

vide updated information on the proposals for convening an international conference on monetary issues made in recent years by Governments, prominent persons and organizations.

*83rd plenary meeting
20 December 1988*

43/188. Report of the Trade and Development Board

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended,²⁶ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Final Act adopted by the Conference at its seventh session, held at Geneva from 9 July to 3 August 1987,²⁷

Recalling also its resolution 42/175 of 11 December 1987 on the seventh session of the Conference,

Noting that the *Trade and Development Report, 1988*²⁸ has made a constructive contribution to the consideration by the Trade and Development Board, at the first part of its thirty-fifth session, of the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system, as well as to the Board's consideration of the debt and development problems of the developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its thirty-fourth session,²⁹ and the first part of its thirty-fifth session,³⁰

2. Welcomes the review of the implementation of the guidelines contained in the annex to Board resolution 222 (XXI) of 27 September 1980³¹ undertaken by the Board at its thirty-fifth session and urges the Governments concerned to implement fully the relevant provisions contained in Board resolution 358 (XXXV) of 5 October 1988;³²

3. Urges all Governments, bearing in mind their particular contributions, commensurate with their economic weight, and their commitments as embodied in the Final Act,²⁷ to give full and prompt effect to the policies and measures agreed to therein through continuing action, individually and collectively and in competent international organizations, in pursuit of the objective of revitalizing development, growth and international trade;

4. Requests the Board, in accordance with its mandate, to keep under review the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act;

5. Welcomes the contribution of the Board to intergovernmental discussions on the interdependence of economic issues and policies, particularly in the interrelated areas of trade, money, finance, debt, commodities and development, and notes the efforts under way to enhance the outcome of the Board's debates on interdependence, as well as the substantive linkages with other discussions on related questions in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other organizations;

6. Stresses that it is important that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations respond positively to the interests and concerns of all parties thereto, in accordance with its objectives, and that it promote growth and development, particularly in developing countries;

7. Invites the Board to continue to follow closely developments and issues in the Uruguay Round that are of particular concern to the developing countries;

8. Notes that the Board has been requested to review and study, in depth, developments in the international trading system; in doing so it could, respecting the principles of most-favoured-nation treatment and non-discrimination, make recommendations on principles and policies related to international trade and make proposals as to the strengthening and improvement of the trading system, with a view to giving it a more universal and dynamic character, as well as to making it more responsive to the needs of developing countries and supportive of accelerated economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries;

9. Notes also the imminent entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities³³ and invites the ratifying States, with the active support of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take the necessary action to bring the Common Fund into operation at an early date as an important and useful instrument of international co-operation on commodities;

10. Takes note of Board decision 356 (XXXIV) of 10 May 1988 containing agreed conclusions regarding trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems, urges the Board to elaborate further a programme for the promotion of trade and economic co-operation among countries having different economic and social systems, in particular East-South trade, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in his consultations referred to in paragraph 105 (27) of the Final Act, to seek ways and means of broadening and strengthening inter-system trade relations, in particular East-South trade;

11. Invites the Board to contribute effectively to the preparations for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, in close co-operation with the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

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43/189. Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

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

²⁶ See resolutions 2904 (XXVII), 31/2 A and B and 34/3.

²⁷ See TD/350.

²⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.II.D.8 and corrigendum.

²⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/43/15), vol. I.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. II.

³¹ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/35/15), vol. II, annex I.*

³² *Ibid.*, *Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/43/15), vol. II, sect. II.A.*

³³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.II.D.8.

Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Reiterating the call for specific action in favour of island developing countries contained in its resolution 41/163 of 5 December 1986, and in resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976,³⁴ 111 (V) of 3 June 1979³⁵ and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983³⁶ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as decision 86/33 of 27 June 1986 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the special needs of island developing countries,³⁷

Recognizing that, in addition to the general problems facing developing countries, island developing countries also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining fresh water supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

Recognizing also that many of the above factors occur concurrently in island developing countries, resulting in economic and social vulnerability and dependence, particularly in those countries which are small and/or geographically dispersed,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 41/163 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to States and to organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system that have responded to the special needs of island developing countries;

3. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in convening a meeting of the Group of Experts on Island Developing Countries at Valletta on 24 and 25 May 1988, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Malta for acting as host to the meeting;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Valletta meeting³⁸ and of the report of the Secretary-General on specific problems and special needs of island developing countries;³⁹

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by island developing countries to adopt policies that address their specific problems, including efforts at regional co-operation and integration, and calls upon those countries to continue to pursue, in accordance with their national objectives, policies and priorities, further measures to render their economies less vulnerable to the adverse consequences of their specific situations;

6. *Appeals* to the international community:

(a) To maintain and, if possible, increase the level of concessional financial and technical assistance provided to island developing countries;

(b) To maximize access of island developing countries to concessional financial and technical assistance by taking into account the specific development needs and problems facing those countries;

(c) To consider reviewing the mechanisms of existing procedures used in providing concessional resources to island developing countries;

(d) To ensure that assistance conforms to the national and, as appropriate, regional priorities of island developing countries;

(e) To provide support to island developing countries over a mutually agreed and, where appropriate, longer time-frame to enable them to achieve economic growth and development;

(f) To consider improving existing arrangements for the compensation of island developing countries for adverse effects on their export earnings and to consider wider adoption of such arrangements;

(g) To continue to ensure that a concerted effort is made to assist island developing countries, at their request, in improving their administrative capacities and in satisfying their overall needs with regard to the development of human resources;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to consider improving measures, within existing trade arrangements, in favour of island developing countries according to their special circumstances, taking into account particularly the special needs and problems of small island developing countries;

8. *Urges once again* relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries and to report on such measures, as appropriate;

9. *Urges* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen its role as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries and to act as a catalyst in this regard, *inter alia*, by organizing and facilitating the cross-regional interchange of information and experience in full co-operation with regional and subregional organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, as appropriate;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, taking into account work already done on this issue, including that envisaged in paragraph 9 above, to identify within the appropriate inter-agency framework the problems of island developing countries, in particular those of small island developing countries, in order to elaborate specific measures that the international community might take to address those problems;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and donor countries and organizations to review the problems of island developing countries and propose appropriate concrete action with respect to those countries;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

³⁴ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, *Fifth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, *Sixth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

³⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 9 and corrigendum* (E/1986/29 and Corr.1), annex I.

³⁸ UNCTAD/ST/LDC/9.

³⁹ A/43/513 and Corr.1.