

serious shortage of trained personnel for the formulation and implementation of economic development plans,⁹

Considering that each institute should establish a programme of training fully adjusted to the needs of the countries in each region,

Recalling that the Managing Director of the Special Fund, in his statement to the Governing Council of the Fund on 23 May 1961,¹⁰ announced that on the initiative of regional economic commissions several Governments in Latin America had made requests for that type of project and that similar requests were expected from Africa,

Noting that the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs declared on 5 October 1961 that the increased participation of the regional economic commissions in technical assistance programmes and the establishment under their auspices of economic programming institutes, where Governments will find both advisory services and training facilities for the staff of their economic departments, will provide Governments with new facilities on the regional level, to which they attach so much importance,¹¹

Recalling its resolution 1517 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 777 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 and 830 H (XXXII) of 2 August 1961,

I

1. *Invites* the Governments concerned, acting as appropriate through the regional economic commissions or their appropriate subordinate bodies to be established for this purpose, to submit requests to the Special Fund for assistance needed for the establishment of economic development and planning institutes which will be closely linked to the respective regional economic commissions with a view, *inter alia*, to giving prospective trainees the benefits not only of theoretical but also of practical training and an acquaintance with the important work carried out by the secretariats of the regional economic commissions in their regions;

2. *Invites also* the Economic and Social Council at its resumed thirty-second session to recommend that the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East consider this matter at their forthcoming annual meetings and that the Economic Commission for Europe consider the expansion of its in-service training programme to include a substantial number of fellows from less developed regions;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the Special Fund will give prompt and sympathetic consideration to the establishment of the institutes referred to above;

4. *Expresses the hope also* that the Special Fund will give prompt and sympathetic consideration to the establishment of similar institutes which may be proposed by a group of Member States that are not members of any regional economic commission, such institutes to be open to participation by developing countries which are at present members of regional economic commissions;

II

Requests the Secretary-General to establish an Economic Projections and Programming Centre with sub-

centres, as appropriate, in the regional economic commissions or institutes of economic development and planning:

(a) To intensify the activities already initiated in this field and to prepare, as soon as practicable, in co-operation with the international agencies concerned, long-term projections of world economic trends in order to facilitate the formulation of national economic plans;

(b) To provide studies of planning techniques under various economic and social systems which would be helpful to national and regional institutes of economic development and planning;

III

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of experts composed with due regard to their familiarity with various planning techniques under different economic systems and in co-operation with the appropriate institutions of different countries, to prepare a study summarizing the experience gained and the techniques in use in the planning of economic development by different countries, and at the same time expresses the hope that the Governments of Member States will help to carry out that study;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to examine the study at its thirty-sixth session and to submit to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session its recommendations concerning the utilization of experience of economic planning in the interests of developing countries;

3. *Further invites* the Secretary-General to prepare a special chapter on questions of economic development planning in one of the forthcoming issues of the *World Economic Survey*.

*1084th plenary meeting,
19 December 1961.*

1709 (XVI). Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1518 (XV) of 15 December 1960 on decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions,

Noting the recommendations on economic and social activities contained in part V of the report of the Committee of Experts appointed under General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 to review the activities and organization of the Secretariat¹² and the Secretary-General's comments thereon,¹³

1. *Notes with appreciation* the Secretary-General's action and proposed arrangements with regard to decentralization and to the strengthening of the regional economic commissions, as stated in his report to the General Assembly;¹⁴

2. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 823 (XXXII) of 20 July 1961 and the emphasis placed therein on the important functions to be fulfilled

⁹ E/CN.11/571, para. 53.

¹⁰ SF/L.51.

¹¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Second Committee, 717th meeting.*

¹² *Ibid.*, *Sixteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 61, document A/4776.

¹³ *Ibid.*, document A/4794.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, agenda items 12, 28, 29 and 30, document A/4911.

by the regional economic commissions in the initiation, implementation and co-ordination of economic and social activities of the United Nations at the regional level;

3. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its resolution 856 (XXXII) of 4 August 1961 concerning co-operation between the resident representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, and the Technical Assistance Committee for its resolution recommending to the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that he invite the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions to present their views on the economic and social factors to be taken into account in the preparation of technical assistance programmes;¹⁵

4. *Urges* the strengthening, without delay, of the secretariats of the regional economic commissions as executive arms of the Organization in the economic and social fields, including technical assistance operations, by means of an increasing delegation to those secretariats of substantive and operational functions and responsibilities and the provision of the requisite resources, including personnel, while maintaining the central substantive functions, including policy guidance and co-ordination, and without affecting the provision of assistance to countries that are not members of any regional economic commission;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediate steps towards the full implementation of the policy of decentralization through appropriate administrative arrangements to be decided upon in continuing consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, when necessary, the Technical Assistance Committee, taking into account the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts to review the activities and Organization of the Secretariat in part V of its report and the Secretary-General's comments thereon;

6. *Urges* that the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations should, among other things, aim at achieving simplicity of procedure and of administrative methods for technical co-operation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session on the new organizational measures taken, or to be taken, to enable the secretariats of the regional economic commissions to discharge fully their responsibilities as executive instruments for the programmes of technical co-operation, and on the strengthening of those secretariats as required for the effective execution of the above tasks;

8. *Invites* the executive heads of the specialized agencies concerned and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions further to adjust co-operative arrangements to the extent required by decentralization;

9. *Requests* the regional economic commissions further to develop close co-operation among themselves in their substantive and operational activities, and to

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 11, document E/3547, para. 129.*

report on the progress made in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council.

*1084th plenary meeting,
19 December 1961.*

1710 (XVI). United Nations Development Decade A programme for international economic co-operation (I)¹⁶

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and to employ international machinery for the advancement of the economic and social development of all peoples,

Considering that the economic and social development of the economically less developed countries is not only of primary importance to those countries but is also basic to the attainment of international peace and security and to a faster and mutually beneficial increase in world prosperity,

Recognizing that during the decade of the nineteen-fifties considerable efforts to advance economic progress in the less developed countries were made by both the newly developing and the more developed countries,

Noting, however, that in spite of the efforts made in recent years the gap in *per caput* incomes between the economically developed and the less developed countries has increased and the rate of economic and social progress in the developing countries is still far from adequate,

Recalling its resolutions 1421 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1515 (XV), 1516 (XV), 1519 (XV) and 1526 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Convinced of the need for concerted action to demonstrate the determination of Member States to give added impetus to international economic co-operation in the current decade, through the United Nations system and on a bilateral or multilateral basis,

1. *Designates* the current decade as the United Nations Development Decade, in which Member States and their peoples will intensify their efforts to mobilize and to sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining growth of the economy of the individual nations and their social advancement so as to attain in each under-developed country a substantial increase in the rate of growth, with each country setting its own target, taking as the objective a minimum annual rate of growth of aggregate national income of 5 per cent at the end of the Decade;

2. *Calls upon* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies:

(a) To pursue policies designed 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 thus to finance increasingly their own economic development from their earnings of foreign exchange and domestic savings;

¹⁶ See also resolution 1715 (XVI) of 19 December 1961.