

the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

*100th plenary meeting
8 December 1986*

41/188. Sessions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1987

The General Assembly,

Having decided to convene the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Geneva from 9 to 31 July 1987,

Recognizing the resulting need for appropriate adjustments in the dates and programmes of work of other principal and/or subsidiary bodies of the United Nations,

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1987, to suspend, on an exceptional basis, rule 2 of its rules of procedure to enable its second regular session of 1987 to be held from 23 June to 9 July at Geneva, and to convene a resumed second regular session, not exceeding three days, in September in New York;

2. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its organizational session, to reschedule its annual session for 1987, which should be held from 26 May to 19 June in New York, and the session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, which should be held between 18 and 22 May 1987.

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41/189. Tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it made institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, including the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to provide institutional focus to the activities of the United Nations system in that field, as recommended by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976,⁴⁴

Noting with utmost concern that, although some progress has been achieved in that field in the past decade, the living conditions of the majority of people in urban and rural slums and squatter settlements, especially in developing countries, continue nevertheless to deteriorate in both relative and absolute terms,

Recalling the important initiative taken by Member States to reverse that negative trend through the proclamation by the Assembly, in its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, of the year 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, with the aim of securing renewed political commitment by the international community to the improvement of the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged,

Taking note with appreciation of the fact that over one hundred and thirty countries have responded positively to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by establishing national focal points for the Year and that over three hundred and sixty projects for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged have been officially designated around the world in the context of the Year,

Recalling that, in its resolution 37/221, it designated the Commission on Human Settlements, in the framework of its regular sessions, to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for organizing the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and noting that 1987 will mark not only the observance of the Year but also the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission,

Convinced that the tenth session of the Commission, commemorating its tenth anniversary and coinciding with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, provides therefore a timely and unique opportunity for the international community to assess the results of the efforts of the past decade, including the results of the many programmes and projects around the world identified as demonstration projects for the Year and, on the basis of such assessment, decide on new directions and approaches for national policies and strategies that will bring closer the objective of shelter for all by the year 2000,

Recognizing that universal participation by States in the commemorative session of the Commission will greatly enhance the significance and usefulness of the deliberations and conclusions of that session,

1. *Appeals* to all Member States of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, to participate at the highest possible level in the tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, commemorating its tenth anniversary, in order to highlight the significance of that session and the critical importance of the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless;

2. *Decides* that for the duration of the tenth session no distinction shall be drawn in the application of the rules of procedure between States members of the Commission and other participating States and for that purpose suspends for the duration of the session the operation of rule 56 of the Commission's rules of procedure.

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41/190. International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, in which it proclaimed the year 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Noting with satisfaction that more than one hundred and thirty countries and many key United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are taking part in the programme for the Year and have designated more than three hundred and sixty projects for it,

Noting also that a large number of States have participated in the regional and subregional meetings for the Year, many at the ministerial level, which have resulted in constructive recommendations and commitments for renewed national action,

⁴⁴ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chaps. II and III.

Expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made or pledged voluntary contributions to the Year,

Recognizing that the provision of adequate shelter is essential for the promotion and achievement of national economic and social development and human health,

Recognizing also that in order for Governments to address realistically the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, it is necessary to frame shelter policies that can mobilize all possible resources and policy instruments to meet the objectives of the Year,

Recognizing further that the Year provides an excellent opportunity for the United Nations and other international agencies to review their contributions to solving the problem of shelter for the homeless and for bilateral aid agencies and multilateral financial institutions to evaluate their role in this sector,

Recalling Commission on Human Settlements resolution 7/9 of 10 May 1984 and the information strategy for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, which had been submitted to the Commission at its eighth session,⁴⁵

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the Plan of Action for 1986-1987,⁴⁶

2. *Urges* Governments to demonstrate renewed political commitment to the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged by taking significant measures before 1987, including providing access to land and ensuring security of tenure in squatter settlements, adapting codes and regulations to the needs of the people, facilitating community participation, improving access to credit and loans and promoting local and affordable building materials;

3. *Also urges* Governments:

(a) To prepare or review shelter strategies, taking into consideration the options set out in the documentation for the Year;

(b) To prepare a programme to implement projects geared to their chosen shelter strategies;

4. *Requests* Governments to submit detailed reports on their activities in the Year to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as soon as possible, giving special attention to measures that will improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged during 1987 and to their strategies to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor by the year 2000;

5. *Requests* all Governments, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and financial institutions to review their policies and raise the priority of shelter and settlements improvement programmes;

6. *Appeals* to all Governments to make or increase voluntary contributions to the Year and to all international agencies and financial institutions to provide effective financial and other support to the programme of the Year;

7. *Decides* to devote at least two plenary meetings at its forty-second session, in 1987, to issues related to shelter, in observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

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41/191. Food and agricultural problems

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference,⁴⁷

Stressing the imperative need to keep food and agricultural issues at the centre of global attention,

Reaffirming that food and agricultural problems in developing countries should be considered in a comprehensive manner in their different dimensions and in their immediate, short-term and long-term perspectives,

Reaffirming also the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,³⁰ in which the African countries and the international community committed themselves, *inter alia*, to give priority attention and increased resources to the rehabilitation and development of food and agriculture in Africa,

Noting with concern that the present agricultural trade situation, marked by structural imbalances, protectionism, heavy direct and indirect subsidies and distortions in the use of resources, is detrimental to all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Noting the views expressed during its forty-first session on the issues of international agricultural trade,

Emphasizing the important role that a reliable and increasing supply of agricultural inputs and manpower development could play in enabling food-deficit developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to increase domestic food production and thereby stimulate national economic growth and social progress in those countries, especially in Africa,

Reaffirming that the right to food is a universal human right which should be guaranteed to all people and, in that context, believing in the general principle that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure, either at the national or at the international level,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/44 of 21 July 1986, entitled "Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa",

Reaffirming also that the maintenance of peace and security and the strengthening of international co-operation in food and agriculture are important for improved economic conditions and enhanced food security,

Welcoming the support given by the international donor community to agricultural development in developing countries, and the efforts of these countries in their food and agricultural developments,

Recognizing the positive efforts of developing countries to intensify regional and interregional co-operation to increase their food and agricultural production through

⁴⁵ HS/C/8/4/Add.1.

⁴⁶ HS/C/9/6.

⁴⁷ Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.