

Economic Rights and Duties of States, to be convened for three weeks in 1985, to carry out the review mentioned in paragraph 1 above, and requests the Committee to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, to be submitted to the *Ad Hoc* Committee in 1985.

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984*

39/164. Report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development⁵ and General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979,

Noting the forthcoming mid-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action to be considered by the Intergovernmental Committee at its seventh session in the context of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,⁶

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its sixth session⁷ and of Economic and Social Council decisions 1984/168 and 1984/169 of 25 July 1984;

2. *Supports* the initiatives of the Intergovernmental Committee with a view to strengthening its role and effectiveness and, in particular, its decision to adopt a selective approach that will enable it, at each of its sessions, to conduct deliberations of greater depth by selecting in advance themes for consideration;⁸

3. *Notes*, in this context, that information systems for science and technology for development have been selected as the theme for consideration at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee in 1985 and that the two themes selected for the eighth session are mobilization of resources for science and technology for development for developing countries and technology applied to agricultural development and related development areas.⁹

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984*

39/165. Critical 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,

Gravely concerned at the dramatic deterioration in food and agricultural production in Africa, as a result of which there has been an alarming increase in the number of

people exposed to hunger, malnutrition and even starvation,

Recognizing the special emphasis placed upon food and agriculture and the undertaking and resolve of Africa to devote its scarce resources on a priority basis to the rehabilitation of food and agricultural production as reflected in and in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,¹⁰

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa,¹¹

Noting the exacerbation of Africa's food and agricultural crisis by the adverse impact of prolonged drought and accelerating desertification and, moreover, that the African countries have been hit by adverse external forces, including falling trade earnings resulting from the global economic recession, the worsening terms of trade and the debt crisis,

Convinced that the food and agricultural crisis in Africa has a long genesis and has been rendered more acute by natural factors, such as poor rainfall, widespread bush fires, unusually severe crop infestation, and epidemics of plant and animal diseases,

Welcoming the adoption, on 25 July 1984, by the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, of the Harare Declaration on the food crisis in Africa, prepared by the African Ministers for Agriculture and Rural Development,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 38/159 of 19 December 1983, as well as all other relevant resolutions on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa, and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;

2. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its tenth ministerial session, held at Addis Ababa from 11 to 15 June 1984,¹² in particular those relating to the African region;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the encouraging response by the international community to the various appeals made for the alleviation of the present critical food supply situation in Africa;

4. *Welcomes* the unanimous adoption by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on 8 November 1984 of a resolution on the food crisis in Africa,¹³ and calls for its full and prompt implementation;

5. *Urges* the international community, in view of the continued critical food supply situation in a large number of African countries, to sustain and increase its efforts to provide the additional food aid required on an emergency basis, as well as technical and other forms of assistance needed in that connection;

6. *Urges* the international community also to respond generously to the urgent need for agricultural inputs for the rehabilitation of agriculture and animal husbandry;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support efforts undertaken by African countries at the national, subregional and regional levels to increase food production through, *inter alia*, the provision, on a priority and long-term basis, of additional financial and technical assistance to Africa by organizations of the United Nations system, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations involved in the

⁵ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.1.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

⁶ Resolution 35/56, annex.

⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/39/37).

⁸ *Ibid.*, annex, resolution 6 (VI), sect. I, para. 1.

⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

¹⁰ A/S-11/14, annex I.

¹¹ A/39/270-E/1984.97.

¹² See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/39/19), part one.

¹³ WFP/CFA: 18/18 Add.1, para. 34.

financing of agricultural development, and through an increase in lending by the World Bank to the agricultural sector in Africa;

8. *Takes note* of the efforts already undertaken by African countries in the field of food and the formulation of agricultural policies, and encourages them to pursue and strengthen these efforts, especially in the definition and implementation of national food strategies, plans and programmes;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution, with particular emphasis on the role and activities of the United Nations system in assisting the African countries towards the solution of their food and agricultural problems.

103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984

39/166. Food and agricultural problems

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Stressing the imperative need to keep food and agricultural issues at the centre of global attention,

Having considered the grave situation of food and agriculture in many developing countries, especially the critical and deteriorating situation in Africa, further exacerbated by prolonged drought and accelerating desertification, and the persistent problem of food shortages in food-deficit developing countries, particularly the least developed countries,

Recognizing that, although the overall aggregate world food supply situation has steadily improved over the past decade, the numbers of hungry and malnourished are increasing and the risks of food insecurity are now greater for many developing countries, and that the situation thus demands additional efforts,

Reaffirming that food and agricultural problems in developing countries should be considered in a comprehensive manner in their different dimensions, as well as in their immediate short-term and long-term perspectives,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, adopted ten years ago by the World Food Conference,¹⁴ and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,¹⁵

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 38/158 of 19 December 1983 on food problems and 38/159 of 19 December 1983 on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa, as well as all other relevant resolutions concerning food

and agriculture, and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;

2. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its tenth ministerial session, held at Addis Ababa from 11 to 15 June 1984;¹²

3. *Welcomes* the ninth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;¹⁶

4. *Urges* the international community, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the World Food Conference, to rededicate itself to the objective of that Conference and intensify concerted efforts for the fulfilment of its commitment to eliminate hunger and malnutrition as soon as possible, and definitely by the end of the present century, and in this regard, calls upon Governments and international organizations to give particular attention to the measures agreed to by the World Food Council at its tenth ministerial session as the major tasks for achieving the objectives of that Conference;

5. *Reaffirms* that the maintenance of peace and security and the strengthening of international co-operation in food and agriculture are important for improved economic conditions and enhanced food security;

6. *Reaffirms* that the right to food is a universal human right which should be guaranteed to all people, and, in that context, believes in the general principle that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure;

7. *Reaffirms* that urgent action should be taken to increase food production, which is one of the most important elements in meeting the food needs of the developing countries, and that, in this regard, sustained efforts at the national, regional and international levels should be pursued and that the national food strategies, plans and programmes of developing countries should play a central role in the process of establishing priorities, in co-ordinating national and international funding and in the application of technology, in order to promote food production and increase the national self-reliance of the developing countries;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries facing constraints in the development of their food and agricultural production to enable them to achieve self-reliance;

9. *Stresses* that measures taken by developed countries to reduce future food and agricultural production should not adversely affect the food problems faced by developing countries;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to accord greater support towards realization of the enlarged and integrated concept of world food security, focusing on the adequacy of food supplies and production, stability of food supplies and markets, and security of access to supplies, as defined by the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its eighth session;¹⁷

11. *Stresses* that significant advances in food and agricultural research and technology and their application in developing countries need to be sustained, improved and made more widespread to encompass all of those countries; in this context, the needs of the African countries and the least developed countries should be given special attention;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to reverse any declining trends in aid commitments to food and agriculture and

¹⁴ Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

¹⁵ 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

¹⁶ WFP/CFA: 17/19; transmitted to the Economic and Social Council as document E/1984/117.

¹⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/38/19), part one, para. 44.