

**1983/77. Cross-sectoral review of
food and agriculture**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 on the revitalization of the Council, in which, *inter alia*, it decided to review every six years selected major issues in the proposed medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Recalling also its decision 1983/101 of 4 February 1983, by paragraph 2 (c) of which it decided that food and agriculture and population would be the two areas for review in 1983,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1983/71 of 29 July 1983 on food problems,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General⁷⁸ containing a cross-sectoral review of the food and agriculture sector in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of food and agriculture in the development process of the developing countries, and urges the international community to keep this issue as one of its highest priorities, with a view to increasing the food production and agricultural development of those countries, so as to enable them to achieve self-reliance and eliminate hunger and malnutrition;

3. *Requests* the competent entities of the United Nations system to assist, where so requested, in the development and implementation of national food strategies, plans and programmes;

4. *Affirms* that the activities in the food and agriculture sector undertaken by the United Nations system should represent a comprehensive approach towards the issues relating to trade, financial flows and food security questions, and towards efforts covering the whole range of issues concerning production, conservation and storage, processing, marketing, distribution and consumption;

5. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to continue and strengthen their efforts to fulfil the objectives of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Food Conference,⁷⁹ of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition contained therein, and of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;⁸⁰

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of adequate external financial and technical assistance through multilateral and other channels, to supplement the efforts of the developing countries to achieve their objectives in the field of food and agriculture;

7. *Invites* the competent entities of the United Nations system in the field of food and agriculture to con-

sider appropriate action towards the attainment of the objectives of the enlarged and integrated concept of world food security, in accordance with the decision, as adopted, of the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;⁸¹

8. *Emphasizes* the responsibilities of the institutions concerned, in accordance with their mandates, to work towards the solution of problems of trade in the food and agriculture sector;

9. *Urges* international organizations, including their respective governing bodies, to make every effort, in close co-operation with each other and keeping each other fully informed, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, to ensure that their policies and programmes complement each other and that there is efficient co-ordination of their activities, avoiding duplication and gaps;

10. *Takes note* of the assessment to be carried out by the World Food Council for its tenth session on the progress made and the tasks ahead in meeting the objectives of the 1974 World Food Conference,⁸² and requests it to include a complete global assessment of the flow of resources through the United Nations system, broken down by various subsectors in the food and agriculture sector.

*42nd plenary meeting
29 July 1983*

**1983/78. Cross-organizational review of selected
major sectors in the medium-term plans of the organ-
izations of the United Nations system**

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious of its role in co-ordinating the economic and social activities of the United Nations system under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977,

Recalling its resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 on the revitalization of the Council, and recognizing the need to clarify the nature of the reviews provided for in paragraph 1 (f) of that resolution,

1. *Decides* to review, starting in 1985, on a biennial basis, one or more major sectors, taking account of the medium-term plans of, or equivalent documents and information from, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

2. *Further decides*, in order to allow sufficient lead time for the preparation of documents and necessary financial data, to select the sector or sectors for review in 1985 at its organizational session for 1984, and to follow the same procedure for future reviews, taking into account the topics for cross-organizational pro-

⁷⁸ E/1983/99.

⁷⁹ *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), part one.

⁸⁰ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

⁸¹ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations document CI 83/10, para. 43.

⁸² See WFC 1983/19, part two, paras. 77-83; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/38/19)*.

gramme analyses selected for review by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in the respective years;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in future reports specific conclusions and recommendations, based on an analytical assessment of the activities

and programmes of the United Nations system in the selected sectors, in order to enable the Council to enhance its role in co-ordinating the activities and programmes of the system in the economic and social sectors.

*42nd plenary meeting
29 July 1983*

DECISIONS

1983/163. Control and limitation of documentation

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 22 July 1983, the Council, recalling the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council concerning the control and limitation of documentation, decided to request the Secretary-General:

(a) To bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions are adopted, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources;

(b) To draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation is likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that deal with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

1983/164. Recommendations regarding the organization of the work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 22 July 1983, the Council, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and paragraph 1 (b) of Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982, decided to submit to the General Assembly the following recommendations regarding the organization of the work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly:

I. Structure of the deliberations of the Second Committee

(a) Debates in the Second Committee should be more meaningful, better focused, and action-oriented and should establish a constructive dialogue among delegations and between delegations and executive heads of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

(b) There is general agreement that the debates in the Committee should be better structured. Recent experience has shown that a general debate in the Committee may perhaps be necessary, but that its relationship to the general debate in plenary, on the one hand, and to the discussion of specific issues in the Committee, on

the other, should be further clarified. Such a general debate in the Committee should take place during the first two weeks of the session.

(c) Apart from the general debate, the deliberations of the Committee on various questions should be organized around clusters of related issues, focusing on specific reports and proposals submitted. Those deliberations should be as brief and concise as possible.

(d) Statements on behalf of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should henceforth be made in the context of the deliberations on specific reports and should be circulated in advance. In this context, opportunities should be provided for members of the Committee to exchange views with the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

II. Organization of the work of the Second Committee

(a) The General Assembly may consider adopting a biennial programme of work for the Second Committee, apart from the general debate, and identifying questions for substantive consideration in alternate years; in other years, the Assembly will be kept informed of progress on such questions.

(b) The subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic field should ensure that their substantive contributions are made available in time to the Assembly, in the context of its biennial programme of work. Furthermore, those subsidiary bodies may consider adopting, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings, in conformity with the biennial programme of work to be established for the Second Committee.

(c) The Economic and Social Council shall continue to assist the Second Committee in the organization of work and documentation, and shall make recommendations in this regard to the General Assembly for its consideration.

(d) In that context, the Council should also identify:

(i) Those issues on which it would take a final decision, particularly those issues which are considered in depth by its subsidiary bodies and/or those issues which are not included in the agenda of the General Assembly;