

Programme and Co-ordination on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 as contained in its report on its twenty-fifth session,⁶⁵

Affirming that the use of consultant services is excessive and not conducive to an optimum utilization of regular staff resources,

Noting the importance of taking into account the appropriate competence, knowledge and expertise of the consultants,

Noting also the desirability of having as wide a geographical basis as possible in the hiring of consultants,

Recognizing the urgent need to address these and other related concerns regarding the hiring and use of consultant services by the United Nations and to take appropriate action,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into careful consideration the comments made on this question by Member States at the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and at the second regular session of 1985 of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the reasons why particular tasks could not be carried out by existing regular staff;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, a detailed report on this question, including, *inter alia*, comments on the implementation of the existing guidelines on the hiring and use of consultant services by the United Nations,⁶⁶ to the General Assembly at its forty-first session for consideration.

52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985

1985/79. Ninth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2001 (LX) of 12 May 1976,

Recognizing that the social and human problems created by drug abuse continue to increase,

Aware of the probable need for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to examine the urgent question of scheduling a number of substances under the provisions of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances,⁶⁷ following receipt of recommendations to that effect from the World Health Organization,

⁶⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/40/38)*, chap. IX, sect. A.

⁶⁶ ST/AI/296; ST/SGB/177.

⁶⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956, p. 175.

Decides that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs shall hold a special session of five days' duration in 1986 at a time when it will not overlap with other meetings, and within existing United Nations resources, to consider scheduling of substances under the provisions of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, follow-up action to General Assembly resolutions 39/141 and 39/143 of 14 December 1984, the review of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1985, and other urgent matters.

52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985

1985/80. Critical economic situation in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984,

Gravely concerned at the continuing critical economic situation in Africa, which has been exacerbated by the unfavourable international economic environment,

Recognizing the impact of drought and desertification, and environmental and demographic factors on the critical economic situation,

Expressing its appreciation of the efforts and generous contributions of the international community—Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, the general public, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations—in response to the emergency situation.

Welcoming all the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General in this connection,

Welcoming the resolve of African heads of State and Government and peoples to address in a coherent manner the economic and social problems facing the continent,

Welcoming in this context the declaration and resolutions on the economic situation in Africa, as well as on the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985, which was devoted essentially to economic issues,

Gravely concerned also at the continuing negative effects of the destabilization policy of South Africa on the economies of southern African States,

Considering that the responsibility for the development of Africa lies primarily with African Governments and peoples,

Stressing, however, the need for the international community as a whole to continue to give priority attention to the critical economic situation in Africa and, to that end, to increase its concrete support in addressing the immediate as well as the medium-term and long-

term needs for the rehabilitation and sustained development of the African economies,

Concerned that, despite recent efforts undertaken by the donor community, the combined effects of a stagnation, over the past years, of overall official development assistance, higher levels of debt servicing and depressed commodity export earnings have led African countries to experience a negative flow of financial resources,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the priority programme for the economic recovery of Africa (1986-1990) by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session;

2. *Welcomes also* the high priority that African Governments individually and collectively have accorded to the improvement of the critical food situation in the continent and to the rehabilitation and development of the food and agricultural sector;

3. *Strongly urges* the international community to intensify its efforts in order to increase substantially the flow of resources—particularly of a concessional character—to Africa and to address in a comprehensive manner the critical problem arising from negative or insufficient flows of resources due, *inter alia*, to the heavy debt burden and to the depressed commodity export earnings of African countries;

4. *Appeals* to the international community, in particular donor countries, to extend all necessary support to African regional and subregional institutions engaged in the process of implementation of economic recovery programmes and economic self-reliance for their member countries;

5. *Recognizes*, moreover, the urgent need to support the rehabilitation and development of the industrial, manufacturing, transport and communications sectors, as well as improved scientific and technological capabilities, health services and human resources development, which are crucial for a sustained and integrated process of development of African countries;

6. *Stresses* that the international community, while continuing to address the African emergency, should give greater focus to supporting the medium-term and longer-term development actions without which no lasting solutions to the emergency situation can be found;

7. *Appreciates and encourages* efforts by African Governments to ensure the effectiveness of development assistance by overseeing effective co-ordination and, to this end, stresses the importance of close co-ordination by the United Nations system of assistance provided under its auspices;

8. *Appeals* to donor countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to consider generous contributions to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa to enable affected countries to resist these calamities effectively;

9. *Stresses* the urgent need for concerted international measures aimed at mitigating the adverse economic effects on the economies of southern African States of destabilizing acts of aggression by South Africa;

10. *Fully recognizes* the importance of Africa's debt problems and, in this context, takes note of the appeal launched by African heads of State and Government calling for the urgent convening of an international conference on Africa's external debt;

11. *Takes note with interest* of the decision by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity by which it requested the convening as soon as possible of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the critical economic situation in Africa;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*