

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

Economic and Social Council Resolution of 3 March 1948 on Resolution  
Relating to Employment Adopted by the United Nations  
Conference on Trade and Employment

(Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda, document E/CN.1/48)

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Economic and Social Council at its Sixth Session after considering the resolution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment adopted the following resolution 104 (VI); document E/757:

"The Economic and Social Council

Taking note of the resolution unanimously adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment on 4 February 1948;

Endorses the opinion of the Conference to the effect that the studies which have been initiated dealing with the achievement and maintenance of full and productive employment should be advanced as rapidly as possible, and that attention should be given now to methods of ensuring that high levels of employment and economic activity shall be maintained even when special factors of temporary duration now prevailing in many countries have ceased to operate;

Bearing in mind, that by virtue of its terms of reference and of the Council's resolution 26 (IV) of 28 March 1947, the Economic and Employment Commission is empowered to study problems relating to full employment,

Requests the Economic and Employment Commission to expedite the studies provided for in paragraph (c) of resolution 26 (IV) of 28 March 1947, taking into account the passage in the Conference's resolution dealing with these problems;

Requests the Secretary-General (a) to arrange with members of the United Nations and, where practicable with non-members, for the submission of information concerning action they are now taking to achieve or maintain full employment and economic stability and

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concerning any publicly available plans to prevent a future decline, (b) to arrange with the appropriate specialized agencies for reports on plans which they have prepared and resources they will have available to assist members of the agency to prevent a decline in employment and economic activity and (c) to prepare as soon as practicable an analytical report based on the information received.

Bearing in mind, that by its resolution 42 (IV) of 29 March 1947 it instructed the Population and Social Commissions to prepare a practical plan for allocation of functions without duplication of work among the various organs concerned in the field of migration, and that by its resolution 85 (V) of 13 August 1947 it transmitted for study to the International Labour Organization a memorandum relating to the protection of migrant and immigrant labour and called the attention of the Social and Population Commissions to this memorandum;

Transmits, to the International Labour Organization, the Social Commission and the Population Commission, Sections 3 and 4, in the Havana Conference's resolution dealing with population and migration problems, and invites them to take these sections into account in the action they are taking on those aspects of population and migration which fall in their respective field."

2. The Resolution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment (document E/635) on which the Council action was based, reads:

"THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

"HAVING RECOGNIZED in drawing up the Charter for an International Trade Organization that future prosperity and peace must be founded on full and productive employment and large and steadily growing effective demand which, although primarily dependent upon internal measures taken by individual countries, also require consultation and concerted action as well as assistance from inter-governmental agencies;

"RECOGNIZING that different measures may be appropriate for different countries, according for example, to the stage of economic development or reconstruction and the availability of the various factors of production;

"RECOGNIZING that inflationary as well as deflationary tendencies may need to be combatted;

"TAKING NOTE of the resolution adopted by the Second Session of the General Assembly which approved the initiation of surveys of economic conditions and trends and requested recommendations by the Economic and Social Council on appropriate measures relating thereto;

/"1. NOTES

"1. NOTES that the Economic and Employment Commission and its Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability have been instructed to consider the draft resolution on international action relating to employment prepared by the First Session of the Preparatory Committee; and

"AFFIRMS its interests in the four measures specifically recommended for study in that draft resolution.

"2. CONSIDERS that the studies which have been initiated dealing with the achievement and maintenance of full and productive employment should be advanced as rapidly as possible and that attention should be given now to methods of ensuring that high levels of employment and economic activity shall be maintained even when special factors of temporary duration now prevailing in many countries have ceased to operate, and accordingly

"SUGGESTS that, with a view to making appropriate recommendations, the Economic and Social Council, in addition to the investigations which it has already undertaken,

(a) Request the submission at an early date, by members of the United Nations and by non-members represented at the present Conference, of information concerning action which they are now taking to achieve or maintain full employment and economic stability and the nature of any prepared plans to prevent a future decline, and

(b) Request the various Specialized Agencies to indicate the nature and extent of the assistance they are preparing to provide if a decline in employment and economic activity threatens.

