

contained in global prospective studies carried out by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa.

10. The Conference of Ministers realizes that the inadequacy of resources has been the major constraint in the ability of the Centres to fulfil their mandate. The build-up of their staff was severely affected by the financial crisis that the United Nations faced during most of the 1980s. Similarly, their operational activities were severely constrained by their lack of resources—financial and human. The Conference of Ministers is concerned about the resulting negative impact on the delivery of the Centres during the past few years. The capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa to decentralize staff and resources to the Centres was stretched to the limit in spite of its own severe resource constraints. It is not surprising that under such circumstances the impact of the Centres began to dwindle.

11. The Conference of Ministers fully endorses the proposal of the Review Team contained in chapter VI of its report that the financial and human resources of the Centres be significantly increased. It proposes that the Centres be provided with a cost-effective minimal core staff that will enable them to have an immediate impact on their respective subregions.

12. The Conference of Ministers does not preclude the possibility of changing the name "Multinational Programming and Operational Centres", in the light of the evolution of their mandate and activities.

13. Finally, the Conference of Ministers reiterates its firm commitment to the Centres. As in the past, it will continue to make every possible effort to create the environment necessary to enhance their effectiveness.

1990/77. Co-operation in fisheries in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the abundant fishery and aquacultural resources of the African continent, particularly with the extension of national jurisdictions in the exclusive economic zones,

Considering the need for African countries to develop inter-State co-operation in order to promote the development of the fishery sector,

Convinced of the determination of African countries to overcome the difficulties they encounter in the development and acquisition of new technologies for the exploitation of fishery resources,

Recognizing the significant contribution that fishing can make to food self-sufficiency, the improvement of nutrition and the diversification of exports,

Considering the dynamism of the Indian Ocean Commission and the shared concerns of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Africa and States members of the Indian Ocean Commission regarding multinational co-operation for the development of fishery resources,

Considering that the process set in motion by the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Fisheries Among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, held at Rabat from 30 March to 1 April 1989, encourages the countries of the South to join together in order to promote the fishery sector,

1. *Calls upon* African States to develop joint research programmes, in particular for the evaluation and monitoring of shared stocks;

2. *Also calls upon* African States to promote better integration of the fishery and aquaculture sector in their national economies in order to increase its contribution to development;

3. *Urges* African States to establish an intra-African information network on fishing vessels operating illegally and taking due account of existing international law, to propose measures to be instituted within the context of a regional legal framework to exclude such vessels;

4. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, in association with the Economic Commission for Africa, to assist African countries to establish such a network;

5. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, to take fully into account the recommendations of the ministerial conference on co-operation in fisheries among the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, held at Rabat in 1989;

6. *Calls upon* African States to strengthen their co-operation in the implementation of projects for the management, exploitation and marketing of fishery and aquacultural products at the national, subregional and regional levels;

7. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in the interest of greater coherence and efficiency, to do its utmost to ensure the unification of policies in activities concerning inland and ocean fishery resources and the non-living resources of the sea and legal questions relating thereto;

8. *Requests* Member States:

(a) To make full use of advanced marine training centres in Africa and to strengthen their role;

(b) To promote the exchange of information, to make use of those centres with a view to the development and utilization of a standardized statistical system covering all aspects of fisheries at the subregional level;

(c) To promote the joint negotiation of fishery agreements concerning the high-sea fleets of non-African countries;

(d) To accord greater importance to the development of small-scale fishing whenever possible, because it can be better integrated into the African economy and has a greater capacity for adaptation to the socio-economic requirements of Africa;

(e) To improve the living conditions of African fishermen, particularly in the areas of education and health, which at present hinder development;

(f) To give priority to multinational co-operation in fish marketing and preservation, in order

(i) To facilitate the access of African products to markets of the North, *inter alia*, through product

promotion and the provision of market information and through export infrastructure;

- (ii) To attain self-sufficiency in certain fishery resources through the development of intra-African trade, particularly the harmonization of taxation on fishery products;

9. *Further requests* Member States to promote the development of aquaculture in Africa and, to the extent feasible, pool their national human and financial resources within subregional bodies for applied research;

10. *Exhorts* Member States to explore the possibility of bringing national entrepreneurs and foreign enterprises together for the establishment of joint ventures on the basis of mutual advantageous co-operation.

*37th plenary meeting
27 July 1990*

1990/78. Refugees, displaced persons and returnees

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling decision 90/22 adopted on 22 June 1990 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its thirty-seventh session,³⁶

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/137 of 15 December 1989, in which, *inter alia*, the Assembly invited the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as all other relevant international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to establish as soon as possible specific mechanisms of co-operation to assure an agreed division of responsibilities and arrangements for the financing of operational activities relating to refugees, while preserving the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting the substantial increase in the number of refugees, displaced persons and returnees and their impact on the development prospects of the often fragile economic infrastructure of the countries concerned,

Realizing the immense human suffering occasioned by the phenomenon of mass population movements resulting from conflict, natural and man-made disasters and war,

Recognizing that relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are part of the same continuum, and stressing that the impact of refugees and displaced persons on the development prospects of affected countries is frequently severe, multifaceted and requires a system-wide approach in order to ensure that the full spectrum of their needs is covered and that serving those needs should complement the development efforts of the affected countries,

Recognizing the primacy of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in providing international protection and assistance to

refugees and in seeking durable solutions to their problems, and commending the efforts being made by the Office in that regard,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the system-wide review and within existing resources, to recommend ways of maximizing co-operation and co-ordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system in order to ensure an effective response by the United Nations system to the problems of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, keeping in mind the mandates of the United Nations organizations concerned;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report on the results of the system-wide review and on the recommendations emanating therefrom to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991.

*37th plenary meeting
27 July 1990*

1990/79. Governance of the World Food Programme

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the fifteenth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes³⁷ and the note by the Secretariat³⁸ transmitting a decision on governance of the World Food Programme adopted by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session, in June 1990, and transmitted to the Council by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme at the request of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for improved governance arrangements for the World Food Programme consistent with its programme requirements, its accountability to member States, and its characteristics as an entity of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to establish a sub-committee of the whole of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to review the governance of the World Food Programme and the relationships between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme;³⁹

³⁷ WFP/CFA:29/11; transmitted to the Council as document E/1990/99.

³⁸ E/1990/101.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, annex.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29).