

535 (VI). Development and concentration of the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the social field

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the functions devolving under the Charter on the Economic and Social Council in the matter of defining the social policy of the United Nations and promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Considering that action to promote social development and technical assistance in social matters should go hand in hand with action to promote economic development and technical assistance in economic matters,

Considering that, within the framework of long-term programmes for social progress, the United Nations and the specialized agencies should take immediate and practical action in those fields where such action is likely to produce early and positive results, particularly in the under-developed countries, both self-governing and non-self-governing,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic and Social Council to examine in detail, and in the light of these considerations, the social activities undertaken by the United Nations together with the pertinent activities of the specialized agencies, in order to fulfil the various social tasks assigned to it by the Charter, and to take the necessary action to ensure that efforts and resources are effectively concentrated upon those social problems the early solution of which can be promoted through international action, especially in the under-developed countries, both self-governing and non-self-governing;

2. *Draws* the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the report on the world social situation¹ to be submitted to the Social Commission at its next session, and requests the Council, in taking due account of the findings in that report and of the suggestions submitted by the countries directly concerned, to draw up a programme of practical action for the United Nations in the social field to be implemented in co-operation with the specialized agencies, and to submit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventh session if possible.

*371st plenary meeting,
2 February 1952.*

536 (VI). United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

Whereas, by resolution 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, the General Assembly confirmed the necessity for continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in under-developed countries and countries that have been subjected to the devastation of war and to other calamities,

Whereas the aid of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is now being afforded to projects which, if completed, will benefit 42 million children,

Considering that justified requests are coming before the Fund requiring small amounts of international aid

¹ See resolution 280 (III), adopted on 13 May 1949 by the General Assembly and resolution 309 (XI), adopted on 13 July 1950 by the Economic and Social Council.

in relation to the great alleviation of the sufferings of children which they make possible,

The General Assembly

1. *Calls attention* to the urgent necessity of providing the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund with the means necessary to continue without interruption its work in the service of children throughout the world;

2. *Appeals most earnestly* to governments and private persons to contribute to the Fund as generously as possible during 1952 for assistance to humanitarian activities in favour of the children of the world.

*371st plenary meeting,
2 February 1952.*

537 (VI). Housing and town and country planning

The General Assembly,

Considering that lack of adequate housing constitutes one of the most serious deficiencies in the standard of living of large sections of the population of the world,

Considering that serious social problems originate in or are aggravated by the shortage of housing,

Requests the Economic and Social Council, enlisting for the purpose the services of the appropriate subsidiary bodies, including where suitable regional bodies, and in collaboration with the competent specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned, to give urgent attention to practical measures to assist governments in increasing available housing facilities for people in the lowest income groups, including, *inter alia*:

(a) Intensification of activities to provide information to governments on techniques of production and building to increase the productivity of the building industry, to utilize local construction materials more economically and to reduce the cost of housing by lowering the cost of materials and equipment through standardization and prefabrication;

(b) Advice to governments on the development of housing programmes and their relation to over-all plans for economic development and to developments in particular areas, both urban and rural;

(c) Grants, within the framework of the technical assistance programme, and in accord with the specialized agencies and the services of the United Nations, of fellowships for study and training to experts from countries affected by the housing shortage, particularly countries where the building industry is still at the purely artisan stage;

(d) Invitations to the governments of countries supplying building materials to give some priority to orders connected with the construction of economical housing for low-income groups;

(e) Assistance to governments in developing practical methods of financing housing programmes from domestic or external sources.

*371st plenary meeting,
2 February 1952.*