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Agenda item 61

FOOD PROBLEMS

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gerhard PFANZELTER (Austria)

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-first session 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 26th, 33rd to 36th, 58th, 62nd and 67th to 69th meetings, between 29 October and 15 December. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/31/SR.26, 33 to 36, 58, 62, 67, 68 and 69).
3. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the World Food Council on the work of its second session; 1/
  - (b) Letter dated 1 September 1976 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the decisions of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (A/31/197);
  - (c) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chap. VII, sect. B); 2/
  - (d) Note by the Secretary-General on the status of contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (A/C.2/31/11);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/31/19).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3A (A/31/3).

- (e) Recommendations agreed upon by the World Food Council at its second session (A/C.2/31/L.65).

4. At its 26th meeting, on 29 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the World Food Council.

5. The Committee had before it four draft resolutions, as set forth in sections I to IV below.

#### I

6. A draft resolution, recommended by the World Food Council for adoption by the General Assembly and contained in annex V of its report on the work of its second session, was circulated to the Committee (A/C.2/31/L.15).

7. At the 58th meeting, the representative of the Philippines introduced the following amendments (A/C.2/31/L.18) to the draft resolution:

"(a) In operative paragraph 1, replace the words 'Executive Secretary' by the words 'Executive Director' and delete the words 'subject to the approval of the General Assembly';

"(b) In operative paragraph 2, replace the words 'Executive Secretary' by the words 'Executive Director'."

8. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on the financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.15).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the draft resolution and on the amendments thereto as follows:

(a) The amendments proposed by the Philippines (A/C.2/31/L.18) were adopted without a vote;

(b) Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.15, as amended, was adopted without a vote (see para. 24 below, draft resolution I).

10. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement.

#### II

11. At the 63rd meeting, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.63) and orally revised it as follows:

"(a) Insert the phrase 'as contained in document A/C.2/31/L.65' at the end of operative paragraph 1 and delete the foot-note to that paragraph;

"(b) Replace the word 'implement' in operative paragraph 2 by the words 'promote the early implementation of';

"(c) Replace the words 'taking fully into account' in operative paragraph 2 by the words 'and for this purpose to give sympathetic consideration to'."

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised, without a vote (see para. 24 below, draft resolution II).

13. Statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China and the United States of America.

### III

14. At the 67th meeting, on 13 December, the representative of Venezuela, also on behalf of Norway, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.92) entitled "International Fund for Agricultural Development".

15. At the 68th meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Norway, also on behalf of Venezuela, orally revised the draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.92). The revised text of the draft resolution was subsequently issued in document A/C.2/31/L.92/Rev.1 and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 by which it established the Special Fund and resolution 3356 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974 in which it set forth the provisions according to which that Fund should operate,

"Noting that a contribution of \$US 9,981,851.18 has been received by the Special Fund from Norway and of \$US 11,639,429.91 from Venezuela and that no part of these contributions has yet been expended by the Fund,

"Bearing in mind the difficult situation that the seriously affected countries are facing in the present economic crisis,

"Noting with regret that, despite repeated appeals for other contributions made by the General Assembly, the Board of Governors of the Special Fund and in other fora, no other contributions have been made,

"Taking note that the Agreement establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development, adopted on 13 June 1976 by the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development, provides that it shall be opened for signature when initial

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contributions to be made in freely convertible currencies amounting to at least the equivalent of \$US 1,000 million have been pledged, and that that target has almost been achieved,

"Having been informed that the Governments of Norway and of Venezuela would have no objections to the transfer of contributions of \$US 9,981,851.18, made by the Government of Norway, and \$US 10 million, made by the Government of Venezuela, to the United Nations Special Fund from that Fund to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in their names, so that the initial contributions pledged by these Governments might be increased sufficiently to make it possible for the Agreement establishing that Fund to be opened immediately for signature,

"Desirous of enabling the Agreement establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development to be opened for signature and to enter into force as soon as possible in order that the Fund might start its operations at an early date,

"1. Decides that the Special Fund is authorized to transfer to the International Fund for Agricultural Development the sum of \$US 19,981,851.18, the Governments of Norway and Venezuela each having agreed respectively to the transfer of \$US 9,981,851.18 and \$US 10 million of the amounts contributed by them to the United Nations Special Fund, to constitute increases in the initial contributions which these Governments are pledging to the initial resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development all data submitted by most seriously affected States in connexion with requests that they have addressed to the Special Fund, in so far as these relate to agricultural development."

