

5. In determining the forms of operation of the Financing System the experience gained in the operation of the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development should be taken into account;

3. *Takes note with great interest* of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development<sup>107</sup> and, in particular, notes that, in accordance with the criteria set forth in section VI, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 34/218, the core resources of the Financing System should amount to \$200 million per annum for the period 1983-1985;

4. *Decides* that the institutional arrangements should be determined, *inter alia*, in the light of the magnitude of the financial resources and the nature of operations of the Financing System;

5. *Further decides* that those institutional arrangements shall be agreed during the transitional year, 1982, in accordance with the relevant provisions of section II of the present resolution;

## II

1. *Decides* that the year 1982 shall be considered the transitional period of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a Pledging Conference for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development in the first quarter of 1982 to receive pledges for the transitional year and, in that context, urges all States to make generous contributions, bearing in mind the recommendations in that regard of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

3. *Decides* that, without prejudice to the final agreement on the long-term institutional and financial arrangements for the Financing System, the general operational provisions of the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, including its resources, organization and management, as well as the procedures set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 34/218, will apply and be transferred to the Financing System during the transitional period;

4. *Decides* that an *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Group on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, open to the participation of all States, should hold two sessions, the first, lasting one week, from 1 to 5 March 1982, and the second, lasting two weeks, from 12 to 23 April 1982, and further decides that the time before and between those sessions should be fully utilized for consultations in order to ensure the successful conclusion of the work of the Group;

5. *Urges* Governments to ensure that representation at those two sessions shall be at a high level and include experts in the field of finance;

6. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Group to prepare its recommendations on the institutional, organizational and financial arrangements for the Financing System and to submit them to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its fourth session;

7. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to submit its recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council,

to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session for consideration and decision.

*103rd plenary meeting  
17 December 1981*

### 36/185. Report of the World Food Council

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the 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,

*Recalling also* its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 34/110 of 14 December 1979 and 35/68 of 5 December 1980 on the report of the World Food Council and 35/69 of 5 December 1980 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

*Recalling also* the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action, as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,<sup>108</sup>

*Bearing in mind* Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/71 of 24 July 1981 on food and agriculture,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government and people of Yugoslavia for the excellent facilities and generous hospitality provided to the World Food Council at its seventh ministerial session,

*Noting* that the World Food Council emphasized the need to adopt, according to priorities identified in the field of food, comprehensive national and international measures with a view to realizing the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade in the promotion of food and agricultural development in the developing countries,

*Recognizing* that a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries is essential for adequate financing of their over-all economic development and their imports of food and agricultural inputs,

*Expressing concern* that trade barriers constitute a serious handicap to the efforts of developing countries, in particular, to realize their economic potential, and of the international community to overcome recession and inflation and expand over-all productivity,

*Noting*, in that context, the need for adoption by all countries of policies designed to avoid disruption of international trade and to facilitate access to international markets of agricultural exports, particularly those from developing countries,

*Noting with great concern* that the food situation remains extremely precarious for many developing countries despite significant increases in production and improved distribution in some countries in the past year,

*Noting also with great concern* the growing hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the fact that a substantial part of world resources, material as well as human, contin-

<sup>107</sup> See A/CN.11/21, part one.

<sup>108</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP), part one; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

ues to be diverted to armaments with a detrimental effect on international security and on efforts to achieve the new international economic order, including the solution of food problems, and calling upon Governments to take effective measures in the field of real disarmament that would increase the possibilities of allocation of the resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, especially development of developing countries, and to upgrading their food conditions.

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council as adopted at its seventh ministerial session,<sup>109</sup> and calls upon all Governments and appropriate international organizations to give earnest attention to their implementation;

2. *Expresses its concern* at the critical deterioration of the food outlook for many developing countries in the 1980s, especially in the least developed countries and particularly those in Africa, and affirms that international efforts should be intensified to support improved production of food in developing countries;

3. *Recognizes* that the long-term solution to the problems of food and agriculture in the developing countries depends on increased self-sufficiency in food as part of the over-all development of those countries within the framework of structural changes in international economic relations;

4. *Reaffirms* the strong commitment of the international community to overcoming hunger and malnutrition and, in that context, the need for more effective international action to support agricultural development and food production and distribution in developing countries, particularly in low-income countries with food deficits;

5. *Calls upon* the Governments concerned to implement agrarian reform and rural development within the framework of their national plans and objectives and in accordance with the recommendations as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;<sup>108</sup>

6. *Notes with deep concern* that only limited progress has been achieved towards the solution of the long-standing problems of international trade in agricultural products, including access to international markets of agricultural exports, which adversely affect production and exports, particularly of developing countries, and the solution of which could make an important contribution to improving over-all food production in the world;

7. *Calls* for urgent action in the different negotiating forums to move towards the approval and implementation of proposals to bring about the reduction and elimination of barriers to trade in agricultural products, in particular in relation to those of export interest to developing countries, and thus to facilitate, *inter alia*, more efficient patterns of production;

8. *Urges* developed countries to make their best efforts to adjust those sectors of their agricultural and manufacturing economies which require protection against exports from developing countries, thus facilitating access to the markets of food and agricultural products;

9. *Recommends* that the generalized system of preferences should be expanded to cover a wider range of processed and semi-processed products and, whenever possible, agricultural commodities, and that the system of information on using the generalized system of preferences, by providing technical assistance—including assistance in the field of research, development and marketing—should be enlarged and improved to enable developing countries to take full advantage of such preferences;

10. *Reaffirms* that food is a universal human right which Governments endeavour to guarantee their people and, in that context, stresses its belief in the general principle that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure;

