

region need to be seen against the backdrop of economic changes and the accompanying challenges, including especially the impact of those changes on the international and intraregional trade of the countries concerned,

*Recognizing* that, to be effective, a transit transport strategy for the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours should incorporate actions that address both the problems inhering in the use of existing transit routes and the early development and smooth functioning of new, alternative routes,

*Emphasizing* the importance of strengthening international support measures to address further the problems of the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the Technical Meeting on Central Asia's Transit Transport Links with World Markets,<sup>15</sup> held at Ankara from 7 to 9 November 1995, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Governments concerned, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and relevant regional and international organizations and in accordance with approved programme priorities and within existing financial resources, to continue elaborating a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours;

3. *Invites* donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions, within their mandates, to provide newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours with appropriate financial and technical assistance for the improvement of the transit environment for those countries;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue studying, within the scope of the implementation of the present resolution, possible ways of promoting more effective cooperative arrangements between landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit neighbours and to encourage a more active supportive role on the part of the donor community;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

*86th plenary meeting  
16 December 1996*

## 51/169. Commodities

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992, 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/104 of 19 December 1994, and stressing the urgent need to ensure their full implementation,

*Recognizing* that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues and of the creation of employment, income and savings, and a driving force of investments and contributor to growth and development,

*Also recognizing* the need for a better functioning of commodity markets and the necessity of stable and more predictable commodity prices, including searching for long-term solutions,

*Mindful* of the need for developing countries, especially African countries and least developed countries, to diversify their economies, in particular the commodity sector, with a view to modernizing their production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings.

*Concerned* about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the Midrand Declaration and the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",<sup>16</sup> related to the issues of commodities;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities of continuing to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Notes* the need expressed by developing countries, in particular the commodity-dependent developing countries, for stable and more predictable commodity prices, in the face of instability and decline in real terms of the prices of many commodities;

4. *Expresses* the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through efficient and transparent price formation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges, and through the use of commodity price risk management instruments;

5. *Urges* developed countries to continue to support the commodity diversification efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, in a spirit of common purpose and efficiency, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

<sup>15</sup> See UNCTAD/LLDC/Misc.4.

<sup>16</sup> See A/51/308.

6. *Reiterates* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and sustainable development in commodity-dependent developing countries and, in this respect, stresses, *inter alia*, that:

(a) Trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, tariff escalation and obstacles to competition, have a negative effect on the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and to undertake the requisite restructuring of their commodity sector;

(b) Expansion of South-South trade in commodities offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(c) In line with Agenda 21<sup>17</sup> and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>18</sup> Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development; in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes;

(d) The issues related to commodities in the context of sustainable development should be fully taken into account by all overall review and appraisal machinery of the implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(e) There is a need to promote research and development, to provide infrastructure and support services and to encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance for developing countries to process a significant part of their commodities, and in that regard stresses the importance of new market opportunities for their processed and semi-processed commodities;

8. *Encourages* the Common Fund for Commodities, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant bodies, to direct its commodity development programmes more towards commodity sector diversification projects, as well as to promote commodity market development in the developing countries, with particular focus on the needs of least developed countries, and to explore effective ways and means of using the resources of the First Account of the Common Fund;

9. *Urges* producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts to reinforce mutual cooperation and assistance;

10. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations to continue to provide technical support to the basic food sector of developing countries, in particular net food importing countries, *inter alia*, in meeting their commitments under the Uruguay Round agreements;

11. *Welcomes* the technical cooperation activities that will be undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the World Trade Organization and other concerned international organizations in the field of international commodity trade;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within the framework of its programme of cooperation with the World Trade Organization, to provide analytical information related to the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,<sup>19</sup> and encourages it to continue to assist, in accordance with the outcome of its ninth session, in vertical and horizontal diversification in commodity-dependent countries and to promote the use of risk management in favour of producers and exporters;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on world commodity trends and prospects, with particular emphasis on commodity-dependent developing countries in accordance with the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference;

14. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session.

86th plenary meeting  
16 December 1996

## 51/170. Industrial development cooperation

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,<sup>20</sup> the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,<sup>21</sup> and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,<sup>22</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 49/108 of 19 December 1994 on industrial development cooperation,

*Taking note* of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twentieth annual meeting, held in New York on 27 September

<sup>17</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., annex I.

<sup>19</sup> See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

<sup>20</sup> Resolution S-18/3, annex.

<sup>21</sup> Resolution 45/199, annex.

<sup>22</sup> Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.