

V. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

103. The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have a special responsibility for the pursuit of the goals and objectives of the present Strategy. The system has played a unique role in bringing the development issue to the attention of the international community. Through its studies on the several aspects of the development problem, both national and international, through the international conferences it has convened on major issues, through the understandings, conventions and agreements it has helped to negotiate—some of them of a legal or quasi-legal character—and not least through the technical assistance it has provided to developing countries, it has made an invaluable contribution to ideas, policies and actions in the realm of development. This role must not only continue but must be strengthened and expanded in the 1990s with the support and encouragement of Member States.

104. Virtually every aspect of the Strategy falls within the areas of concern of the various parts of the United Nations system. In many such areas and sectors, goals and targets for the coming decade and the actions needed for realizing them have already been agreed upon by Member States and are crucial to the implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy also provides guidelines for further work on the evolution of policies and programmes and on seeking agreements for new actions. Major conferences of the United Nations system are already scheduled for the initial years and there will be others in the period beyond. These will be important occasions for reaching agreements that give more specific content to the actions and commitments needed to realize the goals of the Strategy.

105. The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system thus have a vital role to play in furthering the analytical work of relevance to the elaboration and implementation of the Strategy, in promoting and securing the international co-operation needed and in providing technical assistance. The work of the international system should be given greater coherence by closer inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination and by organizational measures that strengthen the contribution of the system to development. The Strategy provides an initial framework for these objectives. The review of the functioning of the United Nations system should continue to be pursued with this aim in view; all of its Member States have a responsibility for making it more effective and efficient.

106. The Secretary-General is encouraged to continue, by such means as he deems appropriate, his efforts to facilitate the solution to the debt problems of developing countries, taking into account all relevant proposals. In addition, the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system should undertake follow-up measures pertaining to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

107. The growing interdependence in the world economy and the increasing linkages between various issues, such as money and finance, trade and development, give a new urgency to the co-ordination of macro-economic policies and management at the international level. The United Nations should play its role in this area as envisaged in the provisions of the Charter relating to the functions of the Economic and Social Council.

VI. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

108. A process of review and appraisal should be an integral part of the Strategy so as to ensure its effective implementation. This process should be undertaken at the national level by the respective Member States. But it needs also to be undertaken within the United Nations system at the global, sectoral and regional levels. It should provide an opportunity to give the necessary political stimulus, in the light of evolving needs and developments. It must be expected that conditions in the course of the decade will change in ways that cannot now be foreseen, and there is thus a case for permanent monitoring and periodic review, allowing, when necessary, for amendments and revisions to the Strategy.

109. The recent events in the Gulf region are having repercussions on the immediate economic outlook of many countries, particularly in energy and trade balances. While it is not possible, in view of the uncertainties, to take account of them at present, it is important to keep the situation under review to determine whether in the context of the Strategy additional measures are required.

110. The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system will play an important catalytic role in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the present Strategy in their respective areas of competence.

111. The machinery for continued monitoring exists: the various agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions issue annual reports, which, in effect, monitor the state of progress in virtually every area of international development. Governments participate in numerous debates in the specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in which the state of progress in international development is a major theme. In this sense, review and appraisal is already built into the procedures of the United Nations system.

112. Nevertheless, review and appraisal relating directly to the progress of the Strategy as a whole is also needed on a periodic basis. This should be carried out biennially by the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, with an item on the implementation of the Strategy included in their agendas. The Secretary-General should submit appropriate recommendations in order to assist in this process of review and appraisal.

45/200. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended,⁴⁷ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Conference resolutions 93 (IV) of 30 May 1976 on the Integrated Programme for Commodities,⁴⁸ 124 (V) of 3 June 1979⁴⁹ and 155 (VI), 156 (VI) and 157 (VI) of 2 July 1983,⁵⁰ the Final Act adopted by the Conference at its seventh session, held at Geneva from 9 July to 3 August 1987,⁵¹ and the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities,⁵² which entered into force on 19 June 1989,

Recalling also its resolutions 41/168 of 5 December 1986, 43/27 of 18 November 1988 and 44/218 of 22 December 1989,

Recognizing that commodity exports continue to play a key role in the economies of developing countries as a whole, as a major source of export earnings, investment and livelihood,

Noting that the changes in Central and Eastern Europe may have important effects on commodity production and trade and that these developments, as well as the potential for expanding South-South trade in commodities, should be fully explored,

Concerned that the problems associated with instability and shortfalls in export earnings are aggravated by commodity prices that, by historical standards, are at generally low levels,

Noting with concern that significant shortfalls in export earnings of commodities have caused serious difficulties in implementing long-term development plans and objectives, as well as in pursuing adjustment efforts,

⁴⁷ See resolutions 2904 (XXVII), 31/2 A and B and 34/3.

⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, *Fifth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, *Sixth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, *Seventh Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.II.D.1), part one, sect. A.1.

⁵² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.II.D.8 and corrigendum.

