

43/190. Strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,⁴⁰

Recalling also its other resolutions on technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recalling further resolution 9/85 on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, adopted on 28 November 1985 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,⁴¹

Noting with appreciation that the World Food Council at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions called for the further strengthening of technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture, particularly in food production, institution building, training and enhancement of management capability and the development of agro-industries and trade,⁴²

Noting with interest the progress already made in technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture, especially in tripartite co-operative agreements and other existing arrangements among international institutions and organizations and developed and developing countries,

Recognizing the expertise and technological capability accumulated by developing countries in the fields of food and agriculture and food production,

Reaffirming that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting technical co-operation among themselves in food and agriculture, that developed countries and the United Nations system should assist and support such activities, and that in addition the United Nations system should play a prominent role as promoter and catalyst of technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture, in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

1. Endorses the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the World Food Council on the work of its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions;⁴²

2. Reaffirms the role and importance of technical co-operation among developing countries in their socio-economic development in general and in their agricultural development in particular, and in the reinforcement and final achievement of their individual and collective self-reliance;

3. Welcomes the progress made in technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture, and emphasizes that such co-operation should be carried out in accordance with the national development plans, objectives and priorities of the developing countries concerned;

4. Affirms that tripartite co-operative agreements and other existing arrangements constitute an effective means of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture, in particular in food

production, and welcomes the progress made so far in this regard;

5. Calls upon the developing countries, in the context of their primary responsibility for promoting technical co-operation among themselves, to place greater emphasis on technical co-operation in food and agriculture and to strengthen and improve the mechanisms for such co-operation at the national, subregional and regional levels, especially their national focal points, so as to facilitate policy co-ordination and exchange of experience;

6. Urges the developed countries, if so requested by participants in programmes concerning technical co-operation among developing countries, to provide financial and technical assistance to such programmes in food and agriculture, including through participation in tripartite co-operative agreements;

7. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and other international development and financing institutions, to provide increased financial and technical assistance for technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture, and in particular to encourage and take part in tripartite co-operative agreements and other arrangements;

8. Recommends that organizations of the United Nations system and other international development and financing institutions, within their respective spheres of competence, give priority in their programmes of work to technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture;

9. Requests the World Food Council to continue its work in identifying effective ways and means of technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly on technical co-operation among developing countries, to be prepared pursuant to resolution 42/180 of 11 December 1987, information on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations for the enhancement of technical co-operation among developing countries in food and agriculture.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 1988

43/191. 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,

Recalling also its resolutions on food and agricultural problems, in particular resolution 41/191 of 8 December 1986,

⁴⁰ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

⁴¹ See Report of the Conference of FAO, Twenty-third Session, Rome, 9-28 November 1985 (C 85/REP).

⁴² See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/42/19) and *ibid.*, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/43/19).

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference,⁴³

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,

Emphasizing that the continuing gravity of the economic situation in Africa, including the persistence of negative trends in the food and agricultural sectors, requires urgent and decisive action by the international community to accelerate and ensure the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,⁴⁴ as stressed during the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

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

Noting with concern that the tensions concerning trade in agricultural markets remain very serious, notably owing to the persistence and, in some cases, intensification of all forms of agricultural support, including export subsidies and import restrictions, as pointed out by ministers of Governments of States members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development at their meeting in Paris on 18 and 19 May 1988,

Reaffirming that the right to food is a universal human right that 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,

Deeply concerned about the worsening of the locust infestation and its spread to several regions of the developing world, particularly the recent infestation of large regions of Africa, as described in the status reports of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and about the grave consequences of the infestation for agriculture and food production in the countries of the affected regions,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture in monitoring the world food situation and in alerting the international community to impending problems,

Concerned that, despite some slight improvements in 1987, the economies of developing countries continue to suffer from depressed international commodity prices, protectionism and worsening terms of trade, growing debt service burden and net outflow of financial resources from developing countries as a whole, which have had a negative effect on international trade and agriculture, particularly for developing countries,

1. *Notes with concern* that hunger and malnutrition have been increasing since the World Food Conference in 1974, that the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition has increased in the 1980s and that the central objective of the Conference remains largely unfulfilled;

2. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the World Food Council on the

work of its fourteenth ministerial session, held at Nicosia from 23 to 26 May 1988,⁴⁵ in particular the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World,⁴⁶ and calls upon Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to assist the World Food Council fully in implementing the Initiative;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on trends in international agricultural markets with special reference to the share of developing countries;⁴⁷

