

37/244. Long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 by which it endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,²¹⁴

Recalling also resolution 36/183 of 17 December 1981 in which the General Assembly, in considering the long-term arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, requested the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to submit its recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session for consideration and decision,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on its fourth session,²¹⁵ in particular of paragraph 7 on institutional and financial arrangements, of the statement of understanding of the Chairman incorporated therein,²¹⁶

1. Decides that, in accordance with its resolution 36/183, the long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development shall be as follows:

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FINANCING SYSTEM FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

I. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development shall be organized on a voluntary and universal basis, open to the participation of all States as full members.

2. The Financing System shall be endowed with substantial resources and shall be composed of two types of resources: core and non-core.

3. Contributions to the core component of the Financing System shall be voluntary within the framework of a financing plan, covering a period of three years at a time.

4. The target for core resources for the period 1983-1985 shall be at least \$300 million based on a progressive build-up of resources.

5. The core resources of the Financing System for the period 1983-1985 shall be provided by developed and developing countries in freely convertible currencies.

6. Developed countries and developing countries shall contribute to the core resources of the Financing System. The pattern of contributions of both developed and developing countries will be determined in the financing plan, which will reflect a mutual and joint undertaking.

7. Non-core resources will represent an important element of the Financing System and shall consist of a variety of resources, including co-financing, multilateral and bilateral contributions, cost-sharing, joint ventures, equity participation, trust funds and the like. The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will evolve policy orientations for the mobilization and use of the non-core resources.

8. The Financing System shall aim to establish a reasonable equivalence between the levels of its core and non-core resources in order to ensure an overall global target for the Financing System of not less than \$600 million for 1983-1985.

9. The Financing System shall dispense both grants and loans, which shall be provided on such terms as the Financing System deems appropriate in the light of the economic situation, the prospects of the recipient country and the nature and requirements of the activity concerned. Combinations of loans and grants may also be made where appropriate. The proportion of the resources of the Financing System to be committed in any financial year for financing operations shall be decided by the Executive Board of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development with due regard to the long-term viability of the Financing System and the need for continuity in its operations. Loans will be provided on concessionary terms. Grants should be extended mainly to the least developed countries and for the support of a number of high-risk research and development projects in developing countries. The secretariat of the Financing System shall submit projects and programmes to the Executive Board for consideration and approval.

II. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

10. The institutional arrangements of the Financing System shall consist of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Executive Board of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and a secretariat.

A. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development

11. The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development shall continue to be the directing and policy-making body. Its principal functions shall be the following:

(a) General policy orientation of, and direction for, the Financing System;

(b) Decisions on policy proposals, including recommendations on levels of resources;

(c) General review and evaluation of the activities of the Financing System;

(d) Election of members to the Executive Board in accordance with the criteria stated in paragraph 13 below;

(e) Consideration of reports of the Executive Board.

B. Executive Board of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development

12. The Financing System shall have its own Executive Board as an identifiable and separate entity, to be responsible for its operation and conduct. The functions of the Executive Board shall include:

(a) Mobilization of resources;

(b) Utilization of the resources of the Financing System, particularly approval of projects, programmes and activities of the System;

(c) Formulation of recommendations on levels of resources of the Financing System;

(d) Decisions on financial planning;

(e) Approval of administrative and financial arrangements involving the Financing System;

(f) Monitoring of the operations of the System in relation to its objectives.

²¹⁴ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

²¹⁵ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/37/37).

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, part two, para. 23.

13. The Executive Board shall be an effective body and its composition shall reflect an appropriate balance between developed and developing countries as well as between donors and recipients. It shall be composed of 21 directors, to be elected by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development for a period of three years, one third to be drawn from developed countries and two thirds from developing countries reflecting an appropriate balance between donors and recipients.

C. Secretariat arrangements

14. The Financing System will have its own secretariat to process and monitor projects and to carry out other activities mandated by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the General Assembly. The arrangements shall be as follows:

(a) The overall supervision of the management of the Financing System shall be entrusted to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, who shall be accountable in the exercise of this responsibility to the Executive Board of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

(b) The Administrator will report to the Executive Board on the operations and activities of the Financing System and bring forward projects for approval by the Executive Board;

(c) In order to ensure close and continuous interaction between the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the Financing System, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation or his representative will be invited on a permanent basis to meetings of the Executive Board;

(d) The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, assisted by the Executive Director of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, will submit an annual report to the Executive Board on, *inter alia*, matters of mutual concern to the Centre and the Financing System;

(e) The Director-General, in respect of both his responsibility for overall co-ordination of operational activities in the United Nations system and his oversight of the Centre, shall be entrusted by the General Assembly and by agreement with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination with the co-ordination with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, of the work relating to the Financing System. Such co-ordination activities shall be carried out through the existing mechanisms of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, particularly the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development;

(f) The Centre for Science and Technology for Development shall assist the Director-General in fulfilling the responsibilities assigned to him in the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, particularly in providing the necessary substantive support to the Intergovernmental Committee, including its work relating to the Financing System;

