

**1156 (XII). Expansion of international trade**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1027 (XI) of 20 February 1957 and Economic and Social Council resolution 654 A (XXIV) of 30 July 1957,

*Recognizing* that further expansion of international trade is necessary to full employment and the improvement of living standards of all countries, and especially to the economic development of the less developed countries,

*Recognizing further* that, for achieving the above-mentioned objectives, greater efforts should be made to promote free and fair international competition by eliminating or lowering unduly high tariffs and other unjustifiable barriers to international trade, having due regard to the special problems arising from the economic development needs of the less developed countries,

*Taking into account* its resolution 1028 (XI) of 20 February 1957 concerning the needs of land-locked countries in the matter of transit facilities,

*Considering* that, although existing organizations and agreements concerned with international trade have done valuable work in this field, establishment of the Organization for Trade Co-operation as a permanent international body in this field will further strengthen these organizations and agreements,

*Recalling* that the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Co-operation makes provision with respect to membership for all countries which are or shall become contracting parties to the General Agreement for Tariffs and Trade or with respect to the association of countries invited by the Organization for Trade Co-operation to take part in its work,

1. *Reaffirms* the requests contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1027 (XI) of 20 February 1957, which urges the Governments of Member States to continue their efforts to reduce existing barriers to international trade in a mutually satisfactory manner for the purpose of expanding such trade at the fastest feasible rate;

2. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 654 A (XXIV) of 30 July 1957, and urges the Governments of Member States to take action with a view to approving the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Co-operation at as early a date as possible.

*723rd plenary meeting,  
26 November 1957.*

**1157 (XII). Bases for international economic co-operation**

*The General Assembly,*

*Considering* that the strengthening and development of international economic co-operation is, under the Charter, one of the most important means available to the United Nations for the promotion of peaceful relations among peoples,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have on several occasions adopted resolutions embodying various principles relating to international economic co-operation,

*Taking into account* the fact that a large number of countries have recently been admitted to membership in the United Nations and, consequently, were not represented in the debates on those resolutions,

*Considering* also that, in view of the proposals and opinions submitted and expressed in the General Assembly at its twelfth session, it would be useful for all Member States to have at their disposal a compendium of those principles,

*Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare such a compendium of resolutions or extracts from them, with a subject index, in order to facilitate the study of the resolutions, to transmit the compendium to all Member States as soon as it is prepared, and to inform the Economic and Social Council during 1958 that he has done so.

*723rd plenary meeting,  
26 November 1957.*

**1158 (XII). Activities of the regional economic commissions**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolutions 579 A (XX) and 579 B (XX) of 4 August 1955 on the expansion of world trade and inter-regional trade consultations, and Council resolution 614 A (XXII) of 9 August 1956 on measures for the development of trade co-operation,

*Recognizing* the desirability for a more effective international exchange of views within the framework of the United Nations regarding means of improving international economic conditions, as expressed in Economic and Social Council resolutions 654 A (XXIV) and 654 E (XXIV) of 30 July 1957,

*Considering* that within the scope of their activities the regional economic commission are confronted with similar or related problems,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* of the valuable services of the regional economic commissions, and in particular those rendered in recent years in the realization of projects depending upon co-operation among countries participating in the work of the commissions and tending, on the one hand, to strengthen international economic co-operation and, on the other, to improve economic conditions, especially in the less developed countries;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts being made by each of the regional economic commissions to further co-ordination of its activities and to streamline its work programme, especially in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 630 A I (XXII) of 9 August 1956, as referred to in paragraph 10 of the annex to Council resolution 664 (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, and expresses its belief that these efforts will result in a more effective exchange of information and experience in matters of common interest;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the regional economic commissions will continue, within their respective terms of reference and in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, their valuable services and efforts.

*723rd plenary meeting,  
26 November 1957.*