

Having considered the report of the Economic and Social Council,⁴⁵

1. Takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 (LI) of 30 July 1971;

2. Decides to adopt, in accordance with Article 108 of the Charter of the United Nations, the following amendment to the Charter and to submit it for ratification by the States Members of the United Nations:

“Article 61

“1. The Economic and Social Council shall consist of fifty-four Members of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly.

“2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council shall be elected each year for a term of three years. A retiring member shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

“3. At the first election after the increase in the membership of the Economic and Social Council from twenty-seven to fifty-four members, in addition to the members elected in place of the nine members whose term of office expires at the end of that year, twenty-seven additional members shall be elected. Of these twenty-seven additional members, the term of office of nine members so elected shall expire at the end of one year, and of nine other members at the end of two years, in accordance with arrangements made by the General Assembly.

“4. Each member of the Economic and Social Council shall have one representative.”;

3. Urges all Member States to ratify the above amendment in accordance with their respective constitutional processes as soon as possible and to deposit their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General;

4. Further decides that the members of the Economic and Social Council shall be elected according to the following pattern:

- (a) Fourteen members from African States;
- (b) Eleven members from Asian States;
- (c) Ten members from Latin American States;
- (d) Thirteen members from Western European and other States;
- (e) Six members from socialist States of Eastern Europe;

5. Welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social Council, pending the receipt of the necessary ratifications, to enlarge its sessional committees to fifty-four members;

6. Invites the Economic and Social Council, as soon as possible and not later than the organizational meetings of its fifty-second session, to elect the twenty-seven additional members from States Members of the United Nations to serve on the enlarged sessional committees; such elections should be in accordance with paragraph 4 above and should be held each year pending the coming into force of the enlargement of the Council;

7. Decides that, as of the date of the entry into force of the above amendments, rule 147 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly shall be amended to read:

“Rule 147⁴⁶

“The General Assembly shall each year, in the course of its regular session, elect eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council for a term of three years.”

*2026th plenary meeting,
20 December 1971.*

2848 (XXVI). Protein resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2416 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 and 2684 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, Economic and Social Council resolution 1640 (LI) of 30 July 1971, World Health Assembly resolution WHA22.56 of 25 July 1969 and resolutions 2/69 and 7/71 adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 26 November 1969 and 22 November 1971,

Recalling also paragraphs 18 and 69 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the world food problem adopted on 22 March 1968⁴⁷ by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its second session,

Recognizing that the protein problem is part of the general problem of food production and supply, which depends on a great many economic, social, cultural and political factors, including social and economic under-development, which is manifested in unemployment and under-employment, extremely low incomes, poor nutritional habits, poor health and sanitary conditions, low agricultural productivity and serious defects in marketing,

Recognizing also that protein-calorie malnutrition is the primary cause of high infant and child mortality, reaching from 25 to 30 per cent in many developing countries, that it increases susceptibility to infection and can permanently impair growth and development in the survivors, to the detriment of their later physical and intellectual performance,

Considering that it is in the interests of developing countries to make increased use of the external—and particularly multilateral—financial and technical assistance available for dealing with problems of food supply and nutrition since the direct and indirect costs of malnutrition to national development are often far more than the amount that would be required for its prevention,

Recognizing that, since the ultimate solution of the protein problem can only be found over the long term while immediate action with respect to vulnerable groups is required if irreversible damage is to be prevented, clear national and international priorities must be set now in taking remedial action, and that consequently external short-term assistance such as emergency food support must be combined with assistance for vital long-range projects,

Acknowledging the programme and assistance activities relating to the protein problem being undertaken

⁴⁶ Formerly rule 146 (see resolution 2837 (XXVI), annex I, para. 9).

⁴⁷ *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Second Session*, vol. I and Corr.1 and 3 and Add.1 and 2, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.II.D.14), p. 28.

