

would be committed to mobilizing financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa, in accordance with the criteria for holding international years set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.

*115th plenary meeting  
21 December 1982*

### 37/247. Food problems

#### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference<sup>225</sup> and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,<sup>226</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 34/110 of 14 December 1979 and 35/68 of 5 December 1980 on the report of the World Food Council and 35/69 of 5 December 1980 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa, as well as its resolutions 36/185 and 36/186 of 17 December 1981,

*Having considered* the report of the World Food Council on the work of its eighth ministerial session<sup>227</sup> and the seventh annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes,<sup>228</sup>

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government and people of Mexico for acting as host to the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial session, held at Acapulco, from 21 to 24 June 1982, and for the generous hospitality accorded to the participants,

*Concerned* that progress towards realizing food policy objectives, particularly in developing countries, is impeded by the prolonged world recession, growing production costs, high interest rates and inflation and by growing international political tension,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the fact that a substantial part of world resources, material as well as human, continues to be diverted to armaments with a detrimental effect on international security and on efforts to achieve the new international economic order, including the solution of food problems, and calling upon Governments to take effective measures in the field of real disarmament that would increase the possibilities of allocation of the resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, especially development of developing countries, and to upgrading their food conditions,

*Recognizing* that a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries is essential for the adequate financing of their overall economic development and their imports of food and agricultural inputs,

*Noting* the need for all countries, particularly the developed countries, to adopt policies designed to bring about the reduction and elimination of obstacles in order to avoid disruption of international trade in agricultural products and to facilitate access to international markets of agricultural exports, especially those of developing countries,

*Urging* all countries to consider improvements in the generalized system of preferences, including the inclusion of additional agricultural products, especially those of export interest to least developed countries,

*Recognizing* that the lasting solution to the problems of food and agriculture in developing countries depends on progress towards the attainment of self-reliance through increased food and agricultural production and investment as part of the overall development of those countries within the framework of structural changes in international economic relations,

*Emphasizing* that, within the framework of national economic development, due priority must be given to the development of the food sector,

*Deeply concerned* about the precarious nature of the food situation and the alarming trends of the growing food import dependency in many of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, while noting the increase in world food production in the past year,

*Emphasizing* that African countries, in particular, require the strongest assistance of the international community for their efforts to reverse the trend of deteriorating food production and of growing hunger and malnutrition in their region, in support of essential policy adjustments by African Governments within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,<sup>224</sup>

*Concerned* with the continuing instability of food supply occasioned by fluctuating production and prices in international grain markets and with increased food security risks for many developing countries and reduced self-reliance engendered by uncertain returns to domestic producers,

*Regretting* the fact that international assistance to the food and agricultural sector in developing countries has been decreasing since 1979 and is now lagging far behind the internationally estimated requirements,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial session;<sup>229</sup>

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the seventh annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;

3. *Commends* the developing countries that have achieved increased food self-reliance through a determined application of policies, resources and technology and urges that such efforts should be continued;

4. *Calls upon* the Governments concerned to implement agrarian reform and rural development within the framework of their national plans and objectives and in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhancing the role of multilateral assistance in support of food production and agricultural development in the developing countries;

<sup>225</sup> *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

<sup>226</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP), part one.

<sup>227</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/37/19).

<sup>228</sup> See E/1982/73.

<sup>229</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/37/19), part one.

6. *Urges* the international community, in adopting multilateral measures in the food sector, to take particularly into account the problems and interests of food-producing and food-exporting developing countries;

7. *Reaffirms* that food is a universal human right which Governments endeavour to guarantee their people and, in that context, stresses its belief in the general principle that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure;

8. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the growing number of countries that are adopting a more integrated approach to food policy, including food-sector strategies, as one of the means for interested developing countries to translate their own priorities into effective action and to mobilize, within the context of their national plans and priorities, increased technical and financial resources and co-operation from international development assistance agencies;