4. *Stresses* the urgent need for substantial progress in stimulating food production in developing countries and the importance of increasing domestic food production, thereby stimulating national economic growth and social progress in those countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, and helping to resolve the problems of hunger and malnutrition in an effective way;

5. *Urges*, in this context, the members of the international community, in particular the donor countries, to take further determined action in support of the efforts of developing countries by increasing the flow of resources, including concessional flows designated for agricultural development, and to increase their contributions to inter-governmental organizations;

6. *Stresses* the need for donor countries to increase aid commitments to food and agriculture in developing countries and the need to channel assistance through existing organizations and programmes;

7. *Also stresses* that the provision of food aid in the context of emergency situations resulting, *inter alia*, from natural disasters should be reinforced through additional rehabilitation and development assistance in order to help restore food production capacity and self-reliance;

8. *Calls* for a joint effort by all States and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations to improve the food situation and protect the nutritional levels of affected groups, in particular low-income groups, especially during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes;

9. *Affirms* that increasing food production in developing countries will significantly contribute to the eradication of poverty and the elimination of malnutrition, and recommends that a higher priority be given to supporting food production in the national development efforts of those countries in order to ensure adequate food supplies and distribution;

10. *Stresses* that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, launched on the occasion of the Special Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 20 September 1986, presents a unique opportunity to develop a more open, viable and durable trading system, to reverse the disquieting rise in protectionism, and to bring agriculture under the strengthened and operationally effective rules and disciplines of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round,⁴⁸ and urges that concerted efforts to this end should be made at the forthcoming mid-term review of multilateral trade negotiations at Montreal, Canada, taking into account the need to provide special and differential treatment for developing countries, con-

⁴³ Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

⁴⁴ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

⁴⁵ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/43/19), part one.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, sect. II.

⁴⁷ E/1988/70.

⁴⁸ See GATT, Focus Newsletter, No. 41, October 1986.

sidering their food security objectives and the need to avoid potentially adverse effects on those countries, especially those that import food, bearing in mind the overall benefits of trade liberalization;

11. *Stresses* the need to implement fully the relevant provisions of the Ministerial Declaration concerning tropical products;

12. *Also stresses* the need to improve global economic conditions in order to establish national, subregional and regional food security in developing countries;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to support scientific and technological training and research in developing countries in order to promote agricultural development in those countries, and emphasizes the urgency of strengthening international co-operation in the field of transfer of agricultural technology and of facilitating the free exchange of information on experience and technology relating to food production, processing and storage;

14. *Also calls upon* the international community, through specific and effective measures, to support and complement the efforts made by African Governments to stimulate agriculture and food production and to implement fully the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;⁴⁴

15. *Urges* all States members of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to take decisive action to ensure the timely conclusion of the negotiations on the third replenishment of the resources of the Fund so as to facilitate its adoption by the Governing Council of the Fund in January 1989, thus enabling the Fund to pursue its mandate of assisting developing countries in increasing their food production and in alleviating rural poverty and, to that end, appeals to all parties to make their best efforts to achieve the overall target fixed for the replenishment;

16. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the fact that the target of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification of the Fund has been achieved, and appeals for increased contributions to the Fund;

17. *Appeals* to the international community to contribute generously to the World Food Programme so that the pledging target for the period 1989-1990, as set out in General Assembly resolution 42/164 of 11 December 1987, can be attained and the Programme can continue its activity in support of capital investment and in meeting emergency food needs;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the eighth replenishment of the International Development Association for the period 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1990, which provides for a total of 12.4 billion United States dollars, and stresses the need to draw upon those resources for the development of food and agriculture;

19. *Stresses* the need for co-ordinated international action to tackle the long-term problems of migratory pest control, particularly in Africa, and, expressing gratitude for the support of donors and recognizing the efforts made by the affected countries in the fight against the grasshopper and locust infestation, calls upon donors to continue to give high priority to the implementation and continued co-ordination by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of emergency control programmes, as well as longer-term measures, against grasshoppers and locusts currently affecting vast areas of Africa, as well as other regions of the developing world, and to remain prepared to provide financial and technical assistance to affected countries at short notice;

20. *Takes note* of the establishment, within the framework of the World Food Council, of the informal *ad hoc* consultative group for the implementation of the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World, and urges all Member States and international organizations to participate actively in the work of the group so as:

(a) To review and assess the policies and instruments currently available to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries, and to identify the reasons and obstacles that may have reduced their impact;

(b) To consider concrete and realistic measures that could make existing policies and instruments more effective;