"3. CONSIDERS that, in many countries, the problems of persistent surplus or shortage of manpower are linked with the attainment of full and productive employment and that their solution would advance the aims of the International Trade Organization; and accordingly

"SUGGESTS that the Economic and Social Council initiate or encourage studies and recommend appropriate action in connection with international aspects of population problems as these relate to employment, production and demand.

"4. CONSIDERS that, in relation to the maintenance of full employment, it is advantageous to countries which require or receive and to countries which supply workers on a seasonal or /temporary

temporary basis to adopt regulations which will mutually safeguard their interests and also protect both the migrants and the domestic workers against unfair competition or treatment; and accordingly

"SUGGESTS that the Economic and Social Council, in conjunction with appropriate agencies such as the International Labour Organization and its Permanent Migration Committee, consider the problems of temporary or seasonal migration of workers, taking into account existing treaties and long established customs and usages pertaining thereto, for the purpose of formulating, in consultation with Members directly affected, conventions and model bilateral agreements on the basis of which individual governments may concert their actions to ensure mutually advantageous arrangements for their countries and fair conditions for the workers concerned."

3. The Commission will note that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, refers in its resolution to the draft resolution on international action relating to employment prepared by the First Session of the Preparatory Committee on Trade and Employment and "affirms its interest in the four measures specifically recommended for study in that draft resolution". The text of the draft resolution (document E/PC/T/33) is as follows:

"THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT  
CONSIDERING that a significant contribution can be made to the achievement and maintenance of full and productive employment and of high and stable levels of effective demand by international action sponsored by the Economic and Social Council and carried out in collaboration with the appropriate inter-governmental organizations, acting within their respective spheres and consistently with the terms and purposes of their basic instruments HEREBY ASKS the Economic and Social Council to undertake at an early date, in consultation with the appropriate inter-governmental organizations, special studies of the form which such international action might take AND SUGGESTS that, in addition to covering the effects on employment and production of a lowering of barriers to trade, the studies of the Economic and Social Council should include a consideration of such measures as:

1. The concerted timing, to the extent which may be appropriate and practicable in the interests of employment policy, of national and international measures to influence credit conditions and the terms of borrowing;

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2. National or international arrangements, in suitable cases, to promote due stability in the incomes of producers of primary products, having regard equally to the interests of consuming and producing countries;

3. The timing, to the extent which may be appropriate and practicable in the interests of employment policy, of capital expenditure on projects which are either of an international character or are internationally financed;

4. The promotion, under appropriate safeguards, of an international flow of capital in periods of world deflationary pressure to those countries whose balance of payments needs temporary support in order to enable them to maintain domestic policies for full and productive employment."

4. When the Council requested the Commission to consider and report to the Council the most appropriate forms of international action to maintain world full employment (paragraph c of resolution 26 (IV)), it also asked the Commission to take full account of views expressed in the draft resolution referred to in paragraph 3 above.

5. The Commission had Council resolution 26 (IV) under consideration during its Second Session. With respect to international action to maintain world full employment and economic stability (see part VII of the Report of the Second Session, document E/445) the Commission drafted two resolutions related to the immediate or short term situation. These draft resolutions were not adopted by the Council. With respect to the longer range problems of economic stability and full employment the Commission referred to its Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability various documents which it had before it, among them a communication from the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment (E/CN.1/W.14). It also drew the Sub-Commission's attention to its instructions adopted at the First Session of the Commission (see document E/255; part VI, especially Section A, paragraph 2).

6. In connection with the Economic and Social Council's request to expedite the studies provided for in paragraph (c) of resolution 26 (IV) and referred to in resolution 104 (VI), the Commission's attention is particularly called to part VIII of the Report of the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability (document E/CN.1/55) where it indicates its plans to consider "the problem of the maintenance of full employment" at its next session.

7. The United Nations Secretariat, in accordance with the terms of the  
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Council Resolution 104 (VI), is preparing to ask member nations for information concerning action they are taking to achieve or maintain full employment and economic stability and their plans to prevent a future decline. The Secretariat is also making arrangements with the appropriate specialized agencies for their reports on plans which they have prepared and resources they will have available to assist members of their agencies to prevent a decline in employment and economic activity. The Secretariat will then proceed to prepare an analytical report based on the information received under this resolution.

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