

banks, whose work in food and agricultural development is important and effective in providing to the developing countries, in particular the least-developed countries, additional development assistance to implement more effective incentives and programmes directed towards increasing food production and towards raising nutritional standards;

18. *Stresses* the need for substantial and timely replenishments of the International Development Association to enable it to increase its assistance to all its recipient countries in the development of food and agriculture;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to accord priority support to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries with regard to food and agriculture;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of research and the exchange of information on scientific research and technological progress for the purposes of the development of food production, and calls upon the international community to provide to the developing countries increased financial and technical assistance in the area of agricultural research and to take appropriate measures to promote the transfer of technology in regard to the improvement of farming methods, including support to activities in these areas relating to technical co-operation among developing countries;

21. *Calls upon* the international community to accord continuing and increasing support towards improving global food security and for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition;

22. *Recognizes* that the expansion of exports, particularly from developing countries, is an important element of food security and calls for additional measures by developed countries to liberalize agricultural trade;

23. *Calls for* improved international co-operation by countries exporting and importing cereals, relating to their food trade, production and stocking policies, in order, *inter alia*, to avoid instability in the international cereals market adversely affecting developing countries;

24. *Urges* all Governments concerned to consider within the International Wheat Council, at its next session, the early resumption of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate an International Arrangement to Replace the International Wheat Agreement of 1971, as extended, in order to conclude as soon as possible a new agreement that will contribute to the efficient operation of the international wheat market, taking into account the interests of developing countries;

25. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through the mobilization of financial and other resources, the efforts of developing countries to strengthen their stocking programmes in cases where those countries have expressed the need to build food reserves;

26. *Expresses the urgent need* to find multilateral solutions to the problems of trade, access, competition and supply relating to agricultural products and calls upon the relevant institutions to find appropriate solutions, taking particularly into account the special needs and circumstances of developing countries;

27. *Endorses* the new target approved by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for the biennium 1985-1986 of \$1.35 billion for the regular resources of the World Food Programme,⁴⁹ and calls upon traditional and new contributing countries to ensure its timely achievement;

28. *Supports* the appeal launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in favour of the African countries threatened by food shortages, and urges the international community to respond generously to that appeal, in particular by increasing on an emergency basis its assistance in food aid and agricultural inputs;

29. *Takes note* of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,⁴⁵ and looks forward to the comprehensive review to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1984 on progress in agrarian reform and rural development;

30. *Calls upon* the Governments concerned to implement agrarian reform and rural development within the framework of their national plans and objectives and in accordance with the recommendations, as adopted, of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;

31. *Supports* the establishment of regional mechanisms to reduce food vulnerability, malnutrition and under-nutrition and, in this context, welcomes the recent establishment of the Action Committee for Regional Food Security;

32. *Stresses* the importance of fisheries development for the expansion of food supplies and nutritional improvements and endorses the initiative by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to convene in 1984 a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development;

33. *Emphasizes* the importance of stock breeding and fisheries development in the food strategies, plans and programmes of developing countries and calls upon the international community to continue to provide relevant international bodies with the necessary resources for the completion of studies in those areas in order to increase their contribution to the development of the food and agriculture sector;

34. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the preparation by the World Food Council, for its tenth session in 1984, of a special assessment of progress made and the tasks ahead to achieve the objectives of the 1974 World Food Conference;⁵⁰

35. *Urges* the World Food Council, within the context of its mandate, to mobilize and sustain greater efforts in the struggle to overcome hunger, to continue to review and report on major problems and policy issues and to continue to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism in the field of food and other related policy matters within the United Nations system.

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38/159. Critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling 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, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

⁴⁹ See WFP/CFA: 15/19, para. 42.

⁵⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/38/19)*, part one, para. 7.

Recalling the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, in which the General Assembly emphasized agricultural and rural development and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition as being among the principal objectives of the Decade,

Recalling also the Programme of Action of the World Food Conference,⁵¹ containing the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the Conference,⁵² and the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,⁵³

Recalling further its resolutions 35/69 of 5 December 1980, 36/186 of 17 December 1981 and 37/245 of 21 December 1982 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

Recognizing the high priority attached to food and agriculture and the commitment and determination of Africa to devote its limited resources on a priority basis to agricultural development, as reflected in and in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,⁵⁴

Noting with grave concern that, over the past two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has undergone a drastic deterioration, resulting in a decline in food production per capita with detrimental effects on dietary standards, which are well below the minimum requirements, as well as in an alarming increase in the number of people exposed to malnutrition, hunger and starvation,

Gravely concerned at the increasing and painful drain of scarce foreign exchange resulting from the growing dependence of African countries on food imports owing to the critical food shortage, which has had a detrimental effect on their overall development,

Deeply concerned also at the unabated encroachment of the desert and the recurring problem of drought in many countries of Africa, which have continued to accentuate the food problem on that continent,

Recognizing that the food supply crisis has been further exacerbated by such factors as poor rainfall, brushfires, unusually severe crop infestation, epidemics of animal diseases and chronic shortages of production inputs,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the development of food and agricultural production lies primarily with the developing countries themselves and that there is an increasing effort and growing commitment by the developing countries to accelerate the development of their food and agricultural sectors,

Recognizing the role of food-sector strategies, which emerged from the World Food Council as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary additional international resources,

Reaffirming the call in the Lagos Plan of Action regarding the application of policies providing incentives for increasing production, particularly for small farmers, while at the same time safeguarding the interests of the poorer consumers,

