

1515 (XV). Concerted action for economic development of economically less developed countries

The General Assembly,

Believing that the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations with regard to international economic and social co-operation should be reaffirmed now when so many States have recently become Members of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also that one of the principal objectives of the United Nations is to promote higher standards of living and that Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action to achieve this purpose,

1. *Reiterates* that a prime duty of the United Nations is to accelerate the economic and social advancement of the less developed countries of the world, thus contributing to safeguarding their independence and helping to close the gap in standards of living between the more developed and the less developed countries;

2. *Recognizes* that this social and economic advancement requires the development and diversification of economic activity, that is, the improvement of conditions for the marketing and production of foodstuffs and the industrialization of those economies which are largely dependent on subsistence agriculture or on the export of a small range of primary commodities;

3. *Believes* that in the present circumstances the achievement of these ends demands, *inter alia*:

(a) The maintenance of a high and expanding level of economic activity and of generally beneficial multilateral and bilateral trade free from artificial restrictions, in order to enable the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary commodities to sell more of their products at stable and remunerative prices in expanding markets, and so increasingly to finance their own economic development from their earnings of foreign exchange;

(b) The increasing provision of public and private capital on acceptable terms from the more developed to the less developed countries, notably through international organizations and through freely negotiated multilateral or bilateral arrangements;

(c) The expansion of technical co-operation between countries at all stages of development, with the objective of aiding the people of under-developed countries to increase their knowledge of, and capacity to apply, modern techniques;

(d) Scientific and cultural co-operation and the encouragement of research;

(e) Proper regard for the human and social aspects of economic development;

4. *Recommends*, with these objects in view, that:

(a) Member States and the international organs concerned should continue as a matter of urgency to seek and apply ways of eliminating both excessive fluctuations in primary commodity trade and restrictive practices or measures which have unfavourable repercussions on the trade in basic products of the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary products, and to expand trade in these products;

(b) In particular, the Economic and Social Council should give close and serious attention to the problems of commodity trade and to the recommendations of the Commission on International Commodity Trade designed to deal with them, including those such as compensatory financing relating to off-setting the effects of large fluctuations;

(c) Technical training, education and pre-investment assistance, whether undertaken by international organizations or by individual Governments, should be regarded as an important factor in the economic development of under-developed countries and, in particular, the fullest possible support should be given to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to the Special Fund and to the other voluntary programmes of the United Nations which are concerned with these ends;

(d) Technical assistance and the supply of development capital, which are increasing, should be increased further—whether provided through existing and future international organizations and institutions or otherwise—should be of a kind and in a form in accordance with the wishes of the recipients and should involve no unacceptable conditions for them, political, economic, military or other;

(e) Regional economic grouping should be designed to offer the opportunities of an expanding market to all trading nations, taking into account the interests of third parties;

5. *Recommends further* that the sovereign right of every State to dispose of its wealth and its natural resources should be respected in conformity with the rights and duties of States under international law;

6. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Governments of States members of these organizations to take note of the present resolution and asks them to play their appropriate part effectively in carrying out its objectives and principles for the general and common benefit of the human race.

*948th plenary meeting,
15 December 1960.*

1516 (XV). Economic and social consequences of disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959,

Conscious that the impact of disarmament is likely to set in motion great changes in the domestic economies of States and in international economic relations, as a result of the progressive diversion of human and material resources from military to peaceful purposes,

Recognizing that effective action at the national and international levels will need to be taken to make use of material and human resources becoming available as a consequence of disarmament, in order to promote social progress and better standards of living in the world,

Bearing in mind the importance of comprehensive and systematic studies in this field to enable Member States, especially those which are under-developed, to make the necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament,

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