

1985/64. Developmental social welfare policies and programmes on the situation of African migrant workers

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the serious consequences of the critical African socio-economic situation for the living conditions of the peoples in Africa, and for the funding and delivery of social services, which are even more essential now than in previous periods of economic development,

Reaffirming the essential role of social welfare in overall development and in dealing with pressing issues arising notably from food shortages, problems relating to refugees and displaced persons, the breakup of families, lack of adequate health and educational facilities, unemployment and underemployment, urbanization, and high rates of population growth,

Having considered the issue of African migrant workers and the impact it has on the socio-economic development of the sending and receiving countries,

Noting that, since 1979, work has been under way on an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families,

1. *Urges* all Member States, particularly the least developed countries, to prepare for and be adequately represented at the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, to be held in 1987;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to prepare a report on the issues identified in Council resolution 1983/22 of 26 May 1983, with special emphasis on those issues of particular concern for or relevance to Africa, and to ensure that the substance of that report is taken into full consideration in the agenda and documentation of the Interregional Consultation;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to make the necessary arrangements for an in-depth study of the situation of African migrant workers in both receiving and sending countries, in order to elicit appropriate action and measures to promote the welfare and protection of the rights of the migrant workers and their families, as well as appropriate policies for their social integration;

4. *Recommends* the General Assembly to approve the technical and financial implications of the involvement of the Economic Commission for Africa in both activities, as submitted in section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.¹⁶

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*

¹⁶ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/40/6).

1985/65. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977, by which the Assembly proclaimed the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the years 1978-1988,

Recalling also resolution 464 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,¹⁷ by which the Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure that the programme for the second phase of the Decade would, *inter alia*, promote harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications, and resolution 487 (XIX) of 26 May 1984,¹⁸ by which the Conference of Ministers endorsed the programme for the second phase,

Referring to Council resolution 1984/68 of 27 July 1984 and General Assembly resolutions 38/150 of 19 December 1983 and 39/230 of 18 December 1984,

Noting that financial resources have been allocated by the General Assembly for the activities envisaged in its resolutions 38/150 and 39/230, including the studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for his continuing support of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa through the financing of the Decade Co-ordination Unit and requests him to continue to provide funds to the Economic Commission for Africa during the next programming cycle to enable it to complete the task of monitoring the implementation of the programme for the Decade and to evaluate the results of the whole programme for the Decade;

2. *Welcomes* the role played by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee under the Economic Commission for Africa as lead agency in co-ordinating activities and its contribution to realizing the objectives of the Decade;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide adequate financial resources to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it to organize the Fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in 1986;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission:

(a) To organize, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and African intergovernmental organizations, a co-financing meeting each year until the end of the Decade, for the purpose of submitting

¹⁷ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 13 (E/1983/44), chap. IV.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 1984, Supplement No. 11 (E/1984/21), chap. IV.

specific regional projects and transport corridor projects to appropriate donor countries and financial institutions;

(b) To intensify efforts to contact as many donor countries and financial institutions as possible to promote the programme for the Decade;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission sufficient financial resources to enable it to organize co-financing meetings for specific regional projects and projects located in corridors affording access to the sea for land-locked countries;

6. *Reiterates* the appeals previously made to donor countries and international financial institutions to give increased financial support to the programme for the second phase of the Decade and to accord particular attention to the financing of the regional projects and projects related to the maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructures, training and technical assistance, and projects in corridors affording access to the sea for land-locked countries.

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26 July 1985*

1985/66. Appointment of directors of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the fact that most of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa are currently headed by interim rather than by titular directors,

Conscious of the importance of the economic role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres for subregional co-operation and integration and of the need for them to be appropriately staffed at the highest level, having regard to the sensitive nature of their responsibilities,

Aware of the need to procure the services of persons possessing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and to observe United Nations rules concerning the equitable geographical distribution of posts among the Member States,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the posts of directors of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres are expeditiously filled;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the directors of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres are, whenever appropriate, nationals of the States members of the centres, in accordance with the practice followed in the Economic Commission for Africa.

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26 July 1985*

1985/67. Women and development in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 28 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁹

Bearing in mind resolution 512 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa⁴⁰ on the mobilization of human and financial resources for the women's programme of the Commission beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Bearing in mind also that women subjected to the policies of *apartheid* and women in illegally occupied Namibia are still victims of all forms of injustice, violent oppression and atrocities perpetrated by the racist régime of South Africa, and that the status of women in the front-line States has been seriously affected by the aggression and destabilizing policies of South Africa,

1. *Requests* Governments and international organizations to sustain their assistance for national machineries concerned with the integration of women in development to enable them to formulate and execute national programmes for women's development, taking into account, in particular, the Arusha Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of African Women beyond the United Nations Decade for Women;⁴¹

2. *Urgently requests* States which have not yet done so to sign the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴² and States which have signed it to ratify it and do everything possible to ensure its application;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to spare no effort to procure regular budget posts and appropriations for the African Training and Research Centre for Women and the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, through the redeployment of vacant posts and in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, in order to ensure the continuity of the United Nations regional and subregional women's programmes.

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¹⁹ See *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. B.

⁴⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 11* (E/1984/21), chap. IV.

⁴¹ E/CCA/CM.11/20.

⁴² General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.