Convinced that increased international support to combat drought, desertification, epidemics of animal diseases, crop infestation and post-harvest losses, among other problems, is crucial to the attainment of food self-sufficiency in Africa,

Further convinced that international support measures can reinforce the efforts of the African countries to resolve the technological, managerial and financial resource gaps impeding food and agricultural production in Africa,

Noting with serious concern that the findings of the Special FAO/WFP Task Force established by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme have further highlighted the worsening food supply crisis, which has resulted in increased hunger and malnutrition affecting as many as 150 million people in twenty-two African countries,

Noting with deep concern that the high-level meeting of the African countries concerned and of the potential donor countries, convened by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome on 19 October 1983, has not so far resulted in the significant additional food aid resources needed, which have been estimated by the Special FAO/WFP Task Force at 3.2 million tons, of which a minimum of 1 million tons should be provided in the months ahead, including 700,000 tons to be provided on an emergency basis in the next few months in order to maintain supplies to the twenty-two affected countries,

Noting the current unfavourable world economic situation, reflected in, *inter alia*, weak foreign export markets, balance-of-payments deficits and high interest rates, which, together with, in certain cases, a stagnation in aid and other related factors, have seriously undermined the ability of African countries both to sustain a reasonable level of food and agricultural production and to cover food deficits through commercial imports,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 35/69, 36/186 and 37/245 and calls for their full implementation on an urgent basis;

2. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa⁵⁵ and on the state of technology for food and agriculture in Africa;⁵⁶

3. Welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its ninth ministerial session,⁵⁷ in particular those relating to the African region;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the timely and important initiative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in convening a special meeting on the African food supply situation and urges the international community to respond favourably and immediately to the appeal made by the Director-General for alleviation of the present critical food supply situation in Africa;

5. Supports the urgent appeal launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in favour of the twenty-two African countries threatened by food shortages, and urges the international community to respond generously to that appeal by providing the additional food aid required, which has been estimated by the Special FAO/WFP Task Force at 3.2 million tons, of which a minimum of 1 million tons should be provided in the months ahead, including 700,000 tons to be immediately provided to maintain food supplies in the affected

⁵¹ See *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), part one.

⁵² *Ibid.*, chap. I.

⁵³ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP), part one.

⁵⁴ A/S-11/14, annex I.

⁵⁵ A/38/377.

⁵⁶ A/38/280-E/1983/93.

⁵⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/38/19), part one.

countries, as well as \$76 million in agricultural inputs for the rehabilitation of agriculture and animal husbandry;

6. *Recognizes* the role of the international community, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the World Food Council, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank in mobilizing food aid and agricultural assistance for Africa, and requests existing and new donor countries to increase the resources required to meet African needs for food aid and agricultural development;

7. *Urges* all the countries of Africa to continue to accord priority to food and agriculture, in accordance with their national development plans and programmes, and to continue to implement measures to raise substantially their food and agricultural production in keeping with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, and in this context reaffirms the important role that national food strategies, plans and programmes could play in this process;

8. *Urges* the international community to supplement, through increased financial and technical assistance, on a priority and long-term basis, the national efforts of African countries to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the Lagos Plan of Action relevant to food and agriculture,⁵⁸ taking into account the recommendations of the African Ministers for Food and Agriculture at the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa,⁵⁹ in particular the following objectives:

(a) Significant improvement in their food situation and laying of the foundations for the attainment of self-sufficiency in cereals, livestock and fish;

(b) Significant progress towards attaining a 50 per cent reduction in post-harvest losses, through, *inter alia*, the construction of storage facilities;

(c) Improved transport infrastructure to facilitate food distribution at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(d) Support of indigenous research efforts through expanded and more effective agricultural research, with special emphasis on animal husbandry, improved seeds and an adequate supply of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals suitable to African conditions;

9. *Further urges* all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to expand their training programmes for the building up of national capabilities for the preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural sector projects;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support efforts undertaken by African countries at the national, subregional and regional levels to increase food production through, *inter alia*, the provision, on a priority and long-term basis, of additional financial and technical assistance to Africa by organizations of the United Nations system, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations involved in the financing of agriculture development, and through an increase in lending by the World Bank to the agricultural sector in Africa;

11. *Recognizes* that an international year for the mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa would be a useful mechanism for focusing international attention on the problem

and could accelerate the process that would lead to a significant improvement of food and agricultural production in Africa;

12. *Notes* that the report of the Secretary-General on the state of technology for food and agriculture in Africa⁵⁶ was incomplete in certain respects and that data are still being gathered, and requests that an updated report be submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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38/160. Co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982, by which it, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to promote co-operation between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference,⁶⁰

Noting that some progress has been made by some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in formulating co-operation programmes with the Conference,

Noting that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are exploring ways and means of forging co-operation links with the Conference,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/248;⁶¹

2. *Commends* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have already established contacts with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, in response to resolution 37/248, and urges them to intensify positively such contacts in order to accelerate the achievement of the objectives envisaged in that resolution;

3. *Appeals* to all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not as yet done so to consult constructively with the secretariat of the Conference to ensure full implementation of resolution 37/248;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Conference, to take appropriate measures to promote and harmonize contacts between the United Nations and the Conference;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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⁵⁸ A/S-11/14, annex I, chap. I.

⁵⁹ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Twelfth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, Algiers, 22 September-2 October 1982* (ARC/82/REP).

⁶⁰ A/38/493.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, sect. III.