their production of food-stuffs accompanied by a high population growth rate, and at the reduction of surplus stocks of such food-stuffs in the exporting countries,

Taking note of the fact that, according to the third world food survey carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the total food supplies in the developing countries should increase between 1957-1959 and 1975, by some 80 per cent to ensure a reasonable rise in nutrition levels,6

Considering that international food aid should be the subject of concerted and planned measures designed to make available to the developing countries a more regular flow of food-stuffs supplementing outside financial resources, with a view to supporting the efforts of those countries to finance their development, and more particularly to ensure the growth of their agricultural production, to absorb unemployment and, in the short term, to make good their food shortage,

Having considered the Secretary-General’s report on the arrangements made with a view to the preparation of the programme of studies called for in General Assembly resolution 2096 (XX),7 and drawing attention particularly to the need for modification of the draft outline for an inter-agency study on multilateral food aid to take into account the discussions in the intergovernmental bodies concerned and in the light of further inter-agency consultations,

Having considered further the extract from the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its fortieth session concerning the international study of multilateral food aid,8 containing, inter alia, suggestions for modifications of the draft outline for the study prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2096 (XX),

Considering that although, according to the present work schedule, the final report called for in General Assembly resolution 2096 (XX) will not be available before the beginning of 1968, it is nevertheless necessary that the first studies prepared should be taken into consideration at the second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and at other international meetings dealing with the question of food-stuffs,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with the other organizations and programmes concerned, and taking advantage of the facilities of the United Nations, including in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) To bear in mind the second, third and fourth preambular paragraphs of the present resolution, the suggestions contained in the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its fortieth session concerning the draft outline for the inter-agency study, and the suggestions formulated by members of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-first session;

(b) To submit as soon as possible the study called for in General Assembly resolution 2096 (XX), taking into account the views of the States Members of the


8 Ibid., document E/4256.
United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the work done by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in connexion with the Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development;

2. Welcomes the Secretary-General’s statement to the Economic and Social Council¹⁹ that the study in question should constitute a guide for policy-making consideration;

3. Expresses its satisfaction at the Secretary-General’s decision to submit, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with other interested international organizations and programmes, a detailed preliminary report on the first results obtained in the preparation of the above-mentioned study;²⁰

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit that report to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-third session and to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session.

1473rd plenary meeting, 22 November 1966.

2158 (XXI). Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 523 (VI) of 12 January 1952, 626 (VII) of 21 December 1952 and 1515 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling further its resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on permanent sovereignty over natural resources,

Recognizing that the natural resources of the developing countries constitute a basis of their economic development in general and of their industrial progress in particular,

Bearing in mind that natural resources are limited and in many cases exhaustible and that their proper exploitation determines the conditions of the economic development of the developing countries both at present and in the future,

Considering that, in order to safeguard the exercise of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, it is essential that their exploitation and marketing should be aimed at securing the highest possible rate of growth of the developing countries,

Considering further that this aim can better be achieved if the developing countries are in a position to undertake themselves the exploitation and marketing of their natural resources so that they may exercise their freedom of choice in the various fields related to the utilization of natural resources under the most favourable conditions,

Taking into account the fact that foreign capital, whether public or private, forthcoming at the request of the developing countries, can play an important role inasmuch as it supplements the efforts undertaken by them in the exploitation and development of their natural resources, provided that there is government supervision over the activity of foreign capital to ensure that it is used in the interests of national development,

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1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all countries to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources in the interest of their national development, in conformity with the spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and as recognized in General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII);

2. Declares, therefore, that the United Nations should undertake a maximum concerted effort to channel its activities so as to enable all countries to exercise that right fully;

3. States that such an effort should help in achieving the maximum possible development of the natural resources of the developing countries and in strengthening their ability to undertake this development themselves, so that they might effectively exercise their choice in deciding the manner in which the exploitation and marketing of their natural resources should be carried out;

4. Confirms that the exploitation of natural resources in each country shall always be conducted in accordance with its national laws and regulations;

5. Recognizes the right of all countries, and in particular of the developing countries, to secure and increase their share in the administration of enterprises which are fully or partly operated by foreign capital and to have a greater share in the advantages and profits derived therefrom on an equitable basis, with due regard to the development needs and objectives of the peoples concerned and to mutually acceptable contractual practices, and calls upon the countries from which such capital originates to refrain from any action which would hinder the exercise of that right;

6. Considers that, when natural resources of the developing countries are exploited by foreign investors, the latter should undertake proper and accelerated training of national personnel at all levels and in all fields connected with such exploitation;

7. Calls upon the developed countries to make available to the developing countries, at their request, assistance, including capital goods and know-how, for the exploitation and marketing of their natural resources in order to accelerate their economic development, and to refrain from placing on the world market non-commercial reserves of primary commodities which may have an adverse effect on the foreign exchange earnings of the developing countries;

8. Recognizes that national and international organizations set up by the developing countries for the development and marketing of their natural resources play a significant role in ensuring the exercise of the permanent sovereignty of those countries in this field and should on that account be encouraged;

9. Recommends to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut that, in the execution of their functions, they should keep under review the question of permanent sovereignty over natural resources in the countries of the regions concerned, and the problem of the economic utilization of these resources in the national interests of their peoples;

¹⁹ This statement was made at the 1421st meeting of the Economic and Social Council, the records of which are published in summary form.