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**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.14/598/Add.4  
30 October 1974

ENGLISH  
Original: ENGLISH/  
FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twelfth session

Third meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Nairobi, 24-28 February 1975



RECENT DECISIONS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION  
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## Introduction

1. This document is part of a series of secretariat reports on decisions of interest to the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and covers the work of the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session, held in New York in April/May 1974, and its fifty-seventh session, held in Geneva in July/August 1974.

## Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

2. At its 1919th meeting, held on 1 August 1974, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission for the period 24 February 1973 to 23 February 1974 (E/5471) [decision 37(LVII)].

3. Noting with concern the large volume of documentation submitted for its fifty-seventh session, the Council reiterated its **request that the Secretary-General** should ensure that the guidelines relating to the Council's working documents, set out in its resolution 1623(LI), were observed in reports submitted to the Council and its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, and particularly that reports were action-oriented and concise. The Council decided to consider no report exceeding 32 pages at its future sessions, with the exception of the World Economic Survey and the Report on the World Social Situation [resolution 1894(LVII)].

## Implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy

4. In resolution 1896(LVII), the Council requested the regional economic commissions to adjust, as appropriate, their respective programmes of work and activities so as to discharge effectively their responsibilities in relation to :

(a) The urgent implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order;

(b) The presentation of the regional mid-term reviews of the International Development Strategy;

(c) The preparation, at the regional level, of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation, with a view to ensuring that the special session will contribute fully to the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The Council also requested the regional economic commissions to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on measures adopted and to continue to report periodically thereafter on such measures.

5. In resolution 1911(LVII), the Council requested all organizations, institutions and subsidiary organs of the United Nations system to take into account the Declaration and the Programme of Action when conducting the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, and to make their reports available in time to enable the Committee on Review and Appraisal to consider them at its meetings in May and June 1975.

6. On the subject of priorities in the economic, social and human rights fields, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in preparing his draft programme budget and medium-term plan, to review carefully the activities being undertaken under each programme in the economic, social and human rights fields, in order to permit the General Assembly, with the recommendations of the Council, to redeploy, where appropriate, resources allocated to those areas, taking fully into account : (a) the major objectives of the International Development Strategy and the Programme of Action, and (b) the desirability of ensuring a meaningful element of real growth in programmes which were particularly responsive to those major objectives [ resolution 1910(LVII) ].

#### Unified approach to development

7. At its 1918th meeting, held on 31 July 1974, the Council took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the capacity of the regional economic commissions for a unified approach to development (E/5430), the comments thereon by the Secretary-General and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requested the regional economic commissions to consider the report at their most appropriate forthcoming sessions and to communicate their views to the Council not later than at its fifty-ninth session [ decision 51(LVII) ].

#### Multinational projects financed by UNDP

8. On the subject of regional, subregional and interregional projects financed by UNDP, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP, to make the necessary arrangements allowing for the delegation of the appropriate functions of an executing agency to the regional economic commissions in cases where such delegation was requested by the countries concerned and recommended by the Administrator of UNDP. The Council also requested the regional economic commissions to extend their co-operation to UNDP by participating in the planning and, as appropriate, the implementation of relevant regional, subregional and interregional projects, and by ensuring the co-ordination with the programme of their own activities and, in particular, the activities of the United Nations Development Advisory Teams [ resolution 1896(LVII) ].

#### Drought in Africa

9. In resolutions 1834(LVI) and 1874(LVII), the Council expressed its appreciation to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other bodies which had helped to limit the effects of the drought upon the peoples of the Sudano-Sahelian region, and urged them to intensify their efforts towards securing the resources and facilities needed for the realization of the objectives established in the relief and assistance programmes.

10. The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to awaken greater public interest throughout the world in the drought which was continuing to prevail in the region and to secure additional financial aid. It also requested him to pursue in co-operation with the appropriate financial institutions and organizations the action necessary to meet, in an effective manner, the requests for medium-term and long-term assistance formulated by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and by the Governments concerned. The

Council further requested the Secretary-General to hasten the preparatory work on the possible establishment of a research institute for the arid Sahelian zone, in collaboration with the organizations and institutions of the United Nations system.

