

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77 of 29 July 1988, in which the Council decided that it would, *inter alia*, examine in depth the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, with a view to submitting appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly on the overall and programme priorities of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget,³⁷

Emphasizing the importance of priority-setting in the planning and budget process,

Having considered the relevant sections of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-ninth session,³⁸

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987, in which the Assembly decided that the date for submission of the outline of the programme budget should be 15 August of the off-budget year,

1. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on programme questions, in particular on sections 4 to 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991;

2. Stresses the need for the sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies to consider in a timely manner the draft programmes of work within their areas of responsibility, in order that their recommendations may be taken into account by the Secretary-General when he prepares his proposed programme budget;

3. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination regarding priority-setting;³⁹

4. Notes that the thirtieth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which will be of six weeks' duration, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, will be held in two parts and that the second part will be devoted to consideration of the outline of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

5. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that the General Assembly consider the possibility of adjusting the calendar of meetings so that the sessions of the Committee would start later in May.⁴⁰

35th plenary meeting
26 July 1989

1989/98. International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 41/185 of 8 December 1986 and 43/203 of 20 December 1988, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/2 of 5 February 1988 and 1988/3 of 24 May 1988 and resolution 660 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁴¹

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/99 of 26 July 1989 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and aware that the Decade will cover locust and grasshopper infestations,

Noting with satisfaction the almost general decline of locust and grasshopper infestations, owing to the determined efforts of the affected countries and the generous assistance of the international community,

Noting also the results of the Conference of Heads of State of the countries members of the Joint Anti-Locust and Anti-Avarian Organization held at Dakar in February 1989,

Conscious of the risk of a rapid resurgence of the locust and grasshopper infestation and of the possible reappearance of swarms as a result of widespread and abundant rainfall in the Saharan region and in other regions of the world,

Noting that small to medium-sized swarms of desert locusts have been reported or are anticipated in several Saharan countries between June and mid-August 1989 by the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Considering that a number of countries, particularly the poorest countries, have still to overcome the complex and harmful effects of the recent disastrous locust and grasshopper infestation,

1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General⁴² and of that of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations⁴³ on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa;

2. Welcomes the creation of the International Desert Locust Task Force under the technical and operational responsibility of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the purpose of providing direct support to the countries affected, particularly seriously infested or relatively inaccessible regions;

³⁷ A/44/272.

³⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16).

³⁹ Ibid., paras. 271-274.

⁴⁰ Ibid., para. 52.

⁴¹ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 16 (E/1989/35), chap. IV.

⁴² A/44/314-E/1989/115.

⁴³ A/44/314/Add.1-E/1989/115/Add.1.

3. *Also welcomes* the generous and effective co-operation that exists in this regard among the States members of the Maghreb Arab Union;

4. *Further welcomes* the appeal of the Conference of Heads of State of the countries members of the Joint Anti-Locust and Anti-Avarian Organization to the international community to support the organization strongly in the rigorous implementation of the plan of action in the short, medium and long terms to combat locusts, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the organization at its twenty-fourth session, held at N'Djamena from 10 to 16 December 1988;

5. *Expresses its support* for the long-term research initiatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and a number of Governments aimed at further developing more effective, economical and environmentally sound control methods along with short-term activities and medium-term programmes for prevention and environmentally acceptable alternative long-term strategies for locust and grasshopper control;

6. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to play its role as lead agency in locust control and related research activities, in close collaboration with other competent organizations and institutions, and to ensure that the proposals and plans of the International Desert Locust Task Force are implemented and fully complement the activities of national and regional authorities and donor activities;

7. *Notes* that, although the present desert locust plague appears to have receded, continued vigilance will be required on the part of all concerned with regard to the locust population still present and the new swarms reported in several Saharan countries;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community for the assistance provided to the affected countries, and calls for continued support for short-term, medium-term and long-term efforts to control locusts and grasshoppers;

9. *Appeals* to the international community, particularly the developed countries, to make the necessary resources available to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to co-operate with it in further developing remote-sensing techniques, training, the testing and evaluation of pesticides, the collection and dissemination of information, prevention, co-ordination and funding, and in establishing or strengthening national and regional early-warning systems in order to improve the ability of affected or vulnerable countries to cope with future threats;

10. *Endorses* the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the executive heads of other organizations of the United Nations system to remain vigilant and not to lose the expertise acquired in the past two years in controlling locust and grasshopper infestations, and requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular ses-

sion of 1990 an up-to-date report on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa.

*35th plenary meeting
26 July 1989*

1989/99. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that natural disasters have adversely affected the lives of a great number of people and caused considerable damage to infrastructure and property world wide, especially in developing countries,

Recognizing the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international co-operation in mitigating natural disasters, providing assistance and co-ordinating disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, by which the Assembly decided to designate the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction,

Bearing in mind paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 42/169, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and relevant scientific, technical, academic and other non-governmental organizations, to develop an appropriate framework for attaining the objective and goals of the Decade and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/202 of 20 December 1988, in which the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to develop an appropriate framework for action at all levels for attaining the objective and goals of the Decade,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/51 of 26 July 1988 on assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;⁴⁴

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work done by the International *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which adopted the Tokyo Declaration⁴⁵ on 11 April 1989 and submitted its report to the Secretary-General,⁴⁶ and requests that the full report of the Group

⁴⁴ A/44/322-E/1989/114.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴⁶ For a summary of the report, see A/44/322-E/1989/114, annex I.