

5. *Decides* that in 1981 the Committee shall, if necessary, hold its session in two parts, the first part in May and, if the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development is ready for consideration, the second part late in August or early in September for not more than a week, mainly for the purpose of considering that report.

83rd plenary meeting
5 December 1980

B

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FUND FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,⁸⁹

Recognizing the vital importance of science and technology to the development of developing countries as an area of international co-operation and as a central component of the new international economic order and of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,⁹¹

Bearing in mind the provisions of its resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, by which it established, *inter alia*, the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/48 of 23 July 1980,

Noting that on 19 May 1980 the Interim Fund was declared operational,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its first and second sessions⁹² and of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development,⁹³

Recognizing that the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, together with the practical progress achieved through the activities of the Interim Fund, will contribute to the long-term arrangements of the Financing System,

Recognizing also the unprecedented efforts of developing countries in submitting more than seven hundred projects for financing by the Interim Fund,

Concerned that, at the United Nations Pledging Conference for the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, held on 27 March 1980, the agreed target of \$250 million was not attained,

Convinced that both the Vienna Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 34/218 provide a basis for future consensus and collaboration in an area of vital importance to all countries,

1. *Notes with concern* that the financial resources currently available to the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development are grossly inadequate to meet the already demonstrated needs and aspirations of developing countries for science and technology for development;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring that the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, as endorsed by the General Assembly, is respected and fully implemented;

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, Thirty-fifth Session, Second Committee, 7th meeting, para. 10.

3. *Urgently appeals* to all Governments, particularly those of developed countries, to contribute substantially to the Interim Fund so that the agreed target of no less than \$250 million may be reached by the earliest possible date, and expresses its thanks to those Governments that have contributed to the Interim Fund.

83rd plenary meeting
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35/68. Report of the World Food Council

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, as well as the agreed conclusions of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 on some aspects concerning food and agriculture,⁹⁶

Recalling also its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, by which it established the World Food Council to serve as a co-ordinating mechanism to provide over-all integrated and continuing attention to the successful co-ordination and follow-up of policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid, as well as other related matters, by all organizations of the United Nations system,

Recalling further the Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition, contained in the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council,⁹⁷ which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/52 of 8 December 1977, the Mexico Declaration of the World Food Council,⁹⁸ adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 33/90 of 15 December 1978, and Assembly resolution 34/110 of 14 December 1979 on the report of the Council on the work of its fifth ministerial session,⁹⁹

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/58 of 24 July 1980 on the report of the World Food Council on the work of its sixth ministerial session,¹⁰⁰

Expressing its concern about the unsatisfactory progress made by the international community towards achieving the general objectives of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,¹⁰¹

Noting that the food outlook for many developing countries in the 1980s, particularly in Africa, is even more critical than in the past,

Noting also the growing imbalances in the world food economy,

Noting with concern the strong impact of imports of food-stuffs on the balance of payments of food-importing

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/34/34), part two, sect. II, para. 18.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/32/19), part one, para. 1.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/33/19 and Corr.1), part one, para. 1.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/34/19).

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/35/19).

¹⁰¹ *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Reaffirming the strong commitment of the international community to overcoming hunger and malnutrition everywhere and, in that context, the need for greater international action to improve the production and distribution of food, particularly in low-income countries with food deficits,

Emphasizing the vital importance of increased benefits from international trade to the developing countries in accelerating their process of development, which is now endangered by growing protectionist pressures,

Noting the conclusion of the new and more adequate Food Aid Convention, 1980 at almost double the level earlier achieved, although regrettably still short of the target of 10 million tons,¹⁰²

Acknowledging with satisfaction the increasing efforts and growing commitment by developing countries to accelerating the development of their food and agricultural sectors, in particular through integrated national planning,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its sixth ministerial session,¹⁰³ and calls upon all Governments and appropriate international organizations to give earnest attention to their implementation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation and thanks* to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the excellent facilities and the generous hospitality provided to the World Food Council at its sixth ministerial session;

3. *Urges* all developing countries with food deficits to implement, in accordance with their national development programmes and priorities, measures to increase substantially their national food and agricultural production;

4. *Recognizes* that to overcome hunger and malnutrition is the common responsibility of the international community and that immediate action should concentrate on the food problems of those developing countries with inadequate food production, and recognizes further that the solution of food problems requires, in the first instance, the determined action of developing countries and that in this context they need the increased support of the international community;

5. *Calls upon* all countries, particularly those with serious and growing food import deficits, to continue to implement their food production policies and, as appropriate, adapt them to their circumstances and needs within the framework of their over-all national development objectives and priorities;

6. *Recognizes* 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 towards increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary additional international resources;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to support the national efforts of developing countries to increase their food and agricultural production by increased technical and capital assistance, in particular for food-sector strategies that have already been adopted by interested developing countries, taking into account at

the same time the fact that the existence of a food-sector strategy should not be a pre-condition for the granting of development assistance;

8. *Strongly urges* developed countries, international institutions and others able to provide development assistance to increase substantially their assistance on concessional terms to the food sector in order to facilitate for developing countries the achievement of the agreed target of a 4 per cent annual growth rate in agricultural production, for which an estimated necessary element of external assistance is \$8.3 thousand million with \$6.5 thousand million on concessional terms, at 1975 prices, as indicated in the Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition contained in the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council;