11. In resolutions 1833(LVI) and 1876(LVII), the Council expressed its deep sympathy to the people and Government of Ethiopia for the loss of human and animal life caused by the drought. It noted with appreciation the assistance furnished by many Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and invited them to continue to give their fullest support and assistance to the endeavours made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in mobilizing emergency relief assistance.

12. The Council requested the Administrator of UNDP, in collaboration with the appropriate organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, to intensify the response to the needs for recovery, rehabilitation and development. It also appealed to the international financial institutions to give urgent and sympathetic consideration to requests that the Ethiopian Government might make for grants or loans for projects designed to rehabilitate the population afflicted by drought.

13. In resolution 1898(LVII), the Council requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to convene an ad hoc interagency task force on the arid areas which would : (a) identify the obstacles encountered by the developing countries in developing arid areas; (b) prepare an inventory of current research and development actions and programmes; and (c) prepare a world programme of development research and application of science and technology to solve the special problems of the arid areas. The Council also requested the Secretary-General and the organizations and institutions of the United Nations system concerned to pursue their activities and efforts towards a broad, system-wide attack on the drought problem [resolution 1878(LVII)].

#### Assistance to Zambia

14. The Council took note, at its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions, of the reports of the Secretary-General on the first phase of the emergency operation to aid Zambia. It requested the Secretary-General to maintain and consolidate his efforts to mobilize increased assistance from Member States and components of the United Nations system in the subsequent phase of the emergency operation to enable Zambia to overcome the economic and other problems arising from the closure of its southern border, which had been particularly aggravated by the recent deterioration of the world economic situation [resolutions 1832(LVI) and 1875(LVII)].

#### Assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons

15. In resolution 1877(LVII), the Council commended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the effective manner in which he had organized and co-ordinated the United Nations immediate relief programme in the southern Sudan. It expressed its deep gratitude to the Governments which had greatly contributed to the implementation of the relief programme, and expressed deep appreciation to the agencies of the United Nations system and to the governmental

and non-governmental organizations which had contributed to the success of the operation. It also commended UNDP for the activities it was carrying on as the focal point for the long term reconstruction of the southern region of the Sudan.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

16. As a follow-up to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and to its own resolution 1804(LV) concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the Council called upon all the specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system to make appropriate procedural arrangements immediately and, if necessary, amend their relevant instruments, with a view to enabling the representatives of the liberation movements recognized by OAU to participate fully as observers in all proceedings relating to their countries, particularly so as to ensure that assistance projects of the agencies and organizations are carried out for the benefit of the national liberation movements and peoples of the liberated areas.

17. The Council also called upon the specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system to consider defraying all travel and other related expenses of representatives of the national liberation movements invited to attend such proceedings.

18. Once more the Council urged the executive heads of the organizations concerned to formulate and submit to their respective governing bodies or legislative organs, with the active co-operation of OAU, specific programmes of assistance for the peoples of the colonial territories and their national liberation movements, and to report to the Council at its fifty-ninth session, setting out a detailed account of the action taken and envisaged by their respective organizations [resolution 1892(LVII)].

Action to combat racism and racial discrimination

19. Noting with regret that the Security Council's mandatory sanctions against the illegal minority régime of Southern Rhodesia had failed, owing mainly to the obstinate non-compliance of certain countries, the Council condemned the activities of States which continued to give political, military, economic and other assistance to the racist and colonial régimes in southern Africa or which refrained from taking any steps to prevent natural or juridical persons within their jurisdiction from assisting those régimes and thus encouraging them to continue violating fundamental human rights [resolution 1864(LVI)].

20. The Council welcomed the adoption by organizations and institutions within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations of resolutions or measures related to ways and means of attaining the goals and objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It also appealed to all States to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid [resolutions 1863(LVI) and 1869(LVI)].

Social indicators for measuring social progress and application of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

21. In resolution 1841(LVI), the Council requested the Secretary-General to summarize, in conjunction with the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies and the Governments of Member States, studies on social data and indicators relevant to decision-making, development planning and evaluation, and to request Member States which had not yet done so to furnish information on the measures taken for the purpose of implementing the basic principles and objectives of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and, in particular, for the purpose of eliminating all forms of inequality, exploitation, unemployment, the vestiges of colonialism, racism and other policies and ideologies which run counter to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The advancement of women and their integration in development