(g) In view of the expectations of continued use of the services and field network of the United Nations Development Programme, the focus of the Governing Council of the Programme will in future be mainly on the co-operative arrangements between the Financing System and the Programme. Accordingly, the Administrator of the Programme will provide an annual report to the Governing Council containing information on co-operation

between the two organizations and on other matters of common interest;

(h) The Administrator, in consultation with the Director-General, will report annually to the Intergovernmental Committee on the activities and progress of the Financing System;

(i) The Centre for Science and Technology for Development will play a meaningful role and, in line with its mandate and role, will, through appropriate arrangements and when required, co-operate with the secretariat of the Financing System in preparing, formulating and bringing to the attention of the Financing System suitable projects and in appraising, evaluating and assessing projects financed by the Financing System in the context of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(j) There will be arrangements for exchange of detailed information between the Financing System and the United Nations Development Programme, especially where a common interest exists in specific programmes and projects. This collaboration may extend to co-financing arrangements as well as to technical areas in order to enable the two organizations to draw upon each other's special skills and experience;

(k) The co-operation of the secretariat of the Financing System will be sought by the Centre for Science and Technology for Development in elaborating the relevant major programme areas of the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and in supporting the Intergovernmental Committee in the promotion of the optimum mobilization of financial resources to carry out the Vienna Programme of Action;

(l) The secretariat will be small, reflecting its use of the facilities of other organizations according to agreed procedures; its administrative and support costs will continue to be met from voluntary contributions;

(m) The secretariat, under the overall supervision of the Administrator, will have an executive head;

(n) The executive head of the secretariat will be appointed by the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme;

(o) The executive head will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Financing System and for such other activities as may be necessary to ensure effective operations of the System for both core and non-core resource activities; the secretariat of the System will provide secretariat support to the Executive Board;

(p) Arrangements will be established with the United Nations Development Programme for the provision of administrative services; the nature and terms of such arrangements will be reviewed and evaluated as the operations of the Financing System expand;

(q) Reports to appropriate secretariat and intergovernmental bodies on financial audit and accounting matters will continue to be provided in accordance with United Nations and United Nations Development Programme procedures and requirements.

15. The required level of resources and functioning of the Financing System shall be reviewed periodically, taking into account the increasing needs of developing countries. The first of such reviews will be held in 1985.

2. *Also decides* that the foregoing agreement on the long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the Financing System shall take effect as soon as the provisions of the financing plan have been established together with institutional arrangements for decision-making of the Executive Board, in accordance with paragraph 3 below; in

the meantime, the existing operating procedures of the System shall continue;

3. *Further decides* that the following special arrangements will be necessary in early 1983:

(a) The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will meet in special session for a period of one week in February or March 1983 for the purpose of:

- (i) Assessment of the resource situation for the Financing System for the year 1983 together with the outlook for the two following years;
- (ii) Establishment of the provisions of the financing plan and, in this context, rules for the voting pattern of the Executive Board;
- (iii) Confirmation (final pledges) of contributions for 1983 and, if possible, indications for 1984 and 1985;

(b) At its fifth session in June 1983, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will, *inter alia*, proceed to elect members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

*115th plenary meeting
21 December 1982*

37/245. 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,

Noting with grave 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 with detrimental effects on dietary standards, which are already well below the minimum requirements, as well as in an alarming increase in the number of people exposed to malnutrition, hunger and starvation,

Recognizing the high priority attached to food and agriculture in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,²¹⁷

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,

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,

Welcoming the priority assigned to food and agricultural development in the deliberations of heads of State and Government held in 1981 and 1982,

Noting with interest the conclusions of the African Ministers for Food and Agriculture at the World Food Council Regional Consultation for Africa, held at Nairobi on 16 and 17 March 1982,²¹⁸ as well as the special attention devoted to food and agriculture by the Ministerial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Rome in November 1981, and by the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial session, held at Acapulco from 21 to 24 June 1982,²¹⁹

Convinced that increased international support to combat drought, desertification, African animal trypanosomiasis, African migratory locust and post-harvest losses, among other problems, is crucial to the attainment of food self-sufficiency in Africa,

Further convinced that collective action at the global level can reinforce the efforts of the African countries to resolve the technological, managerial and financial resource gaps impeding food and agricultural production in Africa,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa;²²⁰

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 35/69 of 5 December 1980 and 36/186 of 17 December 1981 and calls for their early and full implementation;

3. *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;

4. *Urges* the international community to provide increased assistance in support of essential policy adjustments by African Governments, within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, to alleviate food deficits in Africa, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the African Ministers for Food and Agriculture at the World Food Council Regional Consultation for Africa and endorsed by the Council at its eighth ministerial session;

5. *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;

6. *Also calls* for the adoption by multilateral and governmental institutions, when providing financing for agricultural development in the form of grants and loans on concessional terms, of a positive and flexible approach which would take into account, *inter alia*, the recurrent expenditure arising from investment and the cost of factors of production;

7. *Recognizes* the role of the international community, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the World Food Council and the International Fund for Agricultural Development in mobilizing food aid and agricultural assistance

²¹⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19)*, annex III.

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19).

²²⁰ A/37/390.

²¹⁷ A/S-11/14, annex I.