

Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to perform these functions.

83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976

31/37. National experience in promoting the co-operative movement

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2459 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1668 (LII) of 1 June 1972,

Recalling the objective expressed in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development for the purpose of favourably influencing the welfare of peoples as well as the peaceful and friendly relations among nations,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order⁹ and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹⁰

Recognizing that the expansion of the co-operative movement in the promotion of social and economic progress is closely linked to structural and institutional reforms which, *inter alia*, aim at equitable distribution of income, popular participation in the development process and equality of opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the fruits of development,

Underlining the appeal to States contained in article 6 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development¹¹ that social progress and development require the participation of all members of society in productive and socially useful labour and the establishment, in conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms and with the principles of justice and the social function of property, of forms of ownership of land and of the means of production which preclude any kind of exploitation of man, ensure equal rights to property for all and create conditions leading to genuine equality among people,

Welcoming the recommendation contained in the Programme of Action¹² adopted by the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour, held at Geneva from 4 to 17 June 1976, that greater importance should be given to the development of co-operatives within the framework of national measures,

Taking note of the progress made by the co-operative movement, both in developed and developing countries, and the contribution made by it in promoting collective self-reliance and mutually beneficial interdependence,

Recognizing the social and economic benefits accruing from producers', consumers', credit, multipurpose and other kinds of co-operatives to all sections of society and, more particularly, to the middle-income and low-income groups,

Stressing the need to assist the rapid development of the multipurpose co-operative movement, particularly in the agricultural and allied rural sectors of economic and social life in the developing countries,

Drawing attention to the lasting benefits enjoyed by large sections of society in urban and rural areas in many parts of the world owing to the noteworthy expansion in co-operative housing projects in the last three decades, and the considerable potential for further activity in this field,

Bearing in mind the positive experience which many countries have already gained in implementing agrarian reforms and in promoting the co-operative movement and which would be conducive to the establishment of the new international economic order and to the realization of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade,¹³

1. *Recognizes* the necessity to pay due attention to the international exchange of experience in the growth and further development and diversification of the co-operative movement;

2. *Invites* Governments and relevant specialized agencies to report to the Secretary-General on their experience in promoting the co-operative movement and in building the necessary socio-economic infrastructure for it;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Member States, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on their national experience in promoting the co-operative movement and on the results so far achieved by international co-operation in this field;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress" and to consider under this item the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement.

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31/38. National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress

The General Assembly,

Guided by the desire to promote a better quality of life, full employment and other conditions for social and economic development,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Mindful of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order¹⁴ as well as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹⁵

Bearing in mind resolutions 1581 A (L) of 21 May 1971, 1667 (LII) of 1 June 1972 and 1746 (LIV) of 16 May 1973, in which the Economic and Social Council emphasized the importance of fundamental

⁹ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

¹⁰ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

¹¹ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

¹² See E/5857.

¹³ See E/5597.

¹⁴ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

¹⁵ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

structural socio-economic changes for the strengthening of national independence and achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress and considered it appropriate to study the experience of various countries in this field,

Recalling that, in resolution 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of every State to carry out fundamental social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and the necessity to continue the studies of national experience in this field,

Desirous of securing a speedy and complete removal of obstacles to the economic and social progress of peoples, especially colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, aggression, foreign occupation or domination and all forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples,

Convinced that peaceful coexistence and friendly relations among States would contribute to economic and social development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶ prepared on the basis of information received from Governments on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of all nations to pursue freely their economic and social development and to exercise full sovereignty over all their riches and natural resources;

2. *Considers* that the elimination of all forms of subjugation and dependence such as aggression, foreign occupation, colonialism, *apartheid*, racism and all forms of racial discrimination constitutes a prerequisite for social and economic advancement;

3. *Emphasizes* that the carrying out of internal basic socio-economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure speedy improvement of the well-being of the population is of great importance for the achievement of social and economic progress;

4. *Re-emphasizes* the advisability of holding, within the programme of advisory services, regular inter-regional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

5. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions to pay special attention, on a regular basis, to studies and analyses of national experience in carrying out far-reaching socio-economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Commission for Social Development and/or the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report prepared on the basis of information received from Governments on national experience in carrying out far-reaching changes for the purpose of social progress;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress".

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¹⁶ A/10166.

31/39. Preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

Referring to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁷ in particular to article 15, which reaffirms the right of everyone to participate in the preservation and development of culture, and being aware that one of the bases of international co-operation in the cultural field is mutual respect for cultural integrity,

Considering that the cultural dimension of development is integral to the whole development process,

Convinced that the development of cultural values, cultural exchange and co-operation contribute to a better understanding among States, peoples and individuals and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security, which is an important pre-condition for socio-economic progress,

Stressing the need to evolve a harmonious blend of the cultural values of the traditional civilizations with developments in science and technology,

Profoundly convinced of the urgent need to develop international cultural relations,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of the preservation and further development of cultural values,¹⁸

Noting with satisfaction the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in increasing awareness of the need for concerted action in the field of preservation and further development of cultural values,

1. *Requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the General Assembly early in 1978 a progress report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII);

2. *Further requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue efforts and research in this field and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Preservation and further development of cultural values".

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31/40. Protection and restitution of works of art as part of the preservation and further development of cultural values

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,

¹⁷ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁸ A/31/111, annex.