(c) To identify workable initiatives;

(d) To recommend a course of action to combat hunger and malnutrition more effectively;

21. *Requests* the President of the World Food Council to present to the Council at its fifteenth ministerial session an action-oriented report on the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger in the World;

22. *Urges* the World Food Council to continue, within its mandate:

(a) To assess the overall impact of structural adjustment programmes in developing countries on the nutritional levels of their populations, especially among children and low-income groups, and to suggest remedial measures in that area, including ways of stimulating the provision of resources to eliminate the suffering of those groups;

(b) To assess the impact of liberalized international trade in agricultural and tropical products on all countries and especially on the food security and development efforts of developing countries and, in this context, to maintain an active interest in the progress and outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

(c) To promote activities related to food security and agricultural trade, as well as to regional and South-South co-operation in food and agriculture, within the context of economic growth and the development needs of developing countries;

(d) To stimulate progress in and contribute more actively to the full implementation of the food policy and programme components of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

23. *Also urges* the World Food Council to continue to exercise leadership in sensitizing the international community to the nature, extent, causes and consequences of hunger and malnutrition and in recommending appropriate practical policies for remedial action;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the World Food Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1989, an updated comprehensive report on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and on the liberalization of international agricultural trade, together with suggestions on ways and means of increasing the share of developing countries in that trade, while avoiding the potentially adverse short-

term effects on developing countries, in particular those that import food.

*83rd plenary meeting
20 December 1988*

43/192. Report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions concerning new and renewable sources of energy, in particular resolution 41/170 of 5 December 1986,

Stressing that trends in the energy sector do not diminish the importance of the continued development of new and renewable sources of energy,

Considering that new and renewable sources of energy could constitute a significant share of total world energy supplies, particularly in developing countries,

Noting the continuing need to strengthen the activities of the United Nations in the field of development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its fourth session⁴⁹ and endorses the resolutions and decision contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy⁵⁰ as the basic framework for action in that field and calls for its speedy and full implementation;

3. *Urges* the States members of the Committee, at its fifth session, to consider further measures to strengthen the activities of the United Nations in this field, particularly to enable the Committee to assure full and more effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

4. *Invites* interested States to inform the Committee, at its fifth session, of their ongoing technical and scientific activities and/or evaluations with regard to selected substantive themes, and invites interested States, organizations of the United Nations system and other interested organizations to convene technical and scientific meetings, related to the substantive themes, that would contribute to the examination of such themes in depth, and to inform the Committee, also at its fifth session, of the results of those meetings;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to implement effectively the proposals contained in the conclusions and recommendations of the Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Castelgandolfo, Italy, in 1987, as contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 2 (IV) of 8 April 1988 of the Committee,⁵¹ which are aimed at giving new impetus to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to convene an *ad hoc* panel of experts to prepare specific recommendations regarding information systems on new and renewable sources of energy;

⁴⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/43/36).*

⁵⁰ *Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

⁵¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/43/36)*, annex.

6. *Reiterates* the need to pursue actively ways and means of mobilizing adequate additional financial resources commensurate with the needs of developing countries in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and emphasizes the need to utilize existing channels fully, including the United Nations Trust Fund for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and urges donor countries to continue voluntary contributions to that Fund;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of increasing inter-agency co-operation within the United Nations system, as well as co-ordination of development activities for new and renewable sources of energy at all levels.

*83rd plenary meeting
20 December 1988*

43/193. Development of the energy resources of developing countries

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, its 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,

Recalling also its resolution 40/208 of 17 December 1985 on the development of the energy resources of developing countries,

Reaffirming the importance of the development of the energy resources of developing countries and the need for measures by the international community to assist and support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the energy-deficient among them, to develop their energy resources, in order to meet their needs through co-operation, assistance and investment in the field of conventional and of new and renewable sources of energy, consistent with their national plans and priorities,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 40/208 and calls for the effective implementation of all its provisions;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on energy exploration and development trends in developing countries;⁵²

3. *Notes with concern* that these trends have been on the decline in recent years, and therefore requests the Secretary-General to outline a programme of action aimed at the acceleration of the exploration and development of the energy resources of developing countries;

4. *Welcomes* the convening of symposia and other similar undertakings called for in resolution 40/208 and calls upon interested Member States, in co-operation with the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to explore ways and means to support the efforts of developing countries in the exploration and development of their energy resources;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate studies and analyses of trends in energy exploration and development of energy resources of developing countries, taking into account the activities of relevant organizations of the United Nations system in

⁵² A/43/476 and Corr. 1.