita and a reduction in average dietary standards below essential requirements,

Deeply concerned at the unabated encroachment of the desert in many countries of Africa, which has continued to accentuate the food problem on that continent,

Noting that a decision on food and agriculture was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 23 February to 1 March 1981,

Deeply concerned at the critical food shortages currently affecting many countries in the African region, which necessitate a distressingly large allocation of the scarce foreign exchange of those countries for the import of food-stuffs, to the detriment of their over-all development;

Recognizing the commitment and determination of Africa to devoting its limited resources on a priority basis to agricultural development in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, 15/ adopted on 29 April 1980 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session devoted to economic matters, held at Lagos on 28 and 29 April 1980,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the development of food and agricultural production lies primarily with the developing countries themselves and that there is an increasing effort and growing commitment by the developing countries to accelerate the development of their food and agricultural sectors.

Recognizing the role of food-sector strategies, which emerged from the World Food Council, as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary additional international resources.

Recognizing the central role of science and technology in raising global agricultural productivity and output, as well as the importance of appropriate infrastructure such as storage facilities and a system of transport conducive to the efficient distribution of agricultural products within each country and throughout the African continent,

14/ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report of the World Food Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCAARD/REP), part one; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

15/ See A/S-11/14, annex I.

Recalling its resolution 35/108 of 5 December 1980 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Stressing that the current shortages of food-stuffs demonstrate the continued vulnerability of many countries in the region to food crises due, inter alia, to crop failure, drought, soil erosion, low reserves and the high level of post-harvest losses,

Recalling its resolution 35/69 of 5 December 1980, concerning the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

Noting that an important document on the problem of famine in Africa 16/ was published jointly by the Organization of African Unity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which explains in more detail the nature of famine and the means of eradicating it in Africa,

Noting with appreciation the assistance provided to African countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, inter alia, by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Bank and other competent organizations,

Recognizing the vital role played by transport, infrastructure in food situations, particularly emergency food situations,

Recognizing the useful contribution that the effective execution of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa can make to the improvement of the food situation, in particular, and to rapid over-all development of Africa,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on food problems in Africa 17/ and expresses its concern at the inadequacy of the results achieved in the implementation of its resolution 35/69;
2. Urges all the countries of Africa to implement, in accordance with their national development programmes and priorities, measures to increase substantially their food and agricultural production;
3. Calls upon the international community to continue to support efforts undertaken by African countries at the national, subregional and regional levels to increase food production through, inter alia, the provision, on a priority and long-term basis, of additional financial and technical assistance to Africa by organizations of the United Nations system, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations involved in the financing of agricultural development, and through an increase in lending by the World Bank to the agricultural sector in Africa;

16/ "Famine in Africa" (CM/1106 (XXXVI)).

17/ A/36/149.

4. Stresses that international assistance should not only take the form of food aid and the corresponding additional support but, more important, should also support national efforts for the restoration and development of agricultural production, specifically crops and livestock, in the regions affected;
5. Urges Governments and the international organizations concerned to provide the necessary technical, financial and food assistance to food security projects in the region, especially in the countries of the Sahel and the Sudano-Sahelian countries, in the framework of their own activities, including strengthening the Food Security Assistance Scheme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through the participation of current and prospective donors;
6. Calls for the urgent consideration of the adoption of a positive and flexible approach to the financing of agricultural development by external institutions and Governments, which would finance, inter alia, recurrent expenditure in connexion with investment and the cost of factors of production, and for the granting of concessional terms as appropriate;
7. Recognizes the role of the international community, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme in mobilizing food aid and agricultural assistance in Africa, and requests existing and new donor countries to increase the resources required to meet African needs for food aid and agricultural development,
8. Recommends that the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, endorsed by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twentieth session in its resolution 8/79 of 28 November 1979, should be implemented on an urgent basis under the over-all co-ordination of that organization and with the active financial and technical support of the international community;
9. Urges all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their activities in Africa to assist Governments, inter alia, in the areas relating to food production, agricultural processing, integrated research and extension services;
10. Also urges the international community to assist countries in the African region to achieve, by 1985, the following goals:
 - (a) A significant improvement in their food situation and the laying of the foundations for the attainment of self-sufficiency in cereals, livestock and fish;
 - (b) Significant progress towards attaining a 50 per cent reduction in post-harvest losses, through, inter alia, the construction of storage facilities;
 - (c) An improved transport infrastructure to facilitate food distribution at the national, subregional and regional levels;
 - (d) Expanded and more effective agronomic research, with special emphasis on improved seeds and an adequate supply of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals suitable for African conditions;

11. Further urges all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to expand their training programmes in the building up of national capabilities for the preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development projects;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to take every necessary measure, including the holding of joint meetings with a view to considering the possibilities for implementing General Assembly resolution 35/69 and the present resolution;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and organs and bodies of the United Nations system, in his final report called for in resolution 35/69;

(a) To identify the perceived problems in the attainment of goals set forth in paragraph 10 above;

(b) To estimate the amount of external resources needed to attain those goals;

(c) To report on the level of technical and financial resources which the United Nations system will deploy towards the attainment of those goals and to suggest ways of attracting extra funding;

(d) To report on the action-oriented plans of the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system which will implement the present resolution.

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15. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Food and Agriculture

The General Assembly decides to transmit to its thirty-seventh session, for consideration, the following draft resolution:

"Food and agriculture

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, which laid the foundations for the establishment of the new international economic order, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

/...

"Considering that food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity,

"Reiterating its conviction that hunger and malnutrition must be eliminated as soon as possible and certainly by the end of this century,

"Taking note of the 'Elements of a global food programme' proposed by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 18/

"Considering that a co-ordinated strategy to eliminate hunger would play an important role in promoting the well-being of all peoples,

"1. Invites the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the officers of the World Food Council, of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and of other relevant and concerned organizations, and taking into account the 'Elements of a global food programme' and 'Agriculture: toward 2000' 19/ and other relevant documentation, to develop short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies, plans and measures for a solution of global food problems;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the short-term, medium-term and long-term global food strategies, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session."

18/ FAO C 81 INF/17.

19/ FAO C 79/24.