

transnational corporations and other commercial entities of a similar nature in the efforts to increase environmental protection and provide business enterprises and governmental agencies in developing countries with access to information on cleaner technologies, to examine the feasibility of financial mechanisms that would encourage transnational corporations and other enterprises of a similar nature to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the environment of developing countries, and to report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its seventeenth session, with a view to assisting the Commission in its contribution to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

III

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways and means of promoting regional economic integration and co-operation among developing countries through joint ventures and the potential impact of regional economic integration processes among developed countries, including the impact on regional economic integration processes in developing countries, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/21, 1989/22 and 1989/23 of 24 May 1989;

2. *Supports* the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and requests the Centre to continue its efforts to develop its programmes of support for co-operative activities of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare further studies on the role of transnational corporations in other services, including financial services, and on strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations, and to report on other ongoing and future research of the Centre to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its seventeenth session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the other work being carried out in the United Nations, to prepare an updated report on the role of transnational banks related to the external indebtedness of developing countries, giving particular attention to the obstacles and problems that transnational banks have faced with regard to debt reduction, for submission to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its seventeenth session;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical report on debt-equity swaps, taking into account the work already carried out by the Centre, on the effect that swaps could have on foreign direct investment and the overall development of host countries, as well as the experience of countries that have developed such schemes;

6. *Takes note* of the suggestion to undertake country-specific studies on the contribution of foreign direct investment to development, with a view to analysing and stimulating the flow in investment capital, tech-

nology and skills to host countries and identifying proposals for technical assistance designed to support their development objectives, on the understanding that those studies should be undertaken only upon the request of Governments, with their participation and for their use only.²²

IV

1. *Takes note of the Conclusions on Accounting and Reporting by Transnational Corporations*,²³ prepared and agreed to by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, and further notes that the conclusions may be useful for both preparers and users of financial statements;

2. *Commends* the Group on its work on international standards of accounting and reporting, and calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that, without affecting other activities, resources are made available so that the Group and the Centre may effectively carry out their work on international accounting and reporting.

*37th plenary meeting
27 July 1990*

1990/72. Future of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 669 (XXIV) adopted on 7 April 1989 by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the future funding of the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,²⁴

Recalling the Special Memorandum of the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,²⁵

Considering the outstanding record of the Institute in the training of African planners and development specialists,

Considering also the continuing and growing need of African Governments for the services of the Institute in the fields of training, research and advisory services,

Considering further the possibility that the United Nations Development Programme may withdraw its financing of the Institute at the end of 1990 and that the Institute is the only regional institute able to provide training and research services to all States members of the Commission in the area of economic development and planning.

²² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 6 (E/1990/26)*, para. 140.

²³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.II.A.18.

²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 16 (E/1989/35)*, chap. IV.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 16 (E/1989/35), annex II.

Noting with great distress that the persistent and substantial shortfall in the contributions of member States to the Institute will inevitably force its closure in 1990 if no remedial action is taken,

1. *Urgently appeals* to States members of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning:

(a) To pay immediately to the Institute their contributions for 1990 and their arrears for 1989;

(b) To pay back to the Institute all their remaining arrears according to a schedule to be arranged with the management of the Institute;

(c) To pay their regular annual contribution to the Institute in a timely manner under arrangements to be determined with the management of the Institute;

2. *Calls upon* the General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to approve the inclusion of four key posts for the Institute in the United Nations regular budget, namely, the Director, the Chief of Administration and Finance and two senior lecturers, in line with the recommendation contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985, to enable the Institute to carry out its approved work programme and functions on a continued and sustained basis as stipulated in its Statute;

3. *Appeals* to the United Nations Development Programme to help the Institute to survive its present financial crisis and, in particular:

(a) To set up quickly the evaluation mission announced in October 1989;

(b) To give its full backing to the short-term training programme and the research and advisory activities of the Institute;

(c) To continue its support for the activities of the Institute in 1990 and beyond;

4. *Commends* the Governing Council of the Institute on the decisions taken to rationalize the use of resources and urges the management of the Institute to persevere in that endeavour.

*37th plenary meeting
27 July 1990*

1990/73. Improving the technical facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the need for providing adequate equipment and training in the region in current information technology,

Concerned about the paucity of up-to-date office automation and computing equipment at the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Also concerned about the constraints that such a situation imposes on the Commission to properly assist African member States in enhancing their planning and monitoring capacities,

Urges the Secretary-General to provide the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa with the office automation and computing equipment necessary to enable it to function efficiently and to provide better service to member States.

*37th plenary meeting
27 July 1990*

1990/74. Proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT), whenever appropriate

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/118 of 28 July 1989 on interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade, in which it invited the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare jointly a project proposal in this field,

Recognizing that African countries need to co-operate effectively with the rest of the world and to participate in international trade facilitation, including the use of electronic data interchange for the transmission of trade documentation,

Conscious of the urgent need in Africa to build up, strengthen and upgrade capacities to identify problems and requirements for the facilitation of international and intra-African trade, including the analysis of practices, procedures, laws, regulations, policies and documentation governing international trade, and that such capacity-building would benefit government ministries and departments concerned with planning, trade, transport, customs administration, statistics and data processing,

Recognizing further the desirability of interregional co-operation among the regional commissions jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in promoting the global application of agreed measures for the facilitation of international trade,

1. *Decides* fully to support the implementation by participating African States of the project proposal on interregional co-operation for the facilitation of international trade, prepared jointly by the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

2. *Recommends* the proposal for funding by donors;

3. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations to support the project proposal;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional development banks and bilateral donors to provide adequate financing to ensure the full realization of the project;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Commis-