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FOOD PROBLEMS: REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

India: draft resolution*

Report of the World Food Council at its fifth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and 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 and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, on development and international economic co-operation as well as the agreed conclusions of the Committee of the Whole, established by the General Assembly in resolution 32/174,

Recalling also its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, by which it established the World Food Council to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all integrated and continuing attention to the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all organizations of the United Nations system,

Further recalling the Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition contained in the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council, and adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/52 of 8 December 1977,

Bearing in mind its resolution 33/90 of 15 December 1978 concerning implementation of the decisions, resolutions and programmes regarding food adopted since the World Food Conference in 1974,

Noting with regret the slow progress made in solving the fundamental food problems facing the developing countries, in particular the food-priority countries

* The draft resolution is submitted by the delegation of India on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77.

and other developing countries with large food deficits and whose food situation is still deteriorating, and in this context, noting with deep concern that the target of a 4 per cent annual growth rate in the food and agriculture sector of developing countries established in the International Development Strategy for the 1970s and endorsed by the World Food Conference held in 1974 has not been achieved.

Noting with concern the strong impact of food-stuff imports on the balance of payments of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries.

Reaffirming its strong commitment to overcome hunger and malnutrition everywhere,

Taking into account the relevant part of the Programme of Action as adopted at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held at Rome in July 1979,

Having considered the report of the World Food Council on the work of its fifth ministerial session, held at Ottawa, Canada, from 3 to 7 September 1979,

1. Expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of Canada for the excellent facilities and generous hospitality provided for the World Food Council at its fifth ministerial session;
2. Takes note of the agreed conclusion on food and agriculture arrived at by the Committee of the Whole at its second session which constituted an important input for the work of the World Food Council at its fifth ministerial session;
3. Takes note of the report of the World Food Council on the work of its fifth ministerial session; 1/
4. Takes note of the concept of food sector strategies which emerged from the Council consultations, and invites the Council to examine this matter further, having due regard for the principle of full respect for the development plans and priorities of developing countries, with a view to enabling interested countries, particularly the food-deficit developing countries, to consider the advisability or otherwise of adopting food strategies within the framework of their national development programmes, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and considers that development assistance agencies, whether national or international, should not make the preparation of a national food strategy a condition for development assistance;
5. Strongly urges developed countries, international institutions and others able to provide development assistance to increase substantially their assistance on concessional terms to the food sector in order to enable developing countries to achieve the agreed target of a 4 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural production, for which the estimated necessary element of external assistance was accepted as being \$US 8.3 billion, at 1975 prices, annually and with a high degree on concessionality.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth session, Supplement No. 19 (A/34/19).

6. Further urges that this target should be reached by the end of 1980, having regard to the deep concern of the international community as a whole to its urgent nature.

7. Endorses the Council's call for greater equity in food distribution through more direct action by Governments and stresses the need for such action at the international and national levels, with due regard to the policies followed and conditions prevailing in the respective countries.

8. Calls on Governments, all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other international organizations, and the international community as a whole to give very high priority in their policies, programmes and actions to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition everywhere in the world.

9. Urges Governments that have not yet agreed to the conclusion of a new food aid convention for an absolute minimum flow of assistance of at least 10 million tons, even in times of high prices and food shortage, to do so without delay and in any case not later than mid-1980, and without awaiting the conclusion of a new Wheat Trade Agreement.

10. Urges all countries, particularly those developed countries which are not yet contributing to it, to achieve immediately the 500,000-ton target for the International Emergency Reserve and consider its enlargement in response to growing emergency needs.

11. Urges the traditional donor countries and those in a position to do so to provide additional food aid to developing countries in order to assist them in building national food reserves.

12. Strongly calls upon donor countries to do their utmost to preserve the nutritional value - in particular the protein element - of their food aid.

13. Calls upon traditional donor countries and those in a position to do so, considering the growing need of the developing countries for agricultural inputs and their increasing costs, to increase their assistance for agricultural inputs, especially fertilizer, through the appropriate bilateral and/or multilateral channels, in particular the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and also to make substantial contributions to the Seed Improvement and Development Programme and the Action Programme for Prevention of Food Losses of the Food and Agriculture Organization, so as to reach the agreed funding level of \$20 million for each.

14. Recommends that the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank and the regional development banks undertake systematic assessment of the need to improve food security infrastructure at the national level and on that basis initiate major investment efforts in the developing countries that request such assistance.

15. Requests the International Monetary Fund to provide, within the context of its financing facilities, additional balance-of-payments support for meeting the rise in the food import bills of low-income, food-deficit countries;

16. Notes with deep concern that no progress has been achieved towards the solution of the long-standing problems of agricultural trade which seriously hamper over-all food production in the world and affect in particular the exports of developing countries;

17. Urges the developed countries to take urgent action in the different negotiating fora to approve and implement long-standing proposals which will bring about the removal of distortive patterns of production, maintained through a system of subsidies and protectionism;

18. Calls upon the developed countries to draw up concrete programmes for adjusting their agricultural sectors in order to facilitate the access of developing countries to their markets of food and agricultural products, in raw, semi-processed and processed form;

19. Recommends that the developed countries should take steps to improve the Generalized System of Preferences and to extend it to a wider range of agricultural commodities, including processed and semi-processed products of direct export interest to developing countries. In this connexion, technical assistance, including assistance in the fields of research, development and marketing, must be provided so as to enable developing countries to take full advantage of agreed concessions;

20. Recommends that the World Food Council keep constantly under review the impact of trade on the levels of food production in the world, with particular reference to the economies of the developing countries, taking into consideration the necessary inputs which the different organs of the United Nations system could provide;

21. Encourages the World Food Council to continue and intensify its monitoring, co-ordinating and catalytic role on food matters and urges Governments and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system to accord very high priority to food needs and to support and co-operate fully with the Council in this regard;

22. Requests the Economic and Social Council to consider at its second regular session of 1980 the proposal to declare a United Nations Food and Development Decade in the 1980s and submit appropriate recommendations to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

23. Recommends that all Member States and international organizations concerned concerned take immediate steps to put into operation the Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security approved by the seventy-fifth session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and endorsed by the World Food Council at its fifth session, mainly as an interim measure after the failure of efforts to achieve a more adequate system of world food security.