

Development in Africa and other international organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies and financial institutions, to increase and intensify their technical and financial assistance, on preferential conditions, to African countries and to intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of the programme for the Decade.

*50th plenary meeting
27 July 1984*

1984/71. International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace

The Economic and Social Council,

Convinced of the importance of the implementation of the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year,⁶⁷ as well as of the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year for the further implementation of that Programme,⁶⁸ which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/48 of 3 December 1982,

Recognizing that the preparation for the observance of the International Youth Year will contribute to the reaffirmation of the goals of the new international economic order and to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,⁶⁹

Aware that, for the International Youth Year to be successful and in order to maximize its impact and practical efficiency, adequate preparation and the widespread support of Governments, all specialized agencies, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public will be required,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to continue to strengthen the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in order to enable it to fulfil the extended mandate entrusted to it in the field of youth, including the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Youth;⁷⁰

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to use all means at his disposal, within the regular budget of the United Nations, to increase the resources allocated for the implementation of the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to

⁶⁷ A/36/215, annex, sect. IV, decision 1 (I).

⁶⁸ A/37/348, annex, appendix III.

⁶⁹ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

⁷⁰ See E/ECA/CM.10/28, annex I; endorsed by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa in resolution 494 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 11 (E/1984/21), chap. IV*)

take specific measures to increase the dissemination of information on youth.

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1984/72. Environment and development in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which, *inter alia*, calls for methods to be devised to assist interested developing countries in dealing more adequately with the environmental aspects of development activities, for the international community to increase substantially its financial and technical support to drought-stricken countries suffering from desertification, for consideration to be given by all countries to the environmental aspects of industrialization in the formulation and implementation of their industrial policies and plans and for the improvement of the quality of life and the environment through, *inter alia*, the strengthening, in the context of human settlements planning, of measures to improve housing conditions,

Taking note of decisions 10/4 and 10/6 of 31 May 1982 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,⁷¹ in which the Governing Council called for assistance to be provided to developing countries in addressing serious environmental problems related to poverty and underdevelopment,

Recalling also resolution 446 (XVII), adopted on 30 April 1982 by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁷² on the need to intensify regional co-operation for combating desertification in Africa, resolution 473 (XVIII), adopted on 2 May 1983 by the Conference of Ministers,⁷³ in which the Conference called for the organization of a scientific round-table on the climatic situation and drought in Africa, and resolution 474 (XVIII), adopted on 2 May 1983 by the Conference of Ministers,⁷⁴ in which the Conference called for the strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters, especially the environmental co-ordination capabilities of the Commission, and for the encouragement of the development of environmental education and training programmes in member States,

Urges the General Assembly to consider seriously:

(a) The inclusion of reference to the United Republic of Tanzania in the terms of reference of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable that country to receive assistance in the implementation of programmes for combating desertification;

⁷¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25)*, part two, annex.

⁷² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 11 (E/1982/21)*, chap. V.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, 1983, *Supplement No. 13 (E/1983/44)*, chap. IV.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

(b) The expansion of the scope of the work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office so as to enable it to assist the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme on combating desertification and drought, in the same way as the Office is currently assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel.

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1984/73. Water resources development and follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, by which the Assembly adopted the report of the United Nations Water Conference⁷⁵ and approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan,⁷⁶

Guided by resolution VIII of the United Nations Water Conference,⁷⁷ in which the regional commissions were called upon to play a central role in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation as a follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan on integrated water resources development and management,

Recalling also Council resolutions 2043 (LXI) of 5 August 1976, in which it requested the Secretary-General to make adequate provisions so as to enable the regional commissions to carry out their activities effectively, and 1979/67 of 3 August 1979, in which it recommended that the secretariats of the regional commissions should be provided with sufficient manpower and financial resources to enable them to discharge the expanded responsibilities assigned to them by the United Nations Water Conference in relation to the execution of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Recalling further the recommendation on institutional strengthening at the regional level contained in paragraph 82 (iii) of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,⁷⁸

Requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in the area of water resources so that water experts can be deployed to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to assist member States in the planning and execution of their water development activities and in the follow-up to the recommendations contained in the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

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⁷⁵ *Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12).

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, chap. I.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 78.

⁷⁸ A/S-11/14, annex I.

1984/74. Strengthening of the role of the Economic Commission for Africa as an executing agency

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which, *inter alia*, the Assembly decided that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies, in their own right, in respect of the categories of project described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977,

Recalling also the agreement signed on 1 March 1977 between the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Africa, designating the Commission as a participating and executing agency for the inter-country projects of the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the progress that has been achieved within a short space of time by the Commission acting as an executing agency for the inter-country projects of the United Nations Development Programme and other such projects, with the result that it is currently one of the largest executing agencies for the inter-country projects in Africa financed by the Programme,

Noting with concern the administrative difficulties being experienced by the Commission in the implementation of those projects, owing to the lack of differentiation between the rules and procedures that apply to its role as an executing agency and those that govern its regular budgetary activities, both in the recruitment of project personnel residing outside Africa and those above level L-5 and in the procurement of project equipment and supplies costing more than \$20,000,

Noting with regret that the rate of implementation by the Commission of the inter-country projects of the United Nations Development Programme and other such projects has decreased substantially, owing to the above-mentioned constraints, which create unnecessary delays,

Bearing in mind the current critical economic situation in Africa and the expectation of member States that the secretariat of the Commission should play an increasing role in assisting them in the expeditious execution of operational projects funded from the resources of the United Nations system,

Requests the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of streamlining and, if necessary, relaxing the above-mentioned administrative constraints by aligning the rules and procedures of the Commission governing recruitment and procurement with those of other United Nations executing agencies so that the Commission will be able to execute projects promptly, thereby placing it on the same basis as the other executing agencies of the United Nations system.

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