

and, where appropriate, to bring new lands under cultivation and to increase their agricultural productivity, especially of foodstuffs, by following the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council on those questions;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies, in carrying out their studies and activities on the questions of land reform to place particular emphasis on:

(a) The speeding up, at the request of the interested governments and according to the circumstances prevailing in different countries or regions, of such practical measures to encourage the promotion and the carrying out of their land reform programmes as:

The convening of international and regional conferences on the development of natural resources, especially land resources, and on land administration,

The organization of seminars on problems connected with the welfare and economic and social progress of rural populations in a country or in countries of a geographical region, and

The setting up of regional centres for training experts in the several specialized fields relating to the improvement of agricultural structures;

(b) Practical measures of technical assistance so as to increase agricultural output, especially of foodstuffs, to prevent the loss of, or decrease in, harvests of those foodstuffs and to improve production methods, increase sales and encourage equitable distribution;

3. *Reiterates* paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 524 (VI) which "Urges the governments of Member States, in working out their fiscal policies, to give active consideration to making funds available for projects of agrarian reform and invites the institutions providing international loans to give sympathetic consideration to loan applications from under-developed countries for development projects which are designed to implement their programmes of agrarian reform including projects designed to bring new lands under agricultural cultivation, and invites these institutions, consistent with their maintenance as self-supporting entities, to consider making any such loans on terms of interest and amortization designed to place the smallest feasible burden on the borrowing countries";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist the governments of Member States, at their request, to give to the actions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with regard to the question of land reform the widest possible publicity among farm organizations and other interested persons or groups, in order to ensure that the policy recommendations of the United Nations shall be widely known and understood.

*411th plenary meeting,
21 December 1952.*

626 (VII). Right to exploit freely natural wealth and resources

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need for encouraging the under-developed countries in the proper use and exploitation of their natural wealth and resources,

Considering that the economic development of the under-developed countries is one of the fundamental requisites for the strengthening of universal peace,

Remembering that the right of peoples freely to use and exploit their natural wealth and resources is inherent in their sovereignty and is in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Recommends* all Member States, in the exercise of their right freely to use and exploit their natural wealth and resources wherever deemed desirable by them for their own progress and economic development, to have due regard, consistently with their sovereignty, to the need for maintaining the flow of capital in conditions of security, mutual confidence and economic co-operation among nations;

2. *Further recommends* all Member States to refrain from acts, direct or indirect, designed to impede the exercise of the sovereignty of any State over its natural resources.

*411th plenary meeting,
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627 (VII). Activities of regional economic commissions and economic development of under-developed countries

The General Assembly,

Considering that the report^a of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III, section V) gives an account of the interesting activities of the Economic Commissions for Latin America and for Asia and the Far East in the field of economic development of under-developed countries,

Considering the important contribution which the Economic Commission for Europe can make to the economic development of the under-developed countries, not only by its action on behalf of the less-developed regions of Europe, but also by the collaboration it has established with the other regional economic commissions in carrying out joint studies,

Bearing in mind that the economic development of under-developed countries, consistent with the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter, namely, the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development", can best be carried out through co-ordination among the countries of a region and among the various regions,

Bearing in mind that the regional economic commissions have become effective instruments of international economic co-operation and, for that reason, should continue to play an important part in the work

^a See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 3.*

of stimulating co-ordinated economic development in their respective regions and should co-operate in the efforts of the countries to that end as well as in the work of resolving other problems connected with world economic stability,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Economic Commissions for Latin America and for Asia and the Far East have been especially active in promoting the acceleration of economic development of the countries in their respective regions, in accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, and believes that this activity should be further intensified;

2. *Commends in particular:*

(a) The collaboration established between the Economic Commissions for Europe, for Latin America and for Asia and the Far East in promoting more trade between the countries of their respective regions, and declares that this collaboration should be furthered not only among these countries but also with countries of other regions, bearing in mind the objectives mentioned in General Assembly resolution 523 (VI) of 12 January 1952 and in particular its paragraph 1 (b),⁹ relevant policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the terms of reference of the Commissions;

(b) The way in which the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, through its integrated studies, meetings of experts, specialized conferences and training centres on various aspects of economic development, is promoting trade and exerting efforts to develop the natural resources and industries of the countries of the region;

(c) The activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America in the matter of the economic development of the countries of the region, and especially:

(i) Its initiative in inviting the governments of the Central-American Republics to carry out a joint programme of great potential significance with a view to the economic integration of these countries, and believes it would be useful to explore the possibility of similar initiatives;

(ii) The integrated studies it has initiated of the economic potentialities and development of various Latin-American countries;

(iii) The meetings of experts on basic industries;

(d) The improvements brought about by the Commissions in the inland transport of their respective regions.

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⁹ "Consider the possibility of facilitating through commercial agreements:

"(i) The movement of machinery, equipment and industrial raw materials needed by the under-developed countries for their economic development and for the improvement of their standards of living, and

"(ii) The development of natural resources which can be utilized for the domestic needs of the under-developed countries and also for the needs of international trade,

provided that such commercial agreements shall not contain economic or political conditions violating the sovereign rights of the under-developed countries, including the right to determine their own plans for economic development."

628 (VII). Increase in food production

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the resolutions¹⁰ of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council relating to the need for promoting the increased production of food in the world,

Noting the statements¹¹ of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the effect that the production of foodstuffs is not increasing at the same rate as the population, and noting that food supplies *per capita* are still less than before the Second World War when more than half the population of the globe was already suffering from malnutrition,

Recognizing:

(a) That the problem of the shortage of foodstuffs is of extreme importance and the greatest urgency to all mankind since it affects its very existence—and particularly to the peoples of the countries most immediately threatened by food shortage,

(b) That it is necessary to devise effective measures for increasing the aggregate production of foodstuffs with a view to fostering the economic development of under-developed countries and the relief of hardships caused by food shortages, particularly in the countries most immediately threatened,

Considering:

(a) That such measures call for co-ordinated, joint and effective international action by the Food and Agriculture Organization and all other international bodies which may be in a position to assist in increasing agricultural production, particularly of foodstuffs,

(b) That it is incumbent upon these organizations, and particularly the United Nations, to give special attention to co-ordinated international action in this field,

1. *Calls the attention* of the Economic and Social Council, of the specialized agencies concerned, and of the Technical Assistance Board to the increased need for co-ordinated and joint action with regard to the problem of increasing food production, particularly in the countries most immediately threatened by food shortage;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to include in its annual reports to the General Assembly a special section with regard to action taken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the problem of the continuing lack of an adequate production of foodstuffs.

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21 December 1952.

¹⁰ See, *inter alia*, General Assembly resolutions 202 (III) and 525 (VI), and Economic and Social Council resolutions 405 (XIII), 416 E (XIV), 424 (XIV), 425 (XIV) and 451 A (XIV).

¹¹ See document E/2195, p. 4.