

Assembly at its thirty-eighth session for consideration and appropriate action.

54th plenary meeting  
27 October 1982

**1982/69. Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in that area**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly 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* General Assembly resolutions 35/206 F of 16 December 1980 on the role of transnational corporations in South Africa, 35/227 A of 6 March 1981 on the situation in Namibia resulting from the illegal occupation of the Territory by South Africa, 35/227 B of 6 March 1981 on the intensification and co-ordination of United Nations action in support of Namibia, 36/172 B of 17 December 1981, in which it proclaimed the year 1982 International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa, and 36/172 O of 17 December 1981 on investments in South Africa,

*Reaffirming* previous Council resolutions on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in that area,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretariat on the measures taken pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/86 of 2 November 1981,<sup>4</sup>

*Considering* that the persistent operation of transnational corporations in Namibia, in contravention of various United Nations resolutions, continues to reinforce the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa and to pose a serious threat to the future political and economic independence of Namibia,

*Considering also* that the role of transnational corporations and transnational banks in the industrial and technological development of South Africa contributes to sustaining the racist minority régime of South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia,

*Affirming* the need for action at the international level by intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations in order to complement national measures.

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretariat on the measures taken pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/86;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat for its efforts to publicize Council resolution 1981/86 and for its elaborate recommendations as to the modalities for organizing the hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia;

3. *Commends* those non-governmental organizations that have made efforts to combat *apartheid* and, in particular, to terminate bank loans and capital transfers to South Africa, and calls upon such organizations to intensify their useful efforts in these areas;

4. *Welcomes* as a positive step the policies of some Governments to bring an end to the activities of their transnational corporations in southern Africa;

5. *Condemns* the racist minority régime of South Africa for its perpetuation of the inhuman system of *apartheid* and its illegal occupation of Namibia;

6. *Condemns* those transnational corporations that collaborate with the racist minority régime of South Africa, and calls upon all transnational corporations to respect the various resolutions of the United Nations concerning southern Africa;

7. *Calls upon* all home countries of transnational corporations to take effective measures to terminate the collaboration of the transnational corporations with the racist minority régime of South Africa, to prevent further new investments and reinvestments and to bring about an immediate withdrawal of all existing investments in South Africa and Namibia;

8. *Calls upon* all countries concerned to re-examine their relations with the transnational corporations operating in their territories which collaborate with the racist minority régime of South Africa;

9. *Calls upon* all anti-*apartheid* movements, religious institutions and bodies, trade unions, universities and other institutions that are shareholders of transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia to contribute to the efforts of the international community to eradicate *apartheid* by withdrawing their shareholdings in such transnational corporations;

10. *Urges* all transnational corporations to comply fully with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations by terminating all further investments in South Africa and Namibia and by ending their collaboration with the racist minority régime;

11. *Further calls upon* all States Members of the United Nations and all transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia to co-operate with the Secretary-General and the Commission on Transnational Corporations in organizing public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia;

12. *Reaffirms* Security Council resolution 301 (1971) of 20 October 1971, in which that Council called upon States to abstain from entering into economic relations with South Africa in respect of Namibia and declared that rights, titles or contracts granted to individuals or corporations by South Africa after the termination of the mandate are not subject to protection or espousal by their home States against the claims of a future lawful government of Namibia;

13. *Reaffirms* that the code of conduct on transnational corporations should include effective measures against the collaboration of transnational corporations with the racist minority régime in southern Africa;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) *To intensify* the useful work of the Secretariat in the collection and dissemination of information on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa;

(b) *To make arrangements* for the organization of public hearings, to be conducted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, with the assistance of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, in accordance with the modalities and procedures to be prescribed by the Commission at its ninth session;

(c) *To report* to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its ninth session on the measures taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

(d) *To prepare* a report on the policies and practices of transnational corporations regarding their activities in South

<sup>4</sup> E/C.10/1982/11.

Africa and Namibia for the consideration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its ninth session and to include, as an annex to that report, a list of transnational corporations which continue to operate in strategic sectors, including military and nuclear sectors, of the southern African economy in violation of United Nations resolutions, as well as those transnational corporations that have taken measures to terminate their activities in such sectors.

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**1982/70. Public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling its resolutions on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa, in particular resolution 1981/86 of 2 November 1981, in which it called for the organization of public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretariat on the measures taken pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/86,<sup>1</sup>

1. Decides that the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/86 shall be conducted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its tenth session, which shall, if necessary, be extended for a period of one week for that purpose;

2. Decides also that the public hearings shall deal with the operations of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, with a view to identifying concrete measures that could be taken by Governments and by intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to bring about the eradication of the system of *apartheid*, in particular:

(a) The extent to which such transnational corporations sustain the system of *apartheid* and the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist minority régime of South Africa;

(b) The employment practices of transnational corporations and their socio-cultural impact;

(c) The implications of the activities of transnational corporations in the nuclear and military sectors of the South African economy;

3. Decides further to establish an *ad hoc* committee composed of five States, to be assisted by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, which would prepare and submit for adoption by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its ninth session guidelines regarding:

(a) Procedures for the hearings;

(b) Persons and organizations to be invited to the hearings;

(c) Documentation for the hearings;

(d) Such other matters as may be pertinent to the modalities for the public hearings;

4. Requests the *ad hoc* committee of five States to hold one or two meetings before the ninth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in order to prepare the guidelines referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. Invites the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies that have done work on the matters

referred to in paragraph 2 above to submit documentation to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its tenth session in connection with the public hearings to be held by the Commission.

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**1982/71. Strengthening of the co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Conscious that information is one of the most valuable resources at the disposal of the United Nations system.

Emphasizing the need for facilitating the access of developing countries to the United Nations information systems,

Recognizing the need to co-ordinate and harmonize the information systems in the United Nations system and the need to undertake this from the perspective of the needs of users at the national level,

Bearing in mind the conclusions contained in the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination<sup>2</sup> and the recommendations set forth in the final report of the independent experts on the strengthening of the co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system,<sup>3</sup> and stressing the need for further consideration of that report,

Recalling its resolution 1981/63 of 23 July 1981.

1. Urges that a small central mechanism in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for the co-ordination of information systems, whose aims would be to ensure the more efficient operation of existing or planned United Nations information systems from the perspective of users at the national level and to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to collect, store, retrieve and disseminate information, should:

(a) Review and advise on at an early stage proposals for the creation of new information systems or for the substantial modification of existing ones, when such proposals might be of interest to more than one organization, with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication and to ensuring compatibility of information systems in the same or related fields, and stresses that such advisory opinions should be presented to the governing bodies of organizations, together with the proposals of those organizations, before decisions are taken to create new information systems or substantially modify existing ones;

(b) Give priority in its work programme to determining the needs of users, in particular those in developing countries; to identifying the areas, especially those related to operational activities, in which coherent information should be made available, especially at the level of the United Nations system; and to developing, within a year, a meaningful register of development activities;

(c) Compile, update and popularize common indexing vocabularies at the generic level and formulate standards, drawing upon the technical expertise of the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(d) Monitor the development of information technology and ensure its application in the United Nations system in an effective and co-ordinated manner;

<sup>1</sup> E/1982/85.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, annex.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*