

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Centre to make available the relevant reports and documents prepared by the Centre, including the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourth session and the report on renewable sources of energy for human settlements, to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within the framework of the work programme of the Centre, to initiate follow-up activities involving research and development, technical co-operation and the dissemination of information in the field of energy as it relates to human settlements, based on the recommendations for action contained in the report on new and renewable sources of energy for human settlements.⁷¹

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/70. World Food Day

The Economic and Social Council,

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

Recalling resolution 1/79 of 28 November 1979, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twentieth session,⁷² and General Assembly resolution 35/70 of 5 December 1980, calling for the annual observance of World Food Day on 16 October, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945,

Recalling also that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was established to take all necessary and appropriate action for "ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger",⁷³

Urges Governments and national, regional and international organizations to contribute to the greatest possible extent to the effective celebration of World Food Day on 16 October 1981.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/71. Food and agriculture

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, paras. 13-22.

⁷² See *Report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Twentieth Session, Rome, 10-28 November 1979* (C 79/REP and Corr.2), para. 43.

⁷³ See *Basic Texts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, vols. I and II (1980 edition)*, vol. I, Constitution, preamble, p. 3.

contained in Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, which laid the foundations for the new international economic order,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 35/68 on the report of the World Food Council and 35/69 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa, adopted on 5 December 1980,

Welcoming the report of the World Food Council on its seventh ministerial session, held at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, from 25 to 29 May 1981,⁷⁴

Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Yugoslavia for acting as hosts to the Council at that session and for the generous hospitality accorded to the participants,

Emphasizing the need for the implementation of effective measures at the national and international levels for accelerating the rate of growth in food and agricultural production in developing countries, with a view to achieving the 4 per cent growth rate in food production, as envisaged in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recognizing that the long-term solution to the problems of food and agriculture in the developing countries involves the overall development of those countries within the framework of the reordering of economic conditions on a world-wide basis,

Noting with concern the lack of progress in the negotiations for a new Wheat Trade Convention and recognizing the implications of such a convention for world food security,

Noting also the sixth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes,⁷⁵

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

Recognizing that the long-term solution in respect of food security rests upon increased food production and the accelerated development of the developing countries,

Recognizing also that a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries is essential if they are to finance adequately their overall economic development and their imports of food and of agricultural inputs, and that trade barriers constitute a serious handicap to the international community in its efforts to overcome recession and inflation and to expand overall productivity, and in particular to the developing countries in their efforts to realize their economic potential,

Taking note with satisfaction of the efforts made by food-exporting developing and developed countries in contributing to the Food Aid Convention,⁷⁶

⁷⁴ WFC/1981/17; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/36/19)*.

⁷⁵ WFP/CFA: 11/18.

⁷⁶ For the text of the Convention, see TD/WHEAT.6/13.

Bearing in mind paragraph 5 of the report of the World Food Council on its seventh ministerial session,

1. *Expresses its grave concern* at the continuing precarious nature of the food situation in low-income developing countries with food deficits, particularly the least developed countries;

2. *Emphasizes* that the various measures of international assistance in favour of African agriculture and food development, specified by the General Assembly in resolution 35/69, demand the continued and increased efforts of the international community and, in particular, of the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

3. *Notes* that the World Food Council, at its seventh ministerial session, emphasized the need to adopt, according to priorities identified in the field of food, comprehensive national and international measures, with a view to attaining the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade concerning the promotion of food and agricultural development in the developing countries;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of hunger and malnutrition is the common responsibility of the international community and that immediate action should concentrate on the food problems of those developing countries with inadequate food production, and also that the solution of food problems requires, in the first instance, determined action by the developing countries and that in this context they need the increased support of the international community;

5. *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 its compensatory financing facility;

6. *Calls upon* existing and new donor countries to achieve without delay the minimum target of the Food Aid Convention of 10 million tons of cereal aid annually,⁷⁷ as well as the minimum target of 500,000 tons of grains for the International Emergency Food Reserve, as agreed upon in the relevant decisions of the General Assembly;

7. *Urges* developed countries, international institutions, and others able to provide development assistance, to increase external assistance to the food sector, for which an estimated necessary element of external assistance is \$8.3 billion, increasing to \$12.5 billion by 1990 (both amounts in 1975 prices), to take urgent steps for the adequate and equitable replenishment of the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and to conclude the replenishment of those of the International Development Association;

