

1981/19. Emerging social issues of international concern

The Economic and Social Council.

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development contained in General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 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, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States contained in General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Recalling also the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Concerned at the growing disparity in conditions of living and income levels between people in the developed and developing countries,

Concerned also at the adverse effects that unfavourable world economic trends may have on levels of living and social conditions of people, particularly in developing countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging social issues of international concern in connexion with the changes in the world economic situation, and to submit that report for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1983 through the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-eighth session;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to pay full attention in his reports on the world social situation to emerging social issues of international concern in connexion with the changes in the world situation, giving special attention to the relationship between disarmament and development and bearing in mind also that the resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be channelled into the economic and social development of all countries and should contribute to the bridging of the economic gap between developed and developing countries.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

1981/20. Strengthening developmental social welfare policies and programmes

The Economic and Social Council.

Concerned at the slow rate of progress of implementation of its resolution 1979/18 of 9 May 1979 on strengthening developmental social welfare policies and programmes,

Convinced of the value of developmental social welfare as an investment in the process of development,

Mindful of the importance of the nine regional conferences of ministers responsible for social welfare held since the 1968 International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare and their contribution to the elaboration of strategies for social welfare in the context of over-all development,

Convinced that the conclusions and recommendations of those conferences should constitute a valuable resource for Governments in all regions as well as for the deliberations of the Commission for Social Development,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 1979/18, in which it requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the Secretariat's activities relating to policy, planning, training and operational aspects of social welfare, including those of relevance to integrated rural development, having in mind the guidelines established by the General Assembly with regard to development;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its biennial sessions comparative interregional analyses of the deliberations and recommendations of regional conferences on social welfare and related areas;

3. Urges Governments to exploit to the full extent existing social welfare structures so as to make best use of available resources for serving the needs of all segments of the population;

4. Urges the Secretary-General to reinforce Secretariat research and operational activities related to developmental social welfare policies and programmes within existing resources;

5. Requests the regional commissions to report to the Commission for Social Development at its biennial sessions on social welfare and social development activities;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress achieved to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-eighth session.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

1981/21. Welfare of migrant workers and their families

The Economic and Social Council.

Recalling its resolutions 1926 (LVII) of 6 May 1975 and 1979/12 of 9 May 1979,

Conscious of the fact that in certain regions the problems of migrant workers are becoming more serious as a result of current economic trends and related social and cultural issues,

Concerned about the fact that, despite the efforts of Member States and international organizations, migrant workers and their families are, to a great extent, not always able to enjoy all the benefits of the application of the basic principle of equality of opportunity and treatment with regard to their working and living conditions,

Noting that the social provisions of bilateral agreements concluded between labour-employing and labour-supplying countries are often limited to general statements,

Taking into account the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation concerning migration for employment, migrant workers, migration in abusive conditions and the promotion of equality of opportunity for the treatment of workers,

Recognizing the need for further efforts to improve the welfare of migrant workers and their families as well as the preservation of their identity,

Recalling the World Population Plan of Action,³³ adopted by the World Population Conference, in which, *inter alia*, both labour-employing and labour-supplying countries were urged, if they had not yet done so, to conclude bilateral or multilateral

³³ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

agreements which would protect and assist migrant workers and safeguard the interests of the countries concerned,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations to consider the situation of migrant workers in an interrelated manner, bearing in mind that the principle of equality of treatment extends to include the living conditions of migrant workers and their families, particularly with regard to housing, health, education and cultural and social welfare;

2. *Invites* Member States to present existing research findings and governmental reports to the Secretary-General so as to obtain an over-all view of the situation of migrant workers and their families;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/172 of 17 December 1979;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the programme budget for 1982-1983 studies on the questions concerned with the welfare of migrant workers and their families, and to undertake those studies in a comprehensive manner to include common recommendations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, taking into account the views of the Governments and organizations concerned, that the reports requested in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1926 (LVII) and 1979/12 shall be presented to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-eighth session;

6. *Recommends* the inclusion of the question of the welfare of migrant workers and their families in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development to permit an exchange of views and to promote further attention to this specific group.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

1981/22. International Year of Disabled Persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of disability,³⁴

Endorsing the conclusions and recommendations contained in that report,

Welcoming the nomination by the Secretary-General of his Special Representative for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

1. *Calls upon* Governments, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons, to work together to make the International Year of Disabled Persons a success;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to ensure that the rehabilitation and well-being of the disabled and the prevention of disability are, wherever appropriate, given due consideration within United Nations programmes.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

³⁴ E/CN.5/591.

1981/23. World Assembly on Aging

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978, by which the Assembly decided to organize in 1982 a World Assembly on Aging as a forum to launch an international action programme aimed at guaranteeing economic and social security to older persons, as well as an opportunity to investigate the impact of the aging of population structures on society,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 35/129 of 11 December 1980 concerning the World Assembly on Aging,

Convinced that the World Assembly on Aging is a significant international event through which a long-term programme of concrete and effective action on aging can be launched,

Re-emphasizing the important role of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging,

Taking note of the establishment of the voluntary fund for the World Assembly on Aging,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General³⁵ concerning the preparatory work for the World Assembly on Aging,

Recognizing the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in the preparation of the World Assembly on Aging.

1. *Calls upon* Member States, specialized agencies, regional commissions and non-governmental organizations to participate fully in the preparatory work for the World Assembly on Aging and in the Assembly itself;

2. *Appeals* to Member States to consider making contributions to the voluntary fund for the World Assembly on Aging;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging shall meet twice in 1981;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development, on further actions to implement the recommendations adopted at the World Assembly on Aging.

*14th plenary meeting
6 May 1981*

1981/24. Social aspects of the development activities of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1979/45 of 11 May 1979 on the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Social Aspects of the Development Activities of the United Nations and its resolution 1980/27 of 2 May 1980 concerning the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and Assembly decision 35/439 of 16 December 1980 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Convinced that all efforts should be made to ensure that the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, shall be attained.

³⁵ A/36/70.