⁴⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8403).*

by various organizations of the United Nations system and particularly by the Protein Advisory Group and its four sponsoring organizations—the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—and emphasizing that their efforts must be further integrated to achieve the maximum effectiveness,

Concerned that increasing awareness of the extent and implications of the problem of protein-calorie malnutrition has not led to the type and scope of national or international response required for an effective approach to the solution,

1. *Urges* developing countries to establish or emphasize short-term priorities and undertake special action and information programmes with regard to protein malnutrition in accordance with their respective national plans, since the alleviation of the situation in the short-term must be based upon the improved utilization of existing national and international resources;

2. *Urges* the developed countries to reinforce their support for both bilateral and multilateral projects and programmes dealing with the protein problem in a manner compatible with the requests of the developing countries;

3. *Urges* developing countries:

(a) To draw up comprehensive statements of national nutrition policy and related food and agricultural policy to be incorporated, under the most appropriate administrative arrangements, in their development plans;

(b) To encourage and make the maximum use of surveys and studies of their food and nutrition situations and to encourage the training of the necessary professional personnel in science and technology related to food, agriculture, nutrition and other relevant fields;

4. *Urges* Governments to implement as appropriate, but as soon as possible, the essential elements of the Strategy Statement on Action to Avert the Protein Crisis in the Developing Countries⁴⁸—prepared by the Panel to Assist the Secretary-General in the Formulation of a Strategy Statement on the Protein Problem Confronting the Developing Countries, convened in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2684 (XXV)—as set forth in the annex to the present resolution;

5. *Requests* appropriate United Nations organs, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to assist the developing countries, at their request, in all possible ways to implement the undertakings set out in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 above;

6. *Recommends* to the sponsoring agencies that the terms of reference of the Protein Advisory Group should be modified as follows so as to enable the Group to broaden its activities and to play a more active and stimulative role:

(a) To advise on the technical, economic, educational, social and other related aspects of all the programmes within the United Nations system related to improving protein nutrition;

(b) To advise on current programmes and on new areas of activity;

(c) To provide guidelines for the formulation of the broad programmes of the United Nations system of organizations involved in the various aspects of the protein problem;

(d) To seek, evaluate and disseminate new information on all aspects of the protein problem;

(e) To advise on the improvement of procedures for project evaluation and feasibility studies;

(f) To identify, evaluate and advise on problems in protein resource development and protein-calorie malnutrition requiring scientific and technological research;

(g) To advise on such other matters as the various United Nations bodies refer to it;

7. *Urges* the United Nations bodies concerned, in particular the World Food Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to become full sponsors of the Protein Advisory Group so that it can effectively carry out its terms of reference in support of the United Nations system;

8. *Requests*, to this same end, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to study and report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-second session on the possible modalities of United Nations sponsorship of the Protein Advisory Group;

9. *Commends* paragraphs 6 and 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1640 (LI) of 30 July 1971 relating to further discussion of the protein strategy in other forums and the submission of annual reports by the Protein Advisory Group;

10. *Welcomes* the recent establishment by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, pursuant to resolution 7/71 adopted on 22 November 1971 by the Conference of that organization, of a special seven-member committee to review the work of the organization in the protein field;

11. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, during its discussion of the terms of reference of its Committee on Science and Technology,⁴⁹ to give sympathetic consideration to inviting appropriate representation of the Protein Advisory Group to sessions of the Committee held to review and focus attention on the protein problem and to urging Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned to assign representatives at a high level to attend such meetings;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with the executive heads of the organizations sponsoring the Protein Advisory Group, to arrange, at the request of Governments, for persons who took part in the Panel convened by the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2684 (XXV) to visit the Governments in order to enhance the establishment of national policies and arrangements to deal with the protein

⁴⁸ See *Strategy Statement on Action to Avert the Protein Crisis in the Developing Countries* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.II.A.17), annex.

⁴⁹ Established under paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 B (LI) of 30 July 1971.

problem, and to report as appropriate to the Committee on Science and Technology;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on the recommendation of the Panel and of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development for the establishment of a special protein fund under the United Nations Development Programme in order to ascertain the views of Governments on its feasibility and to ascertain whether significant resources would be made available to it without prejudice to the increased resources envisaged for the Programme, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council.

