

523 (VI). Integrated economic development and commercial agreements

The General Assembly,

Considering that the under-developed countries have the right to determine freely the use of their natural resources and that they must utilize such resources in order to be in a better position to further the realization of their plans of economic development in accordance with their national interests, and to further the expansion of the world economy,

Considering that the existing sharp increase in the demand for raw materials, including the demand for stock-piling has resulted in an increase in the prices of a number of raw materials and in fluctuations in the prices of others; has in many cases been accompanied by increased prices and reduced availability of important items of machinery, equipment, consumer goods and industrial raw materials necessary for the development of under-developed countries; has created inflationary pressures and brought about the regulation of prices at different relative levels for different products and has thereby caused or increased the economic difficulties in many of the under-developed countries,

Recognizing that continued domestic and external inflationary pressures, if unchecked, are likely to affect unfavourably the rate and pattern of economic development of the under-developed countries,

Bearing in mind that one way of obtaining the means necessary for carrying out economic development plans in under-developed countries is the creation of conditions under which these countries could more readily acquire machinery, equipment and industrial raw materials for the goods and services exported by them,

1. *Recommends* that Members of the United Nations, within the framework of their general economic policy, should:

(a) Continue to make every possible effort to carry out the recommendations contained in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 341 (XII), section A, of 20 March 1951;^a

^a Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 341 (XII), section A, are quoted below:

"1. *Recommends* that all Members of the United Nations, during the period of general shortage of goods, take special measures to bring about adequate production and equitable international distribution of capital goods, essential consumers' goods and raw materials especially needed for the maintenance of international peace and security, the preservation of standards of living and the furthering of economic development;

"2. *Recommends* that all Members of the United Nations, during the period of general inflationary pressure, take measures, direct or indirect, to regulate at equitable levels and relationships, the prices of essential goods moving in international trade, including capital goods, essential consumers' goods and raw materials;

"3. *Recommends* that the equitable regulation of distribution and prices referred to in recommendations 1 and 2 above be maintained as long as strong inflationary pressures persist, in order to minimize changes in the purchasing power, in terms of imports, of current earnings from exports as well as of monetary assets;

"4. *Recommends* further that all Members of the United Nations take all steps in their power to prevent the development of inflationary pressures, thereby preventing speculative profits and maintaining the purchasing power of the poorer sections of the population."

(b) Consider the possibility of facilitating through commercial agreements:

(i) The movement of machinery, equipment and industrial raw materials needed by the under-developed countries for their economic development and for the improvement of their standards of living, and

(ii) The development of natural resources which can be utilized for the domestic needs of the under-developed countries and also for the needs of international trade,

provided that such commercial agreements shall not contain economic or political conditions violating the sovereign rights of the under-developed countries, including the right to determine their own plans for economic development;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and its regional economic commissions to encourage government action as recommended in the preceding paragraph and to facilitate such action by any steps which the Council may deem appropriate;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out such studies as will enable governments, the Economic and Social Council and its regional economic commissions to give effect to the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all Members of the United Nations to report to the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session on such action as they may have taken under the present resolution and under Council resolution 341 (XII), section A.

*360th plenary meeting,
12 January 1952.*

524 (VI). Land reform

The General Assembly,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Land Reform—Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*,^a prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 401 (V) of 20 November 1950,

Convinced that in many countries the agrarian structure and, in particular, the systems of land tenure prevent improvement in the economic and social status of those who work the land, impede economic development and cause political instability,

Recognizing that, in view of the great diversity of conditions in under-developed territories in various parts of the world, no one standard measure or group of measures can be considered as best suited to the conditions of all such territories,

Recognizing that, when possible, reforms of systems of land tenure should be undertaken within a general programme of land reform in order effectively to improve the living conditions of agricultural populations,

Believing that rapid improvements in existing agrarian structures and land tenure systems in many under-developed countries require large-scale financial outlays,

Convinced that the form which an equitable and useful re-distribution of the ownership of land should take

^a See United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1951.II.B.3.

depends to a large extent and in many countries on the relationship between density of population, the supply of land and of other resources,

1. *Notes with approval* the statement in the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General concerning the favourable results in the social sphere obtained by countries which granted land and water rights to farmers lacking them;

2. *Approves* the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council with regard to this problem, as set forth in Council resolution 370 (XIII) of 7 September 1951;

3. *Urges* all governments, so far as the recommendations of the above-mentioned resolution are appropriate to the particular technical and financial circumstances of their countries, to carry out these recommendations and to undertake practical steps for implementing land reforms which would:

(a) Assist in increasing agricultural production, in eliminating food shortages, in raising the welfare of the populations of the under-developed countries, and which would safeguard the interest of small and medium-sized farmers and landless agricultural workers who constitute the majority of the rural population of the under-developed countries;

(b) Include measures which will enable farmers to secure agricultural equipment, draught animals, seeds, fertilizers and low-interest agricultural credit and assist them in developing various types of co-operatives for the production and disposal of agricultural products;

(c) Include the adoption of measures to enable agricultural workers, tenants and small and medium-sized farmers to reduce or liquidate indebtedness which may have arisen from unduly high rents, unfavourable conditions of land tenure, and usurious rates of interest and unduly high prices paid in the purchase of seeds, agricultural equipment, draught animals and other facilities;

(d) Include the adoption of appropriate wage and other social legislation for improving the conditions of labour and for raising the living standards of agricultural workers;

(e) Support the already existing agricultural associations and assist, where appropriate, in organizing new associations of landless agricultural workers, tenants and small and medium-sized farmers whose principal interest is in, and who have an active part to play in, the carrying out of all measures provided for under the land reforms;

4. *Further urges* all governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned in the preparation of the reports requested by the Council in paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned resolution;

5. *Urges* the governments of Member States, in working out their fiscal policies, to give active consideration to making funds available for projects of agrarian reform and invites the institutions providing international loans to give sympathetic consideration to loan applications from under-developed countries for development projects which are designed to implement their programmes of agrarian reform including

projects designed to bring new lands under agricultural cultivation, and invites these institutions, consistent with their maintenance as self-supporting entities, to consider making any such loans on terms of interest and amortization designed to place the smallest feasible burden on the borrowing countries;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council, to accord high priority to the recommendations in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Council resolution 370 (XIII); and to be prepared, upon the request of governments, to make specific studies and recommendations for the economic and social betterment of the agricultural population of their countries;

7. *Decides* to place the subject of land reform on the agenda of its seventh regular session and requests the Secretary-General to report to that session with regard to action taken and progress achieved.

*360th plenary meeting,
12 January 1952.*

525 (VI). Food and famine

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the widespread conditions of hunger which prevail in many parts of the world, which conditions are intensified by the fact that the rate of increase of world food production has been less rapid than the rate of growth of the world's population and that this discrepancy between food production and growth of population is especially serious in those parts of the world in which conditions of hunger already prevail,

Concerned with the fact that, in addition to such widespread conditions of hunger, emergency famines are from time to time created by crop failure due to plague, drought, flood, blight, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and similar accidents of a natural character,

Convinced that emergency conditions of famine could make more difficult the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the achievement of the United Nations objectives with respect to the promotion of economic development and human welfare, and the maintenance of peace,

Recalling its resolution 202 (III) of 8 December 1948, and the actions taken by the Economic and Social Council in regard to the problem of food shortages,

Noting the resolutions on "Food shortages and famine" and on "Emergency food reserve", adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its Conference in Rome in December 1951 and annexed hereto,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations in helping to control some of the natural forces that may cause famine,

Expressing its appreciation of the work of the voluntary non-governmental agencies of the several coun-