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by developing countries in financing and implementing diversification programmes,

Bearing in mind the fact that the upstream and downstream linkages between the commodity sector and the national economy need to be strengthened in many developing countries,

Considering that a particularly important role is played by the export of commodities in the economies of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects, with particular reference to the situation of commodity-dependent developing countries;⁵³

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and transformation in commodity-dependent developing countries by ensuring that developments in the commodity sector contribute effectively to the generation of growth and development in other sectors of the economy, as well as to the eradication of poverty and, in this context, stresses the importance of the diversification efforts of commodity-exporting developing countries;

3. *Urges* the increased active participation in and better use of forums of consumers and producers as a means of exchanging information on, *inter alia*, investment plans, prospects and markets for individual commodities and as a means of facilitating direct contacts among the partners involved, and urges the establishment, where appropriate and feasible, of such forums for commodities for which they do not yet exist;

4. *Expresses its conviction* that supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through greater transparency and to create more stable and predictable conditions in commodity trade contribute significantly to the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to revitalize their development;

5. *Recognizes* that, as a means of strengthening the national economies of commodity-dependent developing countries, national and international efforts should, *inter alia*, be based on the following:

(a) A clear assessment of both the agricultural and the minerals potential and the integration of the commodity sector in the overall development strategy;

(b) A better understanding and strengthened complementarity of industry and market structures and of marketing systems at both national and international levels, having regard to the advantages of regional trade;

(c) Increased access to finance, technologies and markets;

(d) The elaboration and implementation of diversification programmes, including programmes for greater self-sufficiency in food;

6. *Also recognizes* the urgent need to strengthen efforts to address the grave problem of shortfalls in the commodity-export earnings of developing countries and notes, in this regard, the outcome of the sixteenth

special session of the Trade and Development Board, devoted to compensatory financing, and takes note of the decision of the Committee on Commodities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development that the issue of export-earning shortfalls and compensatory financing should figure as a specific issue for discussion at its next session;

7. *Stresses* that decisions on diversification are primarily the responsibility of developing countries, and emphasizes, in that context, the need for continued implementation of their diversification programmes, bearing in mind the long-term evolution of market conditions and the linkage between diversification efforts and market access, and invites developed countries, international financial institutions and other relevant organizations to extend financial support to such diversification programmes;

8. *Reiterates its conviction* that more stable market conditions for commodities would be conducive to the social and economic development of developing countries and could, *inter alia*, contribute to the international campaign against illicit production of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs, thus supporting the efforts undertaken by countries to combat such illicit activities;

9. *Urges* all the parties involved to meet their agreed commitments and to work for a balanced outcome to the multilateral trade negotiations within the Uruguay Round so as to ensure that the successful conclusion of the negotiations brings about further expansion and liberalization of trade in commodities, taking into account the special and differential treatment for developing countries, as well as all other principles contained in the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round;⁴³

10. *Notes* the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities, the voluntary contributions pledged by countries that are members of the Common Fund and the hope expressed by the member countries that further contributions will be forthcoming;

11. *Notes also* that it is the desire of the members of the Common Fund that countries, particularly major exporters and consumers of commodities, that have not yet ratified the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities⁵² should do so as soon as possible;

12. *Stresses* that international commodity agreements and arrangements can have an important role to play in resolving commodity problems, where they involve the participation of all major producers and consumers and where they are aimed at improving transparency and at better functioning of commodity markets, and, in this context, calls for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its seventh session;⁵¹

13. *Urges* the Conference at its eighth session to address all aspects of commodity problems in a comprehensive manner and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on world commodity trends and prospects, with particular reference to the situation of commodity-dependent developing countries, in the light of the outcome of the eighth session of the Con-

⁵³ A/45/442 and Corr.1.

ference, bearing in mind the relevant conclusions of the Committee on Commodities at its fourteenth session;

14. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990

45/201. Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990,

Noting the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and its Protocol of Provisional Application of 30 October 1947⁵⁴ and General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964 on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Noting also the institutional proposals made in connection with the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, launched during the Special Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 20 September 1986, related to the strengthening of multilateral organizations in the area of international trade,

Stressing the principle of free and fair global trade, which should be conducive to a significant enhancement of the trade and development prospects of all countries, in particular developing countries,

Stressing also the need for strengthening institutional arrangements in the area of international trade, with a view to reinforcing further the multilateral trading system,

1. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/57 of 26 July 1990, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on institutional developments, taking into account all relevant proposals, related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested, to solicit the views of all Governments and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on this matter.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990

45/202. Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the requests for specific action in favour of island developing countries contained in its resolutions 41/163 of 5 December 1986 and 43/189 of 20 December

1988, and in resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976,⁴⁸ 111 (V) of 3 June 1979⁴⁹ and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983⁵⁰ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and recalling 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,⁵⁵

Recognizing that, in addition to the general problems of development, many island developing countries experience specific problems arising from the interplay of such factors as their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints on 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, shortages of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

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

Noting that many island developing countries are also least developed countries and, in that context, taking note of the relevant provisions contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990,¹⁵

Recognizing that many of the problems facing island developing countries require a strengthened partnership between the countries concerned and other members of the international community,

Concerned about the adverse effects on island developing countries of sea-level rise resulting from climate change,

Taking note of the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York from 25 to 29 June 1990,⁵⁶

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 43/189 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and 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. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for convening the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, as called for in paragraph 11 of resolution 43/189;

⁵⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 9* and corrigendum (E/1986/29 and Corr.1), annex 1.

⁵⁶ A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4.

⁵⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 55, No. 814.1(c).