

1983/22. Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/18 of 9 May 1979 and 1981/20 of 6 May 1981 on strengthening developmental social welfare policies and programmes,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on developmental social welfare policies and programmes,³⁸

Aware of the serious consequences of the world-wide economic recession for the welfare of peoples in all countries and for the funding and delivery of social services which are even more essential now than in periods of economic growth,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Social Aspects of the Development Activities of the United Nations³⁹ and of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Bangkok in October 1980,⁴⁰

Recognizing the relevance to social development of the principles and objectives of the Arab Charter for Social Work, as formulated by the first Arab Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare, held at Cairo in 1971, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,⁴¹ and the regional programme of action for the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America in its resolution 422 (XIX) of 15 May 1981,⁴²

1. *Reaffirms* the essential role of social welfare in overall development and in dealing with pressing contemporary social issues, namely, the social aspects of unemployment, rural-urban imbalances, problems of urbanization and decreasing resources for social needs;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the field of developmental social welfare, in full collaboration with the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate studies and field-oriented activities, within the limits of available resources, aimed at enhancing welfare services to lessen the problems of poverty and unemployment, at developing rural social welfare for balanced socio-economic growth, and at promoting better integrated, self-reliant and cost-effective patterns of social welfare administration and delivery of services, particularly involving families and local communities and strengthening training and research in social welfare;

4. *Further urges* the Secretary-General to take steps, within existing budgetary resources, for convening an interregional consultation at an appropriate policy-making level, preferably in 1986, to examine social welfare policies and provisions in relation to present problems and concerns of Governments, and against the background of experience gained since the 1968 International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, with the objective of setting specific goals in the social field for the year 2000;

³⁸ E/CN.5/1983/8.

³⁹ E/1981/3, para. 154.

⁴⁰ E/ESCAP/192, para. 43.

⁴¹ A/S-11/14, annex I.

⁴² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 16 (E/1981/56)*, chap. IV

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the above areas, particularly with regard to the preparations for the interregional consultation.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1983*

1983/23. Role of the family in the development process

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development⁴³ and 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982 on the world social situation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Having considered the 1982 *Report on the World Social Situation*,⁴⁴

Taking note of chapter II of the 1982 *Report on the World Social Situation* dealing with the family, in which is quoted article 4 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, where it is stated that the family as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children and youth, should be assisted and protected so that it may fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Recognizing that the institution of the family takes many forms and is undergoing important transformations in the process of development,

Concerned that the changes have an impact on the social fabric and the solidarity network, and that ways and means, therefore, need to be evolved to analyse those changes and take them into consideration in social policies,

Taking into account article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴⁵ which deals with the rights and responsibilities of women and men in marriage and family matters,

Stressing the fact that the relevant organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system should give due attention to the role of the family in the development process,

1. *Invites* Member States to expand their efforts at the national and community levels to consider, examine, identify and evaluate the needs of families and the ways in which those needs may be more effectively met;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to promote economic and social progress through the formulation and imple-

⁴³ For the text of the Declaration, see General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

⁴⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IV.2 and Corr.1 and 2.

⁴⁵ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.