

Member States, specialized agencies, regional and other intergovernmental organizations and the international financial institutions concerned and to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1986, of the status of the special programme of economic assistance for the Central African Republic;

(e) To report on the progress made in the economic situation of the Central African Republic and in organizing and implementing the special programme of economic assistance for that country in time for the matter to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

*120th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/218. Special economic assistance to Chad

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/195 of 17 December 1984 and its previous resolutions on assistance in the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Chad, emergency humanitarian assistance to Chad and special economic assistance to that country,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on special economic assistance to Chad, relating, *inter alia*, to the economic and financial situation of Chad, the status of assistance provided for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country and the progress made in organizing and executing the programme of assistance for that country,¹⁴⁴

Concerned by the unprecedented drought which is wreaking havoc in Chad, compounding the food and health situation that is already precarious because of the war and thus compromising all the country's efforts at reconstruction,

Considering that the war and the drought have occasioned a massive displacement of population and created enormous social problems,

Taking note of the numerous appeals launched by the Government of Chad and governmental and non-governmental organizations regarding the gravity of the food and health situation in Chad,

Recognizing the need for emergency humanitarian assistance to Chad,

Also recognizing the need for assistance in the reconstruction and development of Chad,

Welcoming the conference of donors and contributors of funds held in early December 1985, in accordance with the arrangements agreed upon at the International Conference on Assistance to Chad, held in November 1982,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the States and governmental and non-governmental organizations that responded and are continuing to respond generously to the appeals of the Government of Chad and of the Secretary-General by furnishing assistance to Chad;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties of Chad and to mobilize assistance for that country;

3. Renews the request made to States, appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and international economic and financial institutions:

(a) To continue to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the people of Chad who have suffered as a result of the war and the drought;

(b) To contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Chad;

4. Notes with satisfaction that the International Conference on Assistance to Chad was held at Geneva on 4 and 5 December 1985, and invites the States and agencies that participated in it to honour as early as possible the commitments they made at that Conference;

5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his efforts to implement the interim development plan submitted at Geneva;

(b) To assess, in close collaboration with the humanitarian agencies concerned, the humanitarian needs, particularly in the areas of food and health, of the people displaced by the war and the drought;

(c) To mobilize special humanitarian assistance for persons who have suffered as a result of the war and the drought and for the resettlement of displaced persons;

(d) To keep the situation in Chad under review and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

*120th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/219. Assistance for the reconstruction, recovery, rehabilitation and development of Mauritania

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned by the enormous devastation caused to woodlands and the serious damage suffered by the economic and social infrastructure of Mauritania over the last fifteen years of drought and desertification,

Deeply disturbed by the great economic and financial imbalances which have found expression in the paucity of overall growth and the magnitude of the budget deficit and the balance-of-payments deficit,

Aware of the fact that the deterioration of the productive economic base is caused by factors over which Mauritania has no control, such as drought, desertification, the current international economic situation and the fall in commodity prices,

Deeply concerned by the adverse consequences of those factors both at the socio-economic level, through a massive rural exodus and growing urban unemployment, and at the level of external indebtedness, which is reaching excessive proportions,

Asserting the urgent need for international action to help the Government of Mauritania in its efforts to overcome and control the effects of these devastating natural disasters,

Acknowledging that Mauritania, one of the countries most affected by drought and desertification, is in need of international assistance in order to overcome the hardships impeding its short-term and long-term development and hindering its efforts for reconstruction, recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Considering the serious social and human problems posed by the settlement and integration in urban centres of many vulnerable persons who, because of the rural exodus and the adverse effects of drought and desertification, are in need of immediate emergency aid,

Concerned by the persistent imbalances in the agricultural structure of the country and the fact that it is to a large extent dependent on food grants and totally dependent on imports in all sectors,

¹⁴⁴ A/36/261; A/36/739; A/37/125 and Add.1; A/38/213; A/39/392, sect. III.

Concerned also that, in real terms, the projected volume of exports of iron ore for 1985 will be virtually two thirds lower than that of 1975, which will particularly hamper the development of the country,

Aware of the need to assist the country with a view to enabling it to develop and to exercise effective control over its fishing resources, its second source of foreign currency,

Noting with concern that, in addition to the country's demographic and geographical disadvantages, its only highway, constructed with outside financing, is constantly being covered by sand, thereby disrupting economic and social life in three quarters of the country,

Concerned further by the difficulties of all kinds encountered by the Government, Member States and international organizations in channelling food and relief to the afflicted population in the interior of the country because of the lack of a road network and of transport and communications,

Noting that the Government of Mauritania, by implementing a policy of economic austerity, devaluing its currency and raising producer prices, expects to succeed in 1985 in reducing the budget deficit that has accumulated over the preceding ten years,

Noting also that, despite the implementation by Mauritania of the harsh adjustment measures proposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the country remains dependent on external sources for financing public and private investment,

Further noting with concern the deficit in the balance of payments from 1975 to 1984, the modest level of foreign-currency reserves and the accumulation from year to year of arrears in payments,

Bearing in mind the concern expressed by Member States and international organizations with regard to the catastrophic economic and social situation created in Mauritania by drought, desertification and war, and the particular interest that they take in the control of desertification with a view to the country's rapid return to normal living conditions and to its reconstruction and development,

Considering with satisfaction that the Government of Mauritania has, for the first time this year, succeeded in inducing several thousands of people to leave the urban centres and to return to their native soil in order to devote themselves to agriculture and stockraising,

Noting the urgent request addressed by the Government of Mauritania to the Secretary-General for the classification of Mauritania as one of the least developed countries,¹⁴⁵

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the steps he has taken to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the countries affected by drought and desertification in general, and particularly for Mauritania as a country severely affected, and invites the international community to respond generously to the humanitarian needs of Mauritania;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the countries, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations, the community commission, voluntary agencies and individuals whose generous assistance to the stricken population of Mauritania has never failed;

3. *Appeals urgently* to all Member States, specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, as well as to international economic and financial institutions, to contribute generously, through bilateral or multilateral chan-

nels, towards meeting Mauritania's reconstruction, recovery, rehabilitation and development needs;

4. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request the Committee for Development Planning to examine, on a priority basis, the socio-economic situation of Mauritania and to consider including it in the list of the least developed countries;

5. *Requests* Member States, as well as United Nations programmes and organizations, to take special measures for Mauritania for the remainder of the Third United Nations Development Decade, pending examination of its situation by the Committee for Development Planning;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to maintain their current programmes and expand their future programmes of assistance and to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to help Mauritania so that the General Assembly may consider them at its forty-first session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize international assistance for Mauritania and to ensure that the appropriate arrangements are made in order to establish an effective programme of special assistance;

(b) To open a special account under the United Nations Trust Fund for Special Economic Assistance Programmes, in order to facilitate payments of contributions for Mauritania, and urges Member States, non-governmental organizations and individuals to contribute generously to this account;

(c) To keep the situation in Mauritania constantly under review, to maintain contact with Member States, specialized agencies, regional and intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions concerned, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1986, of the volume of economic assistance granted to Mauritania;

(d) To report on the progress achieved in remedying the economic situation of Mauritania and on the international assistance granted to the country in time for the matter to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

*120th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/220. Assistance to Sierra Leone

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolutions 37/158 of 17 December 1982, 38/205 of 20 December 1983 and 39/192 of 17 December 1984, in which it appealed to all States, the specialized agencies and international development and financial institutions to provide all possible assistance for the development of Sierra Leone,

Further recalling its resolution 37/133 of 17 December 1982, in which it decided to include Sierra Leone in the list of the least developed countries,

¹⁴⁵ See A/C.2/40/3.