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Agenda item 63

FOOD PROBLEMS

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman DHARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

1. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled: "Food problems: report of the World Food Council" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.
2. The Committee considered this item at its 35th, 40th, 42nd and 48th meetings, from 3 to 17 November 1977. An account of the discussion by the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/32/SR.35, 40, 42 and 48).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the World Food Council on the work of its third session; 1/
 - (b) Economic and Social Council resolution 2104 (LXIII) on Agreement between the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (A/C.2/32/L.7);
 - (c) Report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of its sixty-third session; 2/
 - (d) Letter dated 15 March 1977 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the Secretary-General transmitting documents of the First Afro-Arab Summit Conference Meeting (A/32/61).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/32/191).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/32/3), chap. IV, sect. K; and ibid., Supplement No. 3A (A/32/3/Add.1), part. III.

4. At the 35th meeting, on 3 November 1977, the President of the World Food Council made an introductory statement.
5. At the 40th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Bangladesh introduced a draft resolution entitled "Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council: A Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition" (A/C.2/32/L.20) sponsored by Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. During his statement he revised operative paragraph 8 by altering the order of the United Nations organizations listed in that paragraph.
6. At the 48th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.2/32/L.20/Rev.1) submitted by the original sponsors and Malaysia, Norway, Sweden, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United States of America and Yemen, later joined by Kenya.
7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.20/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 11 below, draft resolution I).
8. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina, the German Democratic Republic and China made statements in explanation of vote.
9. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Egypt introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Fund for Agricultural Development" (A/C.2/32/L.16/Rev.1) sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United States of America and Venezuela, subsequently joined by Australia, Benin, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Peru, Somalia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen and Zaire.
10. At the 48th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.16/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 1 below, draft resolution II).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

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DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council: Programme of
Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which it created the World Food Council to serve, in line with resolution XXII adopted by the World Food Conference, 3/ held at Rome from 5 to 16 November 1974, as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all, integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all organizations of the United Nations system,

Further recalling its resolution 31/121 of 16 December 1976, in which it requested the World Food Council, at its third session, to take immediate and concrete steps to promote the early implementation of the resolutions adopted by the World Food Conference, including the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 4/ and its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Having considered the report of the World Food Council on the work of its third session, held at Manila from 20 to 24 June 1977, 5/

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2114 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the World Food Council on the work of its third session, 5/ and expresses its appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for acting as host to the session and ensuring its outstanding success;

2. Highly commends the World Food Council for the important initiatives it has taken, as embodied in the Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition contained in the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council, 6/ inter alia, to increase food production in the developing countries, improve and ensure world food security, expand and improve food aid programmes, improve human nutrition and liberalize and improve food trade;

3. Adopts the Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition contained in the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council;

3/ See Report of the World Food Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II.

4/ Ibid., chap. I.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/32/19).

6/ Ibid., part one, para. 1.

4. Commends those Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other bodies that have already taken steps or are taking steps to implement the Programme of Action;

5. Calls upon all Governments, specialized agencies, organs and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system dealing with food, agriculture and human nutrition to implement the Programme of Action fully and as a matter of urgency;

6. Requests the President of the World Food Council to work with the Governments and organizations referred to in paragraph 5 above to promote full implementation of the Programme of Action and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General to give the necessary assistance to the World Food Council;

7. Further calls upon all potential donors to announce before the end of 1977 their contributions to the International Emergency Reserve of Cereals;

8. Urges all Governments and United Nations organizations and bodies - particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as well as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - to give full support and encouragement to the World Food Council in discharging the important responsibilities assigned to it by the World Food Conference and the General Assembly;

9. Decides to review at its thirty-third session the implementation of the Programme of Action.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

International Fund for Agricultural Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution XIII of the World Food Conference, 7/ General Assembly resolutions 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 3503 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, and 31/122 of 16 December 1976 relating to the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

7/ See Report of the World Food Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II.

Concerned by the serious constraints facing the food and agriculture sector in the developing countries and especially the deteriorating situation of the least developed and most seriously affected developing countries in the field of agricultural development and nutrition,

Bearing in mind the objectives of the Fund as expressed in the Agreement establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development 8/ and emphasizing that the Executive Board of the Fund should take into consideration the advice and the recommendations relevant to these objectives formulated by the World Food Council at its various sessions,

1. Welcomes the progress made so far towards enabling the International Fund for Agricultural Development to become operational and expresses its appreciation to the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission of the Fund for his efforts in this respect;

2. Calls upon all States eligible for original membership of the Fund that have not yet taken action to become parties to the Agreement establishing the Fund to sign it and to deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession as a matter of urgency, so as to enable the Fund to become fully operational before the end of 1977, with the full resources pledged to it;

3. Invites all other States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency to take action to become members of the Fund.

8/ See A/CONF.73/15.