9. *Commends* the World Food Council's appeal to all countries and international agencies to undertake, on a special emergency basis, additional food assistance to countries in Africa currently experiencing critical food shortages and commends the prompt action taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme in convening a special meeting of donor countries and development and aid institutions to review the situation with a view to undertaking increased emergency assistance for that area;

10. *Calls upon* developed and other donor countries and international financial institutions to support, in recognition of their commitment to a world without hunger, the efforts of interested developing countries to initiate or expand food-entitlement programmes, within the context of their national plans and policies, as appropriate, and national food strategies, and looks forward to the results of the consultations envisaged in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the report of the World Food Council;¹⁰³

11. *Expresses its concern* over the increase in protectionist trade practices that affect the economic development of the whole international community, particularly since they reduce the export possibilities of developing countries, affect their economic potential and reduce their capacity to import the food they need and, therefore, urges all countries to use their best efforts to prevent the extension of protectionist policies;

12. *Calls for* the immediate renewal of the Food Aid Convention of 1980 on the expiry of the Convention on 30 June 1981 and strongly urges that every effort should be made both to enlist new contributors and to increase the commitments of existing ones, so that the Convention can be renewed by mid-1981 with a firm assurance that 10 million tons will be the absolute minimum flow of assistance, even in times of high prices and food shortage;

13. *Welcomes* the endorsement by the World Food Council, in paragraph 34 of its report,¹⁰³ of the initiative of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes in proposing to examine at its next session the proposal of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that the International Emergency Food Reserve be made the subject of a legally binding convention;

14. *Stresses* the urgent need for a new international wheat agreement, as mentioned in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report of the World Food Council;¹⁰³

15. *Calls for* the further exploration by the secretariat of the World Food Council, in collaboration with the appropriate agencies, of possible modalities of an arrangement for a food-crisis contingency pledge, taking

¹⁰² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/35/19)*, part one, para. 32. For the text of the Convention, see TD/WHEAT.6/13.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, part one.

into account, *inter alia*, the work of the *ad hoc* working group established by the Committee on World Food Security, as stated in paragraph 40 of the report of the Council.¹⁰³

16. *Welcomes* the request of the World Food Council that the International Monetary Fund should consider, within the context of its financing facilities, the feasibility of providing additional balance-of-payments support to assist low-income, food-deficit countries to meet increases in their food-import bills and welcomes the decision by the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the Fund to urge prompt consideration of this matter by the Executive Board of the Fund;

17. *Recommends* that the international community should take the necessary steps for the immediate implementation of resolution 105 (V) of 1 June 1979 on international food trade of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;¹⁰⁴

18. *Recognizes* the desirability of studying measures to promote increased and more regionally balanced food production and trade within the wider framework of trade and its impact on the food situation of developing countries;

19. *Notes with deep concern* that only limited progress has been achieved towards the solution of the long-standing problems of international trade in agricultural products which adversely affect exports, particularly of developing countries, and whose solution could make an important contribution to improving over-all food production in the world;

20. *Recommends* that the World Food Council, in accordance with its mandate, should give continuing attention to the impact of food trade on levels of food production in the world, in particular with reference to the economies of the developing countries, using to the maximum extent possible the necessary inputs which the different organs and organizations of the United Nations system should provide;

21. *Fully supports* the call of the World Food Council, in paragraph 21 of its report,¹⁰⁵ for the replenishment of the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development at a level sufficient to provide a realistic attainment of its operations, in accordance with the recommendations of its Governing Council.

83rd plenary meeting
5 December 1980

35/69. Situation of food and agriculture in Africa

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern that, over the last two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has undergone a drastic deterioration, resulting in a decline of food production *per capita* and a reduction of average dietary standards below essential requirements,

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,

¹⁰⁴ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session*, vol. 1, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

Recalling also the relevant decisions and the recommendations of the World Food Conference,¹⁰⁵

Gravely concerned at the critical food shortages currently affecting many countries in the African region,

Recalling, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/58 of 24 July 1980 relating to the report of the World Food Council on the work of its sixth ministerial session,¹⁰⁶

Taking into account the deep concern reflected in the decisions on the food situation and agriculture outlook in Africa adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twentieth session,¹⁰⁷

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,

Stressing that the current shortages demonstrate the continued vulnerability of many countries in the region to food crises owing to, *inter alia*, crop failures, drought, soil erosion, low reserves and the high level of post-harvest losses,

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,

Regretting that food aid has not been adequate to cope with the serious food shortages in many African countries,

Deeply concerned at the unabated encroachment of the desert in many countries of Africa, which has continued to accentuate the food problem on that continent,

Recognizing the useful contribution that the effective execution of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa¹⁰⁸ adopted on 29 April 1980 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session devoted to economic matters, held at Lagos on 28 and 29 April 1980, can make to the improvement of the food situation, in particular, and to rapid over-all development of Africa,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and, in particular, of the provisions related to food and agriculture;¹⁰⁹

2. *Urges* all the countries of Africa to implement, in accordance with their national development programmes and priorities, measures to increase substantially their national food and agricultural production;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support efforts undertaken by African countries at the national, subregional and regional levels to in-

¹⁰⁵ See *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II.

¹⁰⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/35/19)*.

¹⁰⁷ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Twentieth Session, Rome, 10-28 November 1979* (C 79/REP and Corr.2), para. 33.

¹⁰⁸ See A/S-11/14, annex I.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, chap. I.