

by the regional economic commissions in the initiation, implementation and co-ordination of economic and social activities of the United Nations at the regional level;

3. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its resolution 856 (XXXII) of 4 August 1961 concerning co-operation between the resident representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, and the Technical Assistance Committee for its resolution recommending to the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that he invite the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions to present their views on the economic and social factors to be taken into account in the preparation of technical assistance programmes;¹⁵

4. *Urges* the strengthening, without delay, of the secretariats of the regional economic commissions as executive arms of the Organization in the economic and social fields, including technical assistance operations, by means of an increasing delegation to those secretariats of substantive and operational functions and responsibilities and the provision of the requisite resources, including personnel, while maintaining the central substantive functions, including policy guidance and co-ordination, and without affecting the provision of assistance to countries that are not members of any regional economic commission;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediate steps towards the full implementation of the policy of decentralization through appropriate administrative arrangements to be decided upon in continuing consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, when necessary, the Technical Assistance Committee, taking into account the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts to review the activities and Organization of the Secretariat in part V of its report and the Secretary-General's comments thereon;

6. *Urges* that the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations should, among other things, aim at achieving simplicity of procedure and of administrative methods for technical co-operation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session on the new organizational measures taken, or to be taken, to enable the secretariats of the regional economic commissions to discharge fully their responsibilities as executive instruments for the programmes of technical co-operation, and on the strengthening of those secretariats as required for the effective execution of the above tasks;

8. *Invites* the executive heads of the specialized agencies concerned and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions further to adjust co-operative arrangements to the extent required by decentralization;

9. *Requests* the regional economic commissions further to develop close co-operation among themselves in their substantive and operational activities, and to

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 11, document E/3547, para. 129.*

report on the progress made in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council.

*1084th plenary meeting,
19 December 1961.*

1710 (XVI). United Nations Development Decade A programme for international economic co-operation (I)¹⁶

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and to employ international machinery for the advancement of the economic and social development of all peoples,

Considering that the economic and social development of the economically less developed countries is not only of primary importance to those countries but is also basic to the attainment of international peace and security and to a faster and mutually beneficial increase in world prosperity,

Recognizing that during the decade of the nineteen-fifties considerable efforts to advance economic progress in the less developed countries were made by both the newly developing and the more developed countries,

Noting, however, that in spite of the efforts made in recent years the gap in *per caput* incomes between the economically developed and the less developed countries has increased and the rate of economic and social progress in the developing countries is still far from adequate,

Recalling its resolutions 1421 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1515 (XV), 1516 (XV), 1519 (XV) and 1526 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Convinced of the need for concerted action to demonstrate the determination of Member States to give added impetus to international economic co-operation in the current decade, through the United Nations system and on a bilateral or multilateral basis,

1. *Designates* the current decade as the United Nations Development Decade, in which Member States and their peoples will intensify their efforts to mobilize and to sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining growth of the economy of the individual nations and their social advancement so as to attain in each under-developed country a substantial increase in the rate of growth, with each country setting its own target, taking as the objective a minimum annual rate of growth of aggregate national income of 5 per cent at the end of the Decade;

2. *Calls upon* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies:

(a) To pursue policies designed to enable the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary commodities to sell more of their products at stable and remunerative prices in expanding markets, and thus to finance increasingly their own economic development from their earnings of foreign exchange and domestic savings;

¹⁶ See also resolution 1715 (XVI) of 19 December 1961.

(b) To pursue policies designed to ensure to the developing countries an equitable share of earnings from the extraction and marketing of their natural resources by foreign capital, in accordance with the generally accepted reasonable earnings on invested capital;

(c) To pursue policies that will lead to an increase in the flow of development resources, public and private, to developing countries on mutually acceptable terms;

(d) To adopt measures which will stimulate the flow of private investment capital for the economic development of the developing countries, on terms that are satisfactory both to the capital-exporting countries and the capital-importing countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate to the Governments of Member States any documentation useful for the study and application of the present resolution and to invite them to make proposals, if possible, concerning the contents of a United Nations programme for the Decade and the application of such measures in their respective plans;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking account of the views of Governments and in consultation, as appropriate, with the heads of international agencies with responsibilities in the financial, economic and social fields, the Managing Director of the Special Fund, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the regional economic commissions, to develop proposals for the intensification of action in the fields of economic and social development by the United Nations system of organizations, with particular reference, *inter alia*, to the following approaches and measures designed to further the objectives of paragraph 1 above:

(a) The achievement and acceleration of sound self-sustaining economic development in the less developed countries through industrialization, diversification and the development of a highly productive agricultural sector;

(b) Measures for assisting the developing countries, at their request, to establish well-conceived and integrated country plans—including, where appropriate, land reform—which will serve to mobilize internal resources and to utilize resources offered by foreign sources on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis for progress towards self-sustained growth;

(c) Measures to improve the use of international institutions and instrumentalities for furthering economic and social development;

(d) Measures to accelerate the elimination of illiteracy, hunger and disease, which seriously affect the productivity of the people of the less developed countries;

(e) The need to adopt new measures, and to improve existing measures, for further promoting education in general and vocational and technical training in the developing countries with the co-operation, where appropriate, of the specialized agencies and States which can provide assistance in these fields, and for training competent national personnel in the fields of public administration, education, engineering, health and agronomy;

(f) The intensification of research and demonstration as well as other efforts to exploit scientific and technological potentialities of high promise for accelerating economic and social development;

(g) Ways and means of finding and furthering effective solutions in the field of trade in manufactures

as well as in primary commodities, bearing in mind, in particular, the need to increase the foreign exchange earnings of the under-developed countries;

(h) The need to review facilities for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of statistical and other information required for charting economic and social development and for providing a constant measurement of progress towards the objectives of the Decade;

(i) The utilization of resources released by disarmament for the purpose of economic and social development, in particular of the under-developed countries;

(j) The ways in which the United Nations can stimulate and support realization of the objectives of the Decade through the combined efforts of national and international institutions, both public and private;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States, at their request, on the application of such measures in their respective development plans;

6. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to accelerate its examination of, and decision on, principles of international economic co-operation directed towards the improvement of world economic relations and the stimulation of international co-operation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present his proposals for such a programme to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session for its consideration and appropriate action;

8. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to transmit the Secretary-General's recommendations, together with its views and its report on actions undertaken thereon, to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

*1084th plenary meeting,
19 December 1961.*

1711 (XVI). Reaffirmation of General Assembly resolution 1522 (XV) on the accelerated flow of capital and technical assistance to the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the responsibilities assumed by Member States under the Charter of the United Nations for international economic and social co-operation in promoting higher standards of living and solutions of international economic problems,

Recognizing that the greatest of the present-day economic and social problems is the very low standard of living in the less developed countries,

Concerned that the gap between the standards of living of the great majority of the people of the world, who inhabit the less developed countries, and those of the economically advanced countries is ever widening because of the inadequate rate of economic growth of the less developed countries,

Recognizing further that the primary responsibility for the economic development of the less developed countries, whether through the creation of appropriate social and economic conditions or the generation of internal capital, is and must remain theirs,

Realizing that speedy progress towards the advancement of the less developed countries is possible only