11. *Reaffirms* that developing countries, in the context of their national development plans and priorities, firmly supported by the international community, should take all necessary measures to accelerate food and agricultural production in order to improve national and collective self-sufficiency as early as possible;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the national efforts of developing countries to increase their food and agricultural production by increased technical and capital assistance, in particular for the food-sector strategies that have already been adopted by interested developing countries, within the context of national plans and policies, and the recognition that food strategies and policies remain the concern of the countries adopting them;

13. *Reiterates* its belief that food aid for the least developed countries should be provided, in so far as possible, in the form of grants or on highly concessional terms and that donors should consider paying relevant transport costs;

14. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the growing number of countries that are adopting a more integrated approach to food policy, including food-sector strategies, as one of the means for interested developing countries to translate their own priorities into effective action and to mobilize, within the context of their national plans and priorities, increased technical and financial resources and co-operation from international development assistance agencies;

15. *Reaffirms* that, in the context of national development plans and priorities, effective policies and incentives should continue to be pursued and invigorated with a view to accelerating food and agricultural development;

16. *Takes note* of the renewal of the Food Aid Convention, and calls upon existing and new donor countries to achieve without delay the minimum target of the 1974 World Food Conference<sup>110</sup> of 10 million tons of cereal aid, as agreed upon by the General Assembly in relevant decisions;

17. *Takes note* of the attainment of the minimum target of 500,000 tons of grain for the International Emergency Food Reserve in 1981 and expresses its appreciation to those countries whose contributions have made this possible;

18. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to carry out a review of food aid requirements in the 1980s, in the context of paragraph 88 of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which calls for urgent consideration to be given to a revision of the target of the Food Aid Convention, taking into account the estimated requirements of 17 to 18.5 million tons of cereals, which provide a useful indicator of the over-all requirement of food aid by 1985, as agreed in the Strategy;

19. *Urges* developed countries, international institutions and others able to provide development assistance to increase external assistance to the food sector, for which the estimated necessary element of external assistance is \$8.3 billion, growing to \$12.5 billion by 1990, both figures at 1975 prices, to take urgent steps for the adequate and equitable replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to conclude the sixth replenishment of the International Development Association, and to grant increased development assistance to the developing coun-

<sup>109</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/36/19), part one.

<sup>110</sup> See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3).

tries in order to help them become self-sufficient at the national or regional level in food production;

20. *Requests* the World Food Council to give further consideration to a series of feasible measures which, taken together, comprise a world food security net to ensure international market stability and continuity of world food supplies, especially for developing countries, at reasonable prices and on the conditions they can afford, and to make recommendations thereon;

21. *Calls upon* all States to consider strengthening their national food security within the framework of their national priorities;

22. *Urges* the conclusion, as soon as possible, of a new international wheat agreement that includes substantial economic provisions for safeguarding the interests of both exporters and importers and that recognizes the need for special provisions for developing countries;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the International Monetary Fund to integrate compensation for excesses in the costs of cereal imports with that for shortfalls in receipts from exports under the Fund's compensatory financing facility;

24. *Calls upon* the international community to encourage and accord high priority to support for the efforts of developing countries to strengthen and supplement their programmes of mutual co-operation in the field of food and agriculture;

25. *Urges* the World Food Council, in accordance with its programme of work and within available resources, to continue to support meetings requested by interested Governments at the national and regional levels in order to facilitate the exchange of experience in the food sector;

26. *Urges* the World Food Council, within the context of its mandate, to mobilize and sustain greater efforts in the struggle to overcome hunger, to continue to review and report on major problems and policy issues and the steps being taken or proposed to resolve them, and to continue to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all integrated and continuing attention for the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade, food aid and other related matters, by all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

27. *Urges* the international community, in adopting multilateral measures in the food sector, to take particularly into account the problems and interests of food-producing and food-exporting developing countries.

*103rd plenary meeting  
17 December 1981*

### **36/186. Situation of food and agriculture in Africa**

#### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the 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,

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the World Food Conference,<sup>111</sup> containing the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the Conference,<sup>112</sup>

*Recalling also* the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,<sup>113</sup>

*Noting with concern* that, over the past two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has drastically deteriorated, resulting in a decline in food production per capita and a reduction in average dietary standards below essential requirements.

*Deeply concerned* at the unabated encroachment of the desert in many countries of Africa, which has continued to accentuate the food problem on that continent,

*Noting* that a decision on food and agriculture was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 23 February to 1 March 1981.

*Deeply concerned* at the critical food shortages currently affecting many countries in the African region, which necessitate a distressingly large allocation of the scarce foreign exchange of those countries for the import of foodstuffs, to the detriment of their over-all development,

*Recognizing* the commitment and determination of Africa to devoting its limited resources on a priority basis to agricultural development in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session, devoted to economic matters, held at Lagos on 28 and 29 April 1980,<sup>114</sup>

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the development of food and agricultural production lies primarily with the developing countries themselves and that there is an increasing effort and growing commitment by the developing countries to accelerate the development of their food and agricultural sectors,

*Recognizing* the role of food-sector strategies, which emerged from the World Food Council, as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary additional international resources,

*Recognizing* the central role of science and technology in raising global agricultural productivity and output, as well as the importance of appropriate infrastructure such as storage facilities and a system of transport conducive to the efficient distribution of agricultural products within each country and throughout the African continent,

*Recalling* its resolution 35/108 of 5 December 1980 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

*Stressing* that the current shortages of foodstuffs demonstrate the continued vulnerability of many countries in the region to food crises due, *inter alia*, to crop failure, drought, soil erosion, low reserves and the high level of post-harvest losses,

*Recalling* its resolution 35/69 of 5 December 1980, concerning the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

*Noting* that an important document on the problem of famine in Africa was published jointly by the Organization of African Unity and the Food and Agriculture Organization

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, part one.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. I.

<sup>113</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP), part one; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

<sup>114</sup> A/S-11/14, annex I.