16. At the 69th meeting, on 15 December, the representative of Norway, also on behalf of Venezuela, withdrew the draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.92/Rev.1) and orally proposed instead the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly decides that the Secretary-General shall release from the United Nations Special Fund \$US 10 million of the Venezuelan contribution and the Norwegian contribution of \$US 9,981,851.18 to the two donor Governments, having taken note of their declared intention to contribute these amounts to the International Fund for Agricultural Development."

17. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Norway, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Somalia, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Malaysia, Iran, Colombia, Sweden, Canada, Iceland, India, Kuwait, Peru, Guyana, Iraq and the Ivory Coast.

18. The draft decision was adopted by a recorded vote of 52 to 11, with 57 abstentions (see para. 25 below). The voting was as follows:

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In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Afghanistan, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, Malaysia, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

19. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Mexico, Algeria, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Togo, Thailand, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Turkey, Indonesia, Italy, Nepal, Spain, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Israel.

#### IV

20. At the 69th meeting, on 15 December, Mr. Lohani, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.89) entitled "International Fund for Agricultural Development" and requested that the representative of Iran be given the floor to make an introductory statement. The representative of Iran proposed that, in the light of the adoption of the draft decision (see para. 18 above), the third paragraph of the preamble and operative paragraph 3 be deleted, and that the word "also" be deleted in the fourth preambular paragraph.

21. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 24 below, draft resolution III).

22. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany made a statement.

23. The Chairman announced that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/31/L.34 had consequently been withdrawn.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Secretariat of the World Food Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, by which it established the World Food Council in conformity with resolution XXII adopted by the World Food Conference on 16 November 1974, 3/ and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to establish the secretariat of the Council,

Noting that the World Food Council has adopted rules of procedure 4/ containing provisions concerning the appointment of the head and the staff of the secretariat of the Council,

1. Decides that the secretariat of the World Food Council shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the Council and with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for a period of four years with due regard to the principle of geographical rotation;

2. Further decides that the Secretary-General shall, in consultation with the Executive Director of the World Food Council, appoint an adequate number of staff to the secretariat of the Council, taking into account the need for equitable geographical distribution in addition to professional competence and avoiding the appointment of persons who simultaneously perform functions in other agencies or institutions.

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3/ E/CONF.65/20 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/31/19), annex IV.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Report of the World Food Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 on the Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as well as 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 on the World Food Conference and the Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and corresponding resolutions of the World Food Conference,

Having considered the report of the World Food Council on its second session, 5/

1. Calls upon all Governments and the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to implement fully the recommendations of the World Food Council at its second session, as contained in the document entitled "Recommendations agreed upon by the Council at its second session"; 6/

2. Requests 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 and by the General Assembly at its seventh special session, and for this purpose to give sympathetic consideration to the draft resolutions of the Group of 77 which are contained in annex II to the report of the World Food Council on its second session.

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/31/19).

6/ A/C.2/31/L.65.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

International Fund for Agricultural Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution XIII of 16 November 1974 of the World Food Conference <sup>7/</sup> and General Assembly resolutions 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 and 3503 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

Welcoming the progress achieved so far on the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

Noting that, relative to their combined gross national products, the contributions pledged by the developing countries are substantially large,

1. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments that have made pledges of contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, especially to the Governments of the developing countries for their pledges of contributions;

2. Expresses also its appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the Executive Director of the World Food Council for their efforts towards the establishment of the Fund.

25. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

International Fund for Agricultural Development

The General Assembly decides that the Secretary-General shall release from the United Nations Special Fund \$US 10 million of the Venezuelan contribution and the Norwegian contribution of \$US 9,981,851.18 to the two donor Governments, having taken note of their declared intention to contribute these amounts to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

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<sup>7/</sup> E/CONF.65/20 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II.