

Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁵⁷

Aware that drought, which had affected the Sahel region in the 1970s, is now seriously affecting thirty-four African countries, twenty-four of which are among the least developed countries and some of which are located outside the Sudano-Sahelian region and the Kalahari desert region,

Realizing that drought is now a chronic natural phenomenon whose causes, frequency and trends are currently difficult to control and must be studied scientifically,

Conscious of the linear relationship between drought, desertification and underdevelopment,

Recalling further resolution 446 (XVII) adopted on 30 April 1982 by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁵⁸

Deeply concerned about the worsening climatic situation and the dire effects of recurring drought, erosion, cyclones and famine on the peoples of Africa and on the African economy in general,

1. *Urgently requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize a special scientific round-table meeting on the problems of the climatic situation in Africa, to which all States members of the Commission should be invited and which should consist of national experts from the countries invited and of international experts on climate, land, water and soil resources, ecology and the environment, with a view to examining the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economy and to proposing measures to be taken in the short, medium and long terms to deal with the problem;

2. *Appeals* to the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, and to the Organization of African Unity and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to collaborate actively with the Economic Commission for Africa in this urgent task;

3. *Calls upon* African Governments to give high priority, through the allocation of both financial resources and manpower, to the problem of understanding climatic variability in their countries, in order to facilitate advance planning for drought, erosion, cyclones, famine and their related effects;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa, by redeploying regular resources of the United Nations, adequate

financial resources to enable it to undertake this most important task;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit a report on the outcome of the scientific round-table meeting on the climatic situation in Africa to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to grant adequate financial resources to the countries affected by drought and desertification and to the institutions engaged in combating those phenomena.

41st plenary meeting
29 July 1983

1983/69. Transport and Communications Decade in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting resolutions 230 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982⁵⁹ and 234 (XXXIX) of 29 April 1983⁶⁰ of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific regarding a transport and communications decade in Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in particular the development objectives for the transport and communications sectors,

Convinced of the critical role of all modes of transport as enabling elements in economic development and of the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of various sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport, and also of the importance of communications in modernizing transport and other sectors of the economy,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation,⁶¹ in particular section II.B thereof,

1. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to upgrade the standards of transport and communications infrastructures in Asia and the Pacific region;

2. *Takes account* of the proposal for the proclamation of a transport and communications decade in Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994;

3. *Endorses* resolution 234 (XXXIX) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, relating, *inter alia*, to the preparation of a phased programme of action for the transport and communications decade in Asia and the Pacific region;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend all necessary facilities and support to enable the Executive

⁵⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/525), part three.

⁵⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 11* (E/1982/21), chap. V.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 10 (E/1982/20), chap. IV.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 1983, Supplement No. 12 (E/1983/43), chap. IV.

⁶¹ E/1983/86.

Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to prepare a comprehensive programme of action for the decade;

5. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Western Asia to take appropriate action to collaborate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the incorporation of the Western Asian region in the programme of action for the decade;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984.

*41st plenary meeting
29 July 1983*

1983/70. Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1982/66 B of 30 July 1982 and section II of General Assembly resolution 37/212 of 20 December 1982, as adopted, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, recalled that the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was one of the most important programmes of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Recalling further Industrial Development Board resolution 56 (XVII) of 13 May 1983,⁶² in which the Board, *inter alia*, expressed its deep concern at the scarcity of resources, including resources made available for the Decade by the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting resolution (I) adopted by the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa at its seventh meeting, held at Kigali, Rwanda, from 16 to 19 March 1983, and resolution 466 (XVIII) adopted on 2 May 1983 by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁶³ both concerning the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Considering that the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa⁶⁴ and the Final Act of Lagos⁶⁵ will, to a large extent, depend on the sustained development of industry as a supplier and user of goods and services and therefore on the structural adjustment in the industrial sector, with emphasis on selected strategic core industries,

Noting with appreciation the decision of the African Development Bank to provide increased financing for industrial projects in Africa during its 1982-1986 programme period,

⁶² ID/B/308, annex I. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty eighth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/38/16)*.

⁶³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 13 (E/1983/44)*, chap. IV.

⁶⁴ A/S.11/14, annex I.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Noting further the deteriorating economic situation in Africa and the fact that the number of the least developed countries in Africa has increased from twenty-one to twenty-six, out of the present global total of thirty-six,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the second progress report on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, prepared jointly by the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;⁶⁶

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in assisting the African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation of national and subregional programmes for the Decade, and in maintaining continuous and harmonious co-ordination with the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and other international organizations concerned;

3. *Supports* Industrial Development Board resolution 56 (XVII) on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and reiterates the repeated appeals made to the international community to increase its contribution to African industrial development within the framework of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, with a view to ensuring that the target set by the African Governments of a 1.4 per cent share of world industrial production is achieved by the African region during the Decade;

4. *Decides* to accord priority to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa among the programmes of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa and, consequently, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that this priority is fully reflected in the programme budgets of those organizations and that adequate resources will be provided for the co-ordination and monitoring of the Decade, subject to approval by the General Assembly;

5. *Appeals* to all countries and institutions to increase their contributions to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund, taking into account the financial requirements of the projects directed towards the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

6. *Urges* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider increasing its allocation of financial resources for assistance to African countries and intergovernmental organizations in planning and formulating their programmes for the Decade and to accord high priority to industrial projects, especially for the development of core industries, in its national and regional programmes for Africa, taking into account the priorities of the African countries;

7. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, should continue to provide the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

⁶⁶ E/1983/104, annex.