

of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the debates at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the General Assembly, any proposals on this matter that may be submitted by the Governments of Member States and any international instruments already adopted in this field, to give absolute priority to the preparation of a draft international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, to be submitted to the Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the provisional agenda of the nineteenth session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination".

*1261st plenary meeting,
20 November 1963.*

1915 (XVIII). Community action

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 390 D (XIII) of 9 August 1951 which suggests that Member States should provide assistance to other countries in the field of community development, Council resolution 585 C (XX) of 23 July 1955 and resolution 975 E (XXXVI) of 1 August 1963 referring to programmes of community development, as well as General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI) of 19 December 1961,

Taking into account the fact that community action has been a method traditionally used in many countries, and more especially in the developing countries, to carry out schemes of economic and social value,

Considering that community development is particularly appropriate for areas, both rural and urban, where a large proportion of the population is marginally employed and therefore represents a considerable potential resource for economic and social development,

Recognizing that community action is especially valuable for the carrying out of land reform since, in addition to contributing directly to the formation of an economic and social infra-structure, it facilitates the spread of agricultural knowledge and techniques and the establishment of co-operatives, and that there is a close interrelationship between land reform and community action,

Taking into account the fact that community action can be a method of ensuring sustained and systematic effort towards economic and social development producing excellent and positive results,

Considering that community action, incorporating as it does the principles of self-help and mutual assistance, constitutes one of the most direct, rapid and efficient methods of channelling the unco-ordinated efforts of members of the community into projects of benefit to it and to the nation as a whole,

Realizing that the necessary willingness of members of the community to take an active part in schemes of common interest is often frustrated or hampered and, in some cases, wasted for lack of sustained and effective support in the form of financial and technical aid and supply of material and equipment,

Observing that the effects of community action promote not only economic development but also social solidarity, national integration and cultural development,

Recognizing the importance of the activities which the United Nations and the specialized agencies are carrying out in community development and of the

assistance which they are rendering to member countries in that field,

1. *Affirms* that community action is a valuable and effective instrument for achieving economic and social development;

2. *Invites* Member States to make the fullest and best possible use of community action in their efforts to promote economic and social development, especially in sectors where there is a marginally employed population and in co-ordination with land reform;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when establishing the activities of the Economic Projections and Programming Centre, to suggest the desirability of including community action in the formulation of plans and programmes of economic development for the developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give special attention to the present and possible future contribution of community action towards the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade and to prepare regular reports on the progress of community action in the developing countries, with special reference to the exchange of information on experience and methods in connexion with the various types of community action;

5. *Recommends* the Member States, the specialized agencies and other international bodies to give special attention to the provision of technical and financial assistance to those countries which request it for the purpose of planning and executing economic and social development schemes, especially in connexion with land reform, that make use of community action;

6. *Requests* the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Special Fund and other international agencies providing technical and financial assistance to help Governments in preparing community development programmes as part of their national development—including projects for the establishment of rural centres to supply tools and equipment, to carry out research and provide training—in order to make programmes of community action as effective as possible.

*1274th plenary meeting,
5 December 1963.*

1916 (XVIII). World social situation

The General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the *Report on the World Social Situation, 1963*,² of the comments thereon by the Economic and Social Council and of Council resolution 975 B (XXXVI) of 1 August 1963,

Noting the unsatisfactory progress made during the last decade in raising levels of living in areas where the need is greatest, and the continuing vast disparities in income both nationally and internationally,

Considering that, in order to fulfil the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade and to achieve satisfactory social progress, the carrying out of social programmes should be accelerated and should complement economic programmes within an integrated socio-economic development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 916 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962 and 984 (XXXVI), section I, of 2 August 1963, and looking forward to the Secretary-General's report on the progress of the Decade called for under these resolutions,

² United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.IV.4.

Taking into account the urgent necessity for the adoption of practical and far-reaching measures with a view to settling the main social problems as presented in the *Report on the World Social Situation, 1963*, and in other related documents and studies,

Convinced that economic and social progress, especially in the developing countries, cannot be achieved without a substantial change in outlook and a clear view of the ends to be attained, and without such alteration of certain social structures as may be necessary,

1. *Recommends* that the Governments of the developing countries should take all necessary steps with a view of the ends to be attained and without such for economic development, as well as for progress and social justice;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to review its resolution 496 (XVI) of 31 July 1953, entitled "Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies", in the light of the *Report on the World Social Situation, 1963*, and of the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade;

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider effective means of translating the social objectives of the Decade into concrete realities;

4. *Invites* Governments of developing countries to prepare specific targets to be achieved in the major social sectors during the second half of the Decade, to integrate those targets with economic plans, programmes or projections for the same period, and to set forth the volume and types of the external resources that will be required to achieve these social goals, taking into account similar programmes in other countries and the advantages of regional and international co-operation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare in so far as is feasible, for submission to the Economic and Social Council in 1965, a draft programme of social development for the second half of the Decade, to cover not only priorities of international action in the social field but also major targets of social development to be achieved in the different less developed regions by the end of the Decade, and methods of implementation, taking into account:

(a) The intentions of national Governments and regional bodies, as indicated by specific responses to the present resolution as well as by national and regional development plans and programmes;

(b) The possibilities of external aid;

(c) Feasibilities in terms of material and human resources, both national and international, and the requirements of balanced economic and social development;

(d) Methods of establishing appropriate standards, reducing costs and achieving maximum efficiency in expenditure of the funds available for the social development of the less developed countries;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to undertake far-reaching studies, covering the various regions and countries with different social systems, of basic problems in the social field and measures adopted for their solution, with a view to incorporating the results of these studies in future reports on the world social situation;

7. *Invites* the co-operation of the specialized agencies concerned, the functional commissions and committees of the Economic and Social Council, the regional

economic commissions, the regional development planning institutes and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in these endeavours;

8. *Requests* the competent bodies of the United Nations to continue and to extend the facilities granted for the training abroad of national cadres, and to promote and encourage the local and regional training of cadres of the higher and intermediate levels, in order that the indigenous populations may participate with increasing skill in social and economic development;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session on the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to devote, at its nineteenth and future sessions, the necessary number of meetings to the consideration of practical measures in the social field, so as to promote speedy social and economic progress and to attain the objectives of the Decade.

1274th plenary meeting,
5 December 1963.

1917 (XVIII). Housing, building and planning

The General Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning on its first session,³ the relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council,⁴ and Council resolutions 975 F (XXXVI) and 976 (XXXVI) of 1 August 1963,

Concerned at the critical deficiency of housing and related amenities in the developing countries owing to over-rapid urbanization in a setting of slow economic and industrial growth and scarce resources,

Recalling its resolution 1508 (XV) of 12 December 1960 and Economic and Social Council resolution 976 E (XXXVI) on the establishment of a United Nations programme of pilot projects in housing, building and planning,

1. *Invites* the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to prepare as soon as possible recommendations to Governments suggesting practical and effective measures they may take to solve their housing problems;

2. *Recommends* that as a matter of priority the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning should suggest appropriate means of emergency action during the second half of the United Nations Development Decade and that it should:

(a) Study and recommend practical methods of establishing appropriate national bodies which could promote the development of national building industries;

(b) Prepare suitable targets for housing and environmental development consistent with the targets for the Decade set out in the Secretary-General's proposals⁵ and in Economic and Social Council resolution 916 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962;

(c) Suggest practical methods and criteria for establishing appropriate standards for such action along the lines of Economic and Social Council resolution 975 F

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13 (E/3719/Rev.1), chapter IV.*

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/5503), chapter IX, paras. 387-396.*

⁵ *The United Nations Development Decade: Proposals for action* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.II.B.2).