

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.

Having considered the summary report of the Secretary-General,¹⁴⁶

Noting with concern that the economy of Sierra Leone is being undermined by severe scarcities of imported raw materials and spare parts for industry, a drying-up of trade and commercial credits, large commercial payment arrears and unmitigated strains on government finances,

Noting that the Government of Sierra Leone, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, embarked upon preparations for a round table of partners in development of Sierra Leone, which was originally to be held early in 1985 but was deferred until early 1986,

Reiterating the need for effective mobilization of international assistance in order to implement fully the programme of development outlined in the report of the multi-agency mission,¹⁴⁷

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the steps he has taken to mobilize assistance for Sierra Leone;

2. Urgently reiterates its appeal to the international community, including the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to contribute generously, through bilateral or multilateral channels, to the economic and social development of Sierra Leone;

3. Urges all States and relevant United Nations bodies — in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities — to provide all possible assistance to help the Government of Sierra Leone meet the critical humanitarian needs of the population and to provide, as appropriate, food, medicines and essential equipment for hospitals and schools;

4. Invites the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs of Sierra Leone and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1986;

5. Appeals to all States and international organizations to participate at a high level in the round table of partners in development of Sierra Leone to be held early in 1986, and to contribute generously to the programme of action that will be presented by the Government of Sierra Leone;

6. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Sierra Leone;

(b) To apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1986, of the assistance granted to Sierra Leone;

(c) To keep the situation regarding assistance to Sierra Leone under review and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution

120th plenary meeting
17 December 1985

40/221. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/90 and 35/91 of 5 December 1980, 36/221 of 17 December 1981, 37/147 of 17 December 1982, 38/216 of 20 December 1983 and 39/205 of 17 December 1984 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/46 of 28 July 1983 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of those countries,¹⁴⁸

Deeply concerned at the serious effects of the prolonged and persistent drought in the region, which precipitated food shortages and famine and hindered the development efforts of the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development,

Stressing the need for practical regional arrangements for co-operation to promote the rehabilitation, recovery, and medium-term to long-term development of the countries of the region,

Bearing in mind the imperative need for the international community to render assistance to Member States in the event of natural disasters,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 35/90, 35/91, 36/221, 37/147, 38/216 and 39/205 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda;

2. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of those countries;

3. Commends the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda for their decision to establish, in Djibouti, an Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development, as initially recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/90;

4. Notes with satisfaction the decision taken by the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda to meet in Djibouti at the level of Head of State to endorse the agreement on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Authority and to adopt a regional plan of action for the implementation of medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programmes of the States members of the Authority;

5. Notes with appreciation the assistance provided by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and by the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office in the effort to establish the Intergovernmental Authority, in line with the recommendations of the Secretary-General and pursuant to the resolutions of the General Assembly mentioned above;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/147, to make the necessary arrangements to render operational, as soon as possible, the unit within the United Nations Sudano-Saharan Office entrusted with the responsibility of assisting the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority and to pay special attention to the unit so as to ensure that its responsibilities are discharged effectively;

7. Appeals to all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously in order to provide the resources necessary for funding the

¹⁴⁶ A/40/441, sect. XIII.

¹⁴⁷ A/38/211, annex.

¹⁴⁸ A/40/770.