2026th plenary meeting,
20 December 1971.

ANNEX

Essential elements of the Strategy Statement on Action to Avert the Protein Crisis in the Developing Countries

1. Make every effort to increase the production of food crops, particularly through the exploitation of new high-yield varieties, bearing in mind the special need for an expanded production of protein-rich pulses and oilseeds;
2. Encourage accelerated and expanded research designed to improve the nutritive value of cereal proteins through genetic engineering;
3. Encourage accelerated and expanded research designed to develop high-yielding pulses, legumes and oilseed crops;
4. Encourage the increased production of animal proteins, particularly through research on increasing forage yields and production;
5. Make every effort to prevent an unnecessary loss of protein-containing foods in field, storage, transport and home;
6. Encourage increased production from marine and freshwater fishery resources;
7. Encourage the development, distribution and promotion of formulated protein foods;
8. Facilitate the application of science and technology to the development of new protein sources in order to supplement conventional food resources;
9. Develop and support regional and national centres for research and training in agricultural technology, food science, food technology and nutrition;
10. Conduct informational and educational campaigns related to protein production and consumption;
11. Improve protein utilization through the control and prevention of infectious diseases;
12. Review and improve policies, legislation and regulations regarding all aspects of food and protein production, processing and marketing so as to remove unnecessary obstacles and encourage appropriate activities;
13. Give special attention to the protein needs of vulnerable groups;
14. Initiate intervention programmes aimed at ensuring that vulnerable groups will receive the most appropriate type and a sufficient quantity of food by the most effective means;
15. Recognize the important relationships between family size, population growth and the protein problem;
16. Recognize the role of economic development and social modernization in solving the protein problem.

2849 (XXVI). Development and environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968, 2581 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969 and 2657 of 7 December 1970,

Expressing satisfaction for the efforts made and the results already achieved towards planning action to be taken by the United Nations system in the field of the environment in a manner compatible with the priorities and interests of the developing countries,

Taking note with appreciation, in particular, of the work done by the regional seminars on development and environment, held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, as well as by the Panel of Experts on Development and the Environment,⁵⁰

Conscious of the significance of the results achieved in the Symposium on Problems relating to Environment, convened at Prague by the Economic Commission for Europe, for a better understanding of environmental problems,⁵⁰

Fully conscious of the importance, urgency and universality of environmental problems,

Aware that the rational management of the environment is of fundamental importance for the future of mankind,

Convinced that development plans should be compatible with a sound ecology and that adequate environmental conditions can best be ensured by the promotion of development, both at the national and international levels,

Fully aware that the environmental problems generated by the condition of under-development pose a serious threat to the developing countries,

Cognizant that, aside from environmental disturbances provoked by human settlements and ecological problems related to nature itself, pollution of world-wide impact is being caused primarily by some highly developed countries, as a consequence of their own high level of improperly planned and inadequately co-ordinated industrial activities, and that, therefore, the main responsibility for the financing of corrective measures falls upon those countries,

Convinced that most of the environmental problems existing in developing countries are caused by their lack of economic resources for dealing with such problems as the improvement of unfavourable natural areas or the rehabilitation of environmental conditions that have deteriorated through the application of improper methods and technologies,

Conscious that the main objective of developing countries is integrated and rational development, including industrial development based on advanced and adequate technologies, and that such development represents at the present stage the best possible solution for most of the environmental problems in the developing countries,

Conscious further that the quality of human life in the developing countries also depends, in large measure, on the solution of environmental problems which have their origin in nature and which are the product of under-development itself, within the general framework of development planning and the rational management of natural resources,

Emphasizing that, notwithstanding the general principles that might be agreed upon by the international community, criteria and minimal standards of preservation of the environment as a general rule will have

⁵⁰ See A/CONF.48/PC/13 and Corr.1, chap. III.