

32/160. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and in particular the need to narrow the gap between the industrialized and the developing countries,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recognizing the urgent need to improve substantially the transport and communications infrastructure in Africa in particular,

Noting with satisfaction the initiative of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa in the establishment of an integrated African road network and the rationalization of Africa's railway systems and other transport systems in order to facilitate the promotion of multinational economic co-operation in Africa, intra-African trade and the political, social and economic integration of Africa,

Commending resolution 291 (XIII) entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa" adopted on 26 February 1977 by the Economic Commission for Africa at its thirteenth session and fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers,⁷⁵

Noting section III D of the annex to the report of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation⁷⁶ on infrastructure, in particular paragraph 8 thereof dealing with Africa,

Convinced that effective support is required from the international community in order to promote the principle of collective self-reliance for the purpose of solving African problems in these sectors,

Convinced further of the need to adopt an integrated approach in the formulation of a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa, taking into account all the problems facing the continent in this field,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the development of a pan-African telecommunication network, which is jointly sponsored by the Organization of African Unity, the International Telecommunication Union and the Economic Commission for Africa,

Welcoming the continuing interest of the specialized agencies in the application of communications technologies and services, in particular that of the International Telecommunication Union, which, as the lead agency, has the responsibility for the regulation, co-ordination and harmonization of activities in this field,

1. Endorses the recommendation made in paragraph 1 of resolution 291 (XIII) of the Economic Commission for Africa⁷⁵ and proclaims a Transport and Com-

munications Decade in Africa during the years 1978-1988, with a view to:

(a) Giving active support to the preparation and implementation of a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa, for the purpose of solving the problems of the continent in this field;

(b) Mobilizing the technical and financial resources required for this purpose;

2. Decides that, in accordance with its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the mobilization of the necessary financial and technical resources required to make the Decade a success constitutes a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the executive heads of the agencies concerned, to provide all possible assistance to the African States in the preparation of a detailed plan of action for the Decade and to co-ordinate the mobilization of the necessary technical and financial resources required to make the Decade a success;

4. Calls upon all Member States, in particular the developed countries and others in a position to do so, to participate effectively in the implementation of programmes for achieving the objectives of the Decade;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union and other specialized agencies concerned, to propose for consideration, as appropriate, one year during the Decade as a World Communications Year, in view of the importance of transport and communications to other regions of the world, and to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session containing a detailed programme of measures and activities to be carried out during such a Year;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit thereafter annual progress reports.

*107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977*

32/161. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the relevant principles of international law and the provisions of the international conventions and regulations, in particular the Hague Convention IV of 1907⁷⁷ and the fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949,⁷⁸ concerning the obligations and responsibilities of the occupying Power,

Recalling its previous resolutions on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, particularly their provisions supporting resolutely the efforts of the developing countries and the peoples of the territories under

⁷⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5941)*, part III.

⁷⁶ See A/31/478/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

⁷⁷ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations 1899-1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915), p. 100.

⁷⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

colonial and racial domination and foreign occupation in their struggle to regain effective control over their natural and all other resources, wealth and economic activities,

Bearing in mind the pertinent provisions of its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling further its resolutions 3175 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, 3336 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3516 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and 31/186 of 21 December 1976 on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General⁷⁹ on the adverse economic effects on the Arab States and peoples resulting from repeated Israeli aggression and continued occupation of their territories;

2. *Notes* that, owing to the time constraint, incomplete coverage and technical and other limitations, the report did not cover all pertinent losses, such as:

(a) The adverse economic effects extending beyond the year 1975;

(b) Losses in the Arab territories still under Israeli occupation;

(c) Human and military losses;

(d) The loss of and damage to items of the national, religious and cultural heritage;

(e) Losses in the traditional sectors, including the retail trading, small industries and farming sectors;

(f) The full impact on the development process of the Arab States, territories and peoples subjected to Israeli aggression and occupation;

3. *Emphasizes* the right of the Arab States and peoples whose territories are under Israeli occupation to full and effective permanent sovereignty and control over their natural and all other resources, wealth and economic activities;

4. *Reaffirms* that all measures undertaken by Israel to exploit the human, natural and all other resources, wealth and economic activities in the occupied Arab territories are illegal and calls upon Israel immediately to desist forthwith from all such measures;

5. *Further reaffirms* the right of the Arab States and peoples subjected to Israeli aggression and occupation to the restitution of, and full compensation for the exploitation, depletion and loss of and damages to, their natural, human and all other resources, wealth and economic activities, and calls upon Israel to meet their just claims;

6. *Calls upon* all States to support and assist the Arab States and peoples in the exercise of their above-mentioned rights;

7. *Calls upon* all States, international organizations, specialized agencies, investment corporations and all other institutions not to recognize, or co-operate with or assist in any manner in, any measures undertaken by Israel to exploit the resources of the occupied ter-

ritories or to effect any changes in the demographic composition or geographic character or institutional structure of those territories.

*107th plenary meeting
19 December 1977*

32/162. Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling relevant resolutions, in particular its resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974,

Convinced of the need for urgent action to improve the quality of life of all people in human settlements,

Recognizing that such action is primarily the responsibility of Governments,

Conscious that human settlements problems represent a primary field of action in international co-operation, which should be strengthened in order that adequate solutions may be found, based on equity, justice and solidarity, especially among developing countries,

Recognizing that the international community should provide, both at the global and regional levels, encouragement and support to Governments determined to take effective action to ameliorate conditions, especially for the least advantaged, in rural and urban human settlements,

Recognizing that human settlements and the steps to be taken to improve them should be considered an essential component of socio-economic development,

Recalling the decisions of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the recommendations of the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference, the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Conference of the International Women's Year, as well as the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, that establish the basis of the new international economic order,

Aware of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that new priorities should be identified and activities developed to reflect comprehensive and integrated approaches to the solution of human settlements problems,

Convinced that it is necessary to consolidate and strengthen promptly the capacity of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, with a view to improving human settlements,

⁷⁹ A/32/204.