

Convinced that it is both timely and desirable to undertake such studies,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine:

(a) The national economic and social consequences of disarmament in countries with different economic systems and at different stages of economic development, including, in particular, the problems of replacing military expenditures with alternative private and public civil expenditures so as to maintain effective demand and to absorb the human and material resources released from military uses;

(b) The possible development of structural imbalances in national economies as a result of the cessation of capital investment in armaments industries, and the adoption of possible corrective measures to prevent such imbalances, including expanded capital assistance to the under-developed countries;

(c) The impact of disarmament on international economic relations, including its effect on world trade and especially on the trade of under-developed countries;

(d) The utilization of resources released by disarmament for the purpose of economic and social development, in particular of the under-developed countries;

2. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General should conduct the proposed examination with the assistance of expert consultants to be appointed by him with due regard to their qualifications and to the need of geographical representation and intimate knowledge of countries with different economic systems and at different stages of economic development;

3. *Appeals* to Governments of Member States to give full co-operation to the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of the task entrusted to him;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report on the results of the examination to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-third session;

5. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to transmit the report with its views to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

*948th plenary meeting,
15 December 1960.*

1517 (XV). Projections

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of projections of certain major international economic trends, particularly in the field of primary products,

Aware of the special importance of such projections to the less developed countries, including those which have recently achieved their political independence, for the formulation of their long-term policies and plans for economic development, including the use of their natural resources,

Recalling its resolution 1428 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 on world economic development,

Taking note of the activities of the Economic and Social Council in this field, and in particular of its resolution 777 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 concerning the solution of problems relating to methodology, comparability and collation of relevant data,

Believing that the need to accelerate the economic development of the under-developed countries calls for an intensification of all activities conducted in this field, in order to make available even tentative data on the

medium- and long-term prospects for the production and exports of those countries in the light of the longer-term trends prevailing in the world economy.

1. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 777 (XXX);

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to intensify its work in the field of economic and social projections;

3. *Recommends* that the regional economic commissions continue and intensify their activities in this field;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on International Commodity Trade to continue the consideration of this question at its next session and invites it to make such recommendations as it deems appropriate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Commission on International Commodity Trade, to prepare, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in co-operation with the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, a study containing tentative medium- and long-term projections of the prospective international demand for, and supply of, selected major primary commodities at present exported by the under-developed countries;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit this study, together with a detailed note on the methodology used and the problems encountered, to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its thirty-fourth session and for transmission, with its observations, to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

*948th plenary meeting,
15 December 1960.*

1518 (XV). Decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions

The General Assembly,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Economic and Social Council recognized the value of regional co-operation in the establishment of the United Nations system of regional economic commissions to which the Economic Commission for Africa was added in 1958,

Welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 795 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 on co-ordination in the field, and being aware of the continuing need for regional co-ordination which requires liaison and co-operation between the representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and the specialized agencies and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions,

Recognizing that the regional economic commissions are not limited under their terms of reference to studies and deliberations and are actually performing various operational functions through their secretariats,

Reaffirming its resolution 1158 (XII) of 26 November 1957 on the activities of the regional economic commissions,

Bearing in mind particularly resolutions 11 (II) of 5 February 1960 on multilateral economic and financial assistance to Africa and 19 (II) of 4 February 1960 on concerted action adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa, resolution 31 (XVI) of 18 March 1960 on regional economic co-operation for development of trade and industries adopted by the Economic

Commission for Asia and the Far East, resolutions 153 (VIII) of 22 May 1959 on the joint ECLA/TAO economic development training programme, 155 (VIII) of 22 May 1959 on economic development advisory groups, 172 (AC.45) of 28 March 1960 on the Latin American common market and 173 (AC.45) of 28 March 1960 on Central American economic integration adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America, and resolution 4 (XV) of 5 May 1960 on assistance to the less developed countries adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the conclusion of the Committee on Programme Appraisal of the Economic and Social Council,³ as mentioned in Council resolution 793 (XXX) of 3 August 1960, that the regional economic commissions are playing an increasingly important role in the preparation and carrying out of programmes and activities in the economic and social fields, both as focal centres for the promotion of economic and social development and as meeting grounds for experts who contribute to this development in their respective countries in the several regions;

2. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations to advance further their active support of the United Nations regional economic commissions and all States members of the respective commissions to take further advantage of the facilities and services which could be made available by or through their secretariats;

3. *Urges* the regional economic commissions, with due regard to the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, to strengthen co-operation among themselves and among their executive secretaries, including the exchange of the results of work and experiences gained on problems of common interest;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to strengthen the secretariats of the regional economic commissions, and in particular to promote and assist, in continuing co-operation with the independent African States, the effective functioning of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult the regional economic commissions at their next annual sessions and the specialized agencies, and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session on the steps taken in implementation of Council resolution 793 (XXX) regarding the decentralization of activities and operations and the increased utilization of the services of the regional economic commissions.

948th plenary meeting,
15 December 1960.

1519 (XV). Strengthening and development of the world market and improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1421 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 on strengthening and development of the world market and improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries,

³ *Five-year Perspective, 1960-1964. Consolidated report on the appraisals of the scope, trend and costs of the programmes of the United Nations, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO and IAEA in the economic, social and human rights fields* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.IV.14), para. 318.

Recognizing that expansion of international trade, and in particular of trade between countries of different social and economic systems as well as of trade between countries at markedly different stages of economic development, is of real importance for the progress and welfare of all peoples, contributes to the strengthening of peace and constitutes one of the most efficient means of accelerating the increase in the rate of development of the less developed countries, many of which have recently become Members of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the real importance of maintaining and developing generally beneficial trade free from artificial restrictions,

Considering the endeavours made in this direction by the different United Nations bodies, and in particular by the Commission on International Commodity Trade and, as far as trade between countries of different economic systems is concerned, by the Economic Commission for Europe,

Being aware that regional trade co-operation which does not prejudice the interests of other countries or the interests of world trade at large represents an important step towards world economic and trade co-operation,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 778 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 and of Economic Commission for Europe resolution 6 (XV) of 5 May 1960,

Reiterating the high priority of this field of work of the United Nations in its activities related to the world economy,

Requests the Economic and Social Council:

1. To recommend to the Economic Commission for Europe that it ensure the preparation of the studies envisaged in its resolution 6 (XV) in time for the thirty-second session of the Council;

2. To recommend to the Commission on International Commodity Trade and to the regional economic commissions that they continue to study the causes of, and the obstacles which have resulted in, substantial fluctuations, whether in volume or prices, of exports of the economically less developed countries, as well as the ways and means of improving the existing situation, and present their views on these matters to the thirty-second session of the Economic and Social Council, which should take into account in its studies and recommendations the problems of all Member States, including those which at present do not belong to any regional economic commission;

3. To recommend to the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa that they elaborate further appropriate measures to promote intra-regional trade co-operation;

4. To discuss at its thirty-second session, after a preliminary exchange of views among the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Chairman of the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the findings of the studies recommended in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above together with the report⁴ being prepared under General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV) on ways and means of promoting wider trade co-operation among States, in order to

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth, Session, Annexes*, agenda items 2 and 4, document E/3389, and the further report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session.