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### DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: FOOD PROBLEMS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman,  
H.E. Mr. José U. Fernandez (Philippines), on the  
basis of informal consultations held on draft  
resolution A/C.2/43/L.26

#### Food and agricultural problems

##### The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, 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 the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Recalling its resolutions on food and agricultural problems, in particular, resolution 41/191 of 8 December 1986,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference, 1/

Stressing the imperative need to keep food and agricultural issues at the centre of global attention,

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



hunger and malnutrition has increased in the 1980s and that the central objective of the World Food Conference remains largely unfulfilled;

2. Welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the fourteenth ministerial session of the World Food Council, held at Nicosia, Cyprus, from 23 to 26 May 1988, in particular the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World, and calls upon Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to assist fully the World Food Council in implementing the Initiative;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on trends in the international agricultural markets with special reference to the share of developing countries; 3/

4. Stresses the urgent need for substantial progress in stimulating food production in developing countries and the importance of increasing domestic food production, thereby stimulating national economic growth and social progress in those countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, and helping to resolve the problems of hunger and malnutrition in an effective way;

5. Urges in this context the members of the international community, in particular the donor countries, to take further determined action in support of the efforts of developing countries by increasing the flow of resources, including concessional flows designated for agricultural development, and to increase their contributions to intergovernmental organizations;

6. Stresses the need for donor countries to increase aid commitments to food and agriculture in developing countries and the need to channel assistance through existing organizations and programmes;

7. Stresses that the provision of food aid in the context of emergency situations resulting, inter alia, from natural disasters should be reinforced through additional rehabilitation and development assistance in order to help restore food production capacity and self-reliance;

8. Calls for a joint effort by all States and international and relevant intergovernmental organizations to improve the food situation and protect the nutritional levels of affected groups, in particular low-income groups, especially during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes;

9. Affirms that increasing food production in developing countries will significantly contribute to the eradication of poverty and the elimination of malnutrition, and recommends that a higher priority be given to supporting food production in the national development efforts of those countries in order to ensure adequate food supplies and distribution;

10. Stresses that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations presents a unique opportunity to develop a more open, viable and durable trading system, to reverse the disquieting rise in protectionism, and to bring agriculture under the strengthened and operationally effective rules and disciplines of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, in accordance with the relevant parts of the Punta del Este Declaration, and urges that concerted efforts should be made at the forthcoming mid-term review of multilateral trade negotiations at Montreal, Canada, to this end, taking into account the need to provide special and differential treatment for developing countries, considering their food security objectives and the need to avoid potentially adverse effects on those countries, especially the food importing ones, bearing in mind the overall benefits of trade liberalization;

11. Stresses the need to implement fully the relevant provisions of the Punta del Este Declaration concerning tropical products;

12. Also stresses the need to improve global economic conditions in order to establish national, subregional and regional food security in developing countries;

13. Calls upon the international community to support scientific and technological training and research in developing countries in order to promote agricultural development in those countries and emphasizes the urgency of strengthening international co-operation in the field of transfer of agricultural technologies and of facilitating the free exchange of information on experience and technology relating to food production, processing and storage;

14. Calls upon the international community, through specific and effective measures, to support and complement the efforts made by African Governments to stimulate agriculture and food production and to implement fully the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

15. Urges all States members of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to take decisive action to ensure the timely conclusion of the negotiations on the third replenishment of the Fund's resources so as to facilitate its adoption by the Governing Council of the Fund in January 1989, thus enabling the Fund to pursue its mandate of assisting developing countries in increasing their food production and in alleviating rural poverty and, to that end appeals to all parties to make their best efforts to achieve the overall target fixed for the replenishment;

16. Takes note with satisfaction of the fact that the target of the Fund's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification has been achieved and appeals for increased contributions to the Fund;

17. Further appeals to the international community to contribute generously to the World Food Programme so that the pledging target for the period 1989-1990, as set out in General Assembly resolution 42/164 of 11 December 1987, can be attained and the Programme can continue its activity in support of capital investment and in meeting emergency food needs;

18. Notes with appreciation the eighth replenishment of the International Development Association for the period 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1990, which provides for a total of \$12.4 billion, and stresses the need to draw upon those resources for the development of food and agriculture;

19. resses the need for co-ordinated international action to tackle the long-term problems of migratory pest control, particularly in Africa, and, expressing gratitude for the support of donors and recognizing the efforts made by the affected countries in the fight against the grasshopper and locust infestation, calls upon donors to continue to give high priority to the implementation and continued co-ordination by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of emergency control programmes, as well as longer-term measures, against grasshoppers and locusts at present affecting vast areas of Africa, as well as other regions of the developing world, and to remain prepared to provide financial and technical assistance to affected countries at short notice;

20. Takes note of the establishment, within the framework of the World Food Council, of the informal ad hoc consultative group for the implementation of the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World, and urges all Member States and international organizations to participate actively in the work of the group so as:

(a) To review and assess the policies and instruments at present available to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries, and to identify the reasons and obstacles that may have reduced their impact;

(b) To consider concrete and realistic measures that could make existing policies and instruments more effective;

(c) To identify workable initiatives;

(d) To recommend a course of action to combat hunger and malnutrition more effectively;

21. Requests the President of the World Food Council to present an action-oriented report to the Council at its fifteenth ministerial session on the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World;

22. Urges the World Food Council to continue within its mandate:

(a) To assess the overall impact of structural adjustment programmes in developing countries on the nutritional levels of their populations, especially among children and low-income groups, and to suggest remedial measures in that area, including ways of stimulating the provision of resources to eliminate the suffering of those groups;

(b) To assess the impact of liberalized international trade in agricultural and tropical products on all countries and especially on the food security and development efforts of developing countries and, in this context, to maintain an active interest in the progress and outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

(c) To promote activities related to food security and agricultural trade, as well as to regional and South-South co-operation in food and agriculture, within the context of economic growth and the development needs of developing countries;

(1) To stimulate progress in, and contribute more actively to, the full implementation of the food policy and programme components of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

23. Urges the World Food Council to continue to exercise leadership in sensitizing the international community to the nature, extent, causes and consequences of hunger and malnutrition and in recommending appropriate practical policies for remedial action;

24. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the World Food Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1989, an updated comprehensive report on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and on the liberalization of international agricultural trade, together with suggestions on ways and means of increasing the share of developing countries in that trade, while avoiding the potentially adverse short-term effects on developing countries, in particular those that import food.