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

9. *Calls upon* all donor countries to facilitate the increased transfer of resources in support of the efforts of developing countries to increase their food and agricultural production, so as to enable them to achieve self-

reliance in the production of grain and to set up the corresponding infrastructure;

10. *Urges*, in the context of the present resolution on food and agriculture, effective measures to move towards the reduction, and the elimination, where appropriate, of barriers to trade, especially those affecting agricultural products of export interest to developing countries, and that in this connection all industrialized countries should consider the adoption or extension of the generalized system of preferences or of other preferences to cover, as appropriate, a wide range of agricultural commodities, particularly semi-processed and processed ones;

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

12. *Urges* the conclusion as soon as possible of a new Wheat Trade Convention, which will include substantial economic provisions to safeguard the interests of both exporters and importers and will recognize the need for the application of special provisions to developing countries;

13. *Urges* the World Food Council, within the context of its mandate from the General Assembly⁷⁸ and in an effort to mobilize and sustain greater efforts in the struggle to overcome hunger, to continue to review major problems and policy issues and the steps being taken to resolve them, and to continue to serve as a mechanism to provide overall, integrated and continuing attention to the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all the agencies of the United Nations system;

14. *Reaffirms* that food objectives are intimately related to global development and that positive progress in this area could strongly influence the prospects for progress in other areas of the International Development Strategy;

15. *Expresses satisfaction* at the growing number of countries 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, to mobilize, within the context of their national development plans and priorities, increased technical and financial resources and to secure co-operation from international development assistance agencies;

16. *Reaffirms* that food strategies and policies, in accordance with the principle of respect for national sovereignty, remain the concern of the countries adopting them;

17. *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;

18. *Calls upon* Governments concerned to implement agrarian reform and rural development within the framework of their national plans and objectives, in accordance

⁷⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/35/19)*, part one, para. 32.

⁷⁸ See General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), para. 7.

with the recommendations as adopted at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;⁷⁹

19. *Notes* the suggestion made by the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session that national and international efforts should be stepped up for the training of skilled national staff, that the maximum encouragement should be given to highly qualified agricultural specialists from developing countries to continue working in or to return to those countries, and that measures to avoid the drain of such personnel to developed countries should be considered.⁸⁰

41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981

1981/72. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly Assembly resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 34/187 of 18 December 1979 and 35/72 of 5 December 1980, and Council resolution 1980/52 of 23 July 1980,

Recalling also decision 9/22 of 26 May 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,⁸¹ and decision 81/4 of 19 June 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,⁸²

Reiterating its concern over the seriousness of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the persistent critical situation resulting from it, which hampers the economic and social development of the countries of the region,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,⁸³ and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth session,⁸⁴

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 33/88 of

⁷⁹ 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); transmitted to the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

⁸⁰ See WFC/1981/17, part one, para. 13.

⁸¹ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/36/25).

⁸² See E/1981/61, annex I; for the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 11* (E/1981/61/Rev.1).

⁸³ E/1981/C.1/L.6.

⁸⁴ UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/36/25).

15 December 1978, 34/187 and 35/72, and transmits it to the General Assembly for consideration, noting with satisfaction the decision of the Governing Council to include Benin among the countries eligible to receive assistance through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;⁸⁵

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;⁸⁶

3. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Governing Councils of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme on the further continuation of the joint venture of the two Programmes aimed at ensuring the timely and effective provision of assistance to the group of designated countries by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, in combating desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations that have contributed to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. *Urges* all Governments, organizations, organs and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and other organizations, to intensify their assistance either bilaterally or through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office or any other intermediary, in response to the priority requirements of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

6. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to report annually on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

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1981/73. International co-operation on the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980 on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Reaffirming the need for further international co-operation in the field of the environment and reiterating that environmental considerations should be viewed in the context of the national plans and priorities and development objectives of all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Having regard to General Assembly resolution 35/74 of 5 December 1980, in which the Assembly decided,

⁸⁵ See UNEP/GC.9/15 and Corr.1, annex I, decision 9/22 B.

⁸⁶ A/CONF.74/36, chap. I.