

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of the question of the further promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council should, in studying the question of transferring the resources released as a result of disarmament, bear in mind the economic needs of all countries, particularly of the less developed countries, in order to help them to achieve the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

*1381st plenary meeting,
18 November 1965.*

2034 (XX). Assistance in cases of natural disaster

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1049 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 requesting the Secretary-General to make a study of the types of assistance the United Nations might appropriately provide, the order of magnitude of the resources the Secretary-General might require for the purpose and the alternative methods of providing such resources, including the establishment of a United Nations fund for assistance in cases of natural disaster, financed through voluntary contributions, and to report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session,

Recalling that in resolution 1049 (XXXVII) the Economic and Social Council also requested the Secretary-General to consider possible improvements in the arrangements for co-ordinating international assistance and to report to the Council at its thirty-ninth session,

Having³ considered the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session,³ the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon⁴ and the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-ninth session,⁵

Noting the Secretary-General's readiness to be at the disposal of international non-governmental organizations concerned with emergency relief to assist them in pursuing the question of co-ordination,

Further noting that, in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies, the United Nations can offer both guidance and technical assistance in formulating pre-disaster plans to countries requesting it, and also assistance, immediately after a disaster, in drawing up comprehensive plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's statement that the procedures set out in the twenty-eighth report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination⁶ for the co-ordination of assistance from members of the United Nations family are working satisfactorily,

1. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and the In-

ternational Atomic Energy Agency which have not already done so:

(a) To consider the advisability of setting up appropriate national planning and operating machinery most suited to their own conditions, and designed to determine the degree and character of the relief required and to give unified direction to relief operations, United Nations resident representatives being suitably associated with such work;

(b) To consider setting up national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies;

2. *Requests* Member States, when offering emergency assistance in cases of natural disaster, to inform and make use of the appropriate standing machinery set up in the stricken countries and to inform the Secretary-General of the type of emergency assistance they are in a position to offer;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the existing arrangements which the United Nations and the specialized agencies have for providing emergency assistance, including their relationships with non-governmental organizations, particularly with the League of Red Cross Societies;

4. *Invites* the executive heads of the organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, to continue and intensify their efforts to ensure the full co-ordination of the assistance made available by and through those organizations and programmes to countries stricken by natural disasters;

5. *Approves* the proposal of the Secretary-General that he be authorized to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for emergency aid in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

6. *Decides* to review at its twenty-third session the experimental arrangements referred to in paragraph 5 above.

*1390th plenary meeting,
7 December 1965.*

2035 (XX). World social situation

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the measures taken to implement General Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII) of 5 December 1963,⁷

Taking note with satisfaction of Economic and Social Council resolution 1086 E (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965, by which the Council, *inter alia*, invited the Social Commission to re-examine, at its seventeenth session, the role which it should play within the framework of United Nations programmes in order to meet the needs of Member States, and to submit its proposals regarding the action to this effect to the Council at its forty-first session,

Recalling its resolution 1916 (XVIII) which, *inter alia*, requested the Economic and Social Council to review its resolution 496 (XVI) of 31 July 1953 entitled "Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies" in the light of the *Report on the World Social Situation, 1963*,⁸ and of the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade,

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 54, document A/6016.*

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.IV.4.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 53, document A/5845.*

⁴ *Ibid.*, document A/5883.

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 5, document E/4036.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda items 4 and document E/3765.*

Noting with deep concern the unsatisfactory social situation in many parts of the world,

Convinced that the activities of the United Nations in the social field should, above all, be concentrated on measures aimed at accelerated economic and social development, particularly of developing countries,

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission, when considering the role which the United Nations should play in the social field, to bear in mind, *inter alia*, the following general principles:

(a) The responsibility of the Council, as set forth in Articles 55 and 58 of the Charter of the United Nations:

- (i) To promote higher standards of living;
- (ii) To promote full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- (iii) To promote solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems;
- (iv) To promote international cultural and educational co-operation;
- (v) To make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies;

(b) The necessity to direct the main efforts of the United Nations in the social field towards supporting and strengthening independent social and economic development in the developing countries, with full respect for their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962;

(c) The interrelated character of economic and social factors and the basic requirement that economic and social development should go together with a view to promoting better standards of life in larger freedom, the importance of planning for achieving this end and the role of Governments in promoting balanced and sound economic and social development;

(d) The necessity for mobilizing national resources and encouraging creative initiatives of all peoples for the achievement of social progress;

(e) The significance of adequate structural social and economic changes for the achievement of social progress;

(f) The necessity for the widest possible utilization of the experience of the developed and developing countries with varying economic and social systems;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies and in the light of relevant discussions and decisions of the Social Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, to prepare, for submission by the Council to the Assembly at its twenty-first session, a draft long-range social programme of the United Nations and a report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 1916 (XVIII);

3. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, to submit proposals in respect of vital social problems on which the General Assembly might appropriately take action and make recommendations in accordance with Article 13 of the Charter;

4. *Decides* to consider at its twenty-first session the possibility and advisability of preparing a declaration on social development—based on the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the specialized

agencies and on the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council—which would lay down broad lines for the objectives of social development and for the means of achieving it, and, for this purpose, requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, to provide the relevant documentation, data and any other appropriate information.

1390th plenary meeting,
7 December 1965.

2036 (XX). Housing, building and planning in the United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Noting that in countries throughout the world inadequate housing is one of the most urgent problems necessitating immediate solution,

Recognizing that the housing problem can be successfully solved only by mobilizing the efforts and resources of the nations,

Recognizing further that social reforms aimed at accelerating social and economic development have an important part to play in the successful solution of the housing problem,

1. *Recommends* that Member States should:

(a) Assume a major role in the solution of the housing problem in every country and, to this end, make provision in their national development planning for the necessary activities and resources;

(b) Establish for this purpose central and other organizations or bodies in charge of housing and town and country planning and empowered with the necessary authority;

(c) Take all necessary measures to develop a building material industry utilizing local raw materials to the maximum, and to promote or establish, as appropriate, building design and construction organizations which will improve efficiency, lower costs and establish designs and standards that are appropriate to the relevant cultural, social and economic requirements;

(d) Prepare and implement programmes for training architects, construction engineers and workers in sufficient numbers to carry out national development programmes;

(e) Bring about conditions in the spheres of land ownership and land use by basic reforms, if such conditions have not already been achieved, that will ensure a speedy and rational solution of housing and industrial construction problems, harmonious town and rural development, the elimination of speculation in plots of land and a more equitable use of housing resources in the interests of the whole population;

2. *Recommends* that international assistance to developing countries in the field of housing, building and planning, whether multilateral or bilateral, should be directed towards the financing of housing, the establishment of a national or, if necessary, State building materials and components industry and of national or, if necessary, State building design, construction and financing organizations, the training of national cadres of architects and construction engineers and workers, the establishment of national bodies in charge of housing construction and town building, and the planning and execution of emergency programmes in urban and rural areas and pilot projects contributing to the earliest possible solution of the housing problem;