

Recalling also its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and in particular the policy measures envisaged in the Strategy,

Recalling further its resolution 37/252 of 21 December 1982 on immediate measures in favour of the developing countries,

Taking into account, *inter alia*, the immediate measures adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its sixth session,¹⁷¹ and noting related efforts in favour of developing countries by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

Taking note of the Programme of Immediate Measures in Areas of Critical Importance to Developing Countries, contained in section V of the Economic Declaration adopted by the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983,¹⁷² and the proposals contained in the Buenos Aires Platform, adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held from 28 March to 9 April 1983,¹⁷³

Taking note of the proposals on the immediate measures contained in the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, adopted in New York on 10 October 1983,¹⁷⁴

Noting that while effective action by the international community is indispensable for the creation of an environment that is fully supportive of the national and collective efforts of the developing countries for the realization of their development goals, the primary responsibility for the development of developing countries rests with those countries themselves,

Aware that certain economic indicators point to the recovery of some major developed market-economy countries, but that, while the recovery of the developed market-economy countries could be potentially beneficial to the developing countries, by itself it would not be sufficient and could be aborted unless policy measures address both the revitalization of the world economy and the reactivation of the development process in the developing world,

Gravely concerned about the present world economic climate of crisis and its negative impact on the developing countries and their development prospects,

Reiterating, in that context, the need for the immediate adoption of concrete measures in areas of critical importance to the developing countries,

Also aware, in that context, that both immediate and structural problems must be addressed fully and in a coherent manner,

1. Agrees that concrete immediate measures in favour of the developing countries should be taken in order to contribute to the easing of current economic problems, to promote the accelerated growth and development of the developing countries on a sustained basis and to promote the reactivation of the world economy;

2. Agrees that immediate measures within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should include measures directed, *inter alia*, at progress in the following areas:

(a) Food and agriculture, including special food aid measures as required for seriously affected food-deficit countries in Africa;

(b) Money and finance, transfer of resources, including official development assistance, indebtedness and multilateral development activities;

(c) Trade and raw materials, including access to markets for the exports of developing countries, and urgent appropriate action in the area of commodities;

(d) Development of the energy resources of the developing countries;

(e) Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;¹⁷⁵

3. Urges all Governments, bearing in mind the particular contribution developed countries can make, to pursue effective negotiating efforts, within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to the adoption of concrete measures in the areas described in paragraph 2 above;

4. Agrees that policy measures of an immediate nature should be taken into account in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

5. Requests the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in their areas of competence and in accordance with their decisions, to take the appropriate action necessary for the implementation of immediate measures in the areas referred to in paragraph 2 above;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

104th plenary meeting
20 December 1983

38/201. Liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and allocation of the remaining balance

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the need for liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund,¹⁷⁶

Fully aware of the original objectives for which the Fund was created,

Deeply concerned about the exceptional situation faced by many developing countries, in particular African countries, which are afflicted by drought, famine and malnutrition,

Concerned also about the special plight of the Palestine refugees and the financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

Taking into account that developing countries, through the Caracas Programme of Action,¹⁷⁷ have taken it upon themselves to implement a series of actions in the field of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, designed, *inter alia*, to help them face their criti-

¹⁷¹ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6).

¹⁷² A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. III.

¹⁷³ *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), annex VI.

¹⁷⁴ See A/38/494 and Corr.1, annex.

¹⁷⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

¹⁷⁶ A/38/566.

¹⁷⁷ A/36/333 and Corr.1, annex.

cal development problems and attain their objectives, giving due regard to the special needs of the least developed among them.

1. *Decides* to liquidate the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and to allocate the remaining balance to existing funds and programmes of the United Nations as follows:

(a) Seventy per cent shall be channelled through United Nations Development Programme-administered funds to finance urgently needed projects, primarily in the food and agricultural sectors in countries afflicted by famine and malnutrition as a result, particularly, of severe or prolonged drought, with special emphasis on African countries;

(b) Eighteen per cent shall be channelled through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, especially to its educational programme;

(c) Twelve per cent shall be channelled through the United Nations Development Programme for the purpose of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries; these funds shall be allocated to activities in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries of critical importance to developing countries, according to the priorities set by them;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to ensure that the funds are allocated in accordance with the present resolution as soon as possible;

3. *Also requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Governing Council at its thirty-first session on action taken to implement the present resolution;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to monitor closely the implementation of the present resolution, to make available progress reports and to report fully to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

*104th plenary meeting
20 December 1983*

38/202. Strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established, and 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office and, *inter alia*, called for the strengthening and improvement of its capacity and effectiveness,

Recalling also its resolution 37/144 of 17 December 1982, in which the Assembly recognized that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it was essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and of the United Nations system as a whole,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/47 of 28 July 1983,

Recognizing that, as a result of those resolutions and other relevant resolutions and decisions, there is now in place a workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate relief activities carried out by the United Nations

system, in co-operation with Governments and voluntary agencies.

Noting that the operation of that system has been much improved but that there remains a need for its full application.

Noting further with appreciation the effective response of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to recent major disasters,

Recognizing that shortage of resources has been a constraint on an effective response of the United Nations to disaster situations.

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lies with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,

Recognizing further the importance of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations,¹⁷⁸ as well as of his report on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator¹⁷⁹ and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator on 10 November 1983;¹⁸⁰

2. *Notes with particular interest* the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General relating to the transportation, more rapid delivery and distribution of relief supplies, reconstruction and rehabilitation and the need for more effective monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess the way in which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the international community as a whole have dealt with the mobilization and provision of disaster relief in particular cases;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of disaster preparedness and prevention activities, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Governments and agencies involved to ensure that a high level of attention is given to them;

4. *Reaffirms* the sovereignty of individual Member States, recognizes the primary role of each State in caring for the victims of disasters occurring in its territory and stresses that all relief operations should be carried out and co-ordinated in a manner consistent with the priorities and needs of the countries concerned;

5. *Stresses* that the quality and appropriateness of material and other assistance provided by the international community should meet the particular needs of the populations of disaster-affected areas;

6. *Repeats its call* to all Governments and competent organs and organizations to co-operate with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and to improve, in particular, their flow of information on relief assistance, action, plans and needs;

7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to continue and improve further the flow of information to Governments, organizations and agencies concerned, so that a more complete picture of relief activities, assistance received and further requirements may be provided to all concerned;

8. *Stresses* the need for the continuance and further strengthening of relations between the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and appropriate voluntary organizations working in the area of disaster relief.

¹⁷⁸ A/38/202-E/1983/94.

¹⁷⁹ A/38/201-E/1983/69 and Corr.1 and 2.

¹⁸⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Second Committee, 34th meeting, paras. 1-12.*