9. *Requests* the developed countries, international institutions and others able to provide development assistance to increase the volume substantially and to improve the quality of international assistance to the food sector in developing countries, for which the estimated necessary element of external assistance is \$8.3 billion, growing to \$12.5 billion by 1990, both figures at 1975 prices;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme and donor countries in mobilizing technical and financial support in favour of special labour-intensive public works programmes in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, which help to mobilize their food production potential, expand employment opportunities and generate incomes in the rural sector;

11. *Urges* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, other international organizations concerned and donor countries to expand measures to assist developing countries in the implementation of their food strategies, plans and programmes;

12. *Invites* Governments concerned to adopt direct hunger-reduction measures integrated with productive development within the framework of national strategies and policies, including, *inter alia*, more assistance to rural development to reach smallholder producers and co-operatives, special attention to the needs of women farmers, investment in human capacities through programmes for mothers and children, the creation of productive employment for poor landless families and an increase in food aid;

13. *Welcomes* the recommendation of the World Food Council to pay particular attention to progress in integrating food aid more directly in national plans to overcome hunger, and to more effective ways of achieving higher levels of food production, taking into account the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;<sup>230</sup>

14. *Urges* present and new donor countries to achieve without delay the minimum target of the 1974 World Food Conference<sup>231</sup> of 10 million tons of cereal aid annually and to ensure that the minimum annual target of 500,000 tons of grains for the International Emergency Food Reserve is reached, as in 1981, and to ensure that the World Food Programme target of \$1.2 billion in 1983/1984 is fulfilled;

15. *Urges* that, in the implementation of food aid policies and programmes, a greater volume of food and agricultural products be acquired from food-exporting developing countries, where appropriate, including through triangular transactions;

16. *Recognizes* the need for increased food production and food self-reliance of developing countries to overcome hunger and malnutrition and, in this context, also recognizes the transitional role of food aid;

17. *Urges* the international community to provide increased assistance in support of essential policy adjustments by African Governments, within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, to alleviate food deficits in Africa, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the African Ministers for Food and Agriculture at the World Food Council Regional Consultation for Africa, held at Nairobi on 16 and 17 March 1982,<sup>232</sup> and endorsed by the Council at its eighth ministerial session, in particular through:

(a) The speeding up of national food-strategy implementation and financing, with emphasis on policies, particularly those improving producer incentives and raising the standard of living of the rural population;

(b) Stepped-up training in food-policy planning and investment preparation and management;

(c) Substantially increased technical and resource support for adaptive research, technology and related services to farmers, with emphasis on early low-cost improvement in cultivation practices;

(d) Improved food-security infrastructure, including transport, storage and marketing;

18. *Further urges* developed countries, and others in a position to do so, to increase assistance to developing countries in meeting their needs for technological progress in food and agricultural matters and the development of agro-industries related to food problems;

19. *Affirms* the important role of agro-scientific research in the promotion of agriculture and food production, processing, storage and reduction of food and grain losses, and urges all States, relevant international organizations and agencies to strengthen their capacities in agro-scientific research and to take effective measures aimed at promoting transfer of agro-technology to the developing countries;

20. *Affirms* that a sound basis for world food security can best be established by successful national programmes for attaining food self-reliance through increased food and agricultural production and investment in developing countries, as well as more open and more stable world trade and assurance of supplies;

21. *Notes with interest* the appreciation expressed by the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial meeting on the proposal for a developing country-owned reserve, giving priority to the food security needs of individual developing countries and to enhance grain market stability and, in that context, calls upon the World Food Council to consider, at its ninth session, the proposals it has requested of its Executive Director on possible ways of building food security reserves;<sup>233</sup>

22. *Expresses concern* at the lack of sufficient progress in different negotiating forums in connection with proposals to bring about the reduction and elimination of the various types of barriers to trade in agricultural products, in particular in relation to those of export interest to developing

<sup>230</sup> *Ibid.*, part one, para. 12.

<sup>231</sup> See *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II, resolution XVIII, para. 2.

<sup>232</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19)*, annex III.

<sup>233</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19), part one, para. 26.

countries, and calls for urgent action in this regard in those forums, thus facilitating, *inter alia*, more efficient patterns of production;

23. *Notes with great concern* the continued instability and downward trends in prices of agricultural commodities exported in particular by developing countries, which are adversely affecting the production of these commodities in those countries;

24. *Notes that* the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, at their recent ministerial meeting, in recognition of the urgent need to find lasting solutions to the problems of trade in agricultural products, agreed to establish a committee on trade in agriculture to examine, *inter alia*, all measures affecting trade, market access and competition and supply in agricultural products, with full account being taken of the special needs of developing countries in the light of the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade providing for differential and more favourable treatment for such contracting parties;

25. *Notes further that* the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, at that meeting, did not succeed in reconciling divergent views on certain substantial issues of agricultural trade;

26. *Notes with deep concern* that only limited progress has been achieved towards the solution of the long-standing problems of international trade in agricultural products, including access to international markets of agricultural exports, which adversely affect production and exports, particularly of developing countries, and the solution to which could make an important contribution to improving overall food production in the world;

27. *Urges* developed countries to make their best efforts to adjust those sectors of their agricultural and manufacturing economies which, for those countries, require support with regard to exports from developing countries, thus facilitating, *inter alia*, access to markets of food and agricultural products;

28. *Urges* the international community to implement resolution 105 (V) of 1 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on international food trade<sup>234</sup> and, in this context, invites the Conference, at its sixth session, to review progress in this regard;

29. *Requests* the international organizations concerned, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, and the developed countries to assist further the developing countries in their efforts to implement programmes and projects of economic co-operation among developing countries in the sectors of food production, food security and food trade;

30. *Stresses* the desirability of co-ordinating the efforts being made, in the various international forums concerned, with regard to world food problems;

31. *Welcomes* the decision of the World Food Council that its tenth session in 1984 would be the occasion to prepare a special assessment of progress made and the tasks ahead to achieve the objectives of the 1974 World Food Conference<sup>235</sup> and requests the Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on progress in the arrangements being made for the convening of the tenth session.

*115th plenary meeting  
21 December 1982*

<sup>234</sup> See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

<sup>235</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19)*, part two, para. 126.

### 37/248. Co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference

*The General Assembly,*

*Having heard* the statement made on behalf of the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) by the representative of Botswana<sup>236</sup> as Chairman of the Conference,

*Noting that* the aims of the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference are to strengthen their economies, to reduce their economic dependence, in particular but not only on South Africa, to forge links between member States in order to create genuine and equitable regional integration, to mobilize resources for the implementation of national, inter-State and regional policies and to harmonize action to secure international co-operation within the framework of the strategy for economic liberation,

*Recalling* its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

*Recalling also* its resolution 35/66 B of 5 December 1980 and section II of resolution 36/182 of 17 December 1981 on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, resolutions 36/180 of 17 December 1981 on special measures for the social and economic development of Africa in the 1980s, 36/177 of 17 December 1981 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 35/58 of 5 December 1980 on the specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries and 36/194 of 17 December 1981, in which it endorsed the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>237</sup>

*Recalling further* paragraph 26 of its resolution 36/121 B of 10 December 1981, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive programme of assistance to States which are neighbours of South Africa and Namibia, with a view to enabling those States to move towards complete self-reliance,

*Recognizing that* primary responsibility for their development rests with those States and that there is an increasing commitment by the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference to deploy domestic resources towards the implementation of its programmes,

*Welcoming* the initiative taken by the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, some of which are least developed and land-locked developing countries, to implement an integrated and co-ordinated regional economic strategy aimed at collective self-reliance and autonomous development in harmony with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,<sup>238</sup>

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*, *Thirty-seventh Session, Second Committee*, paras. 32-37.

<sup>237</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.1.8), part one, sect. A.

<sup>238</sup> A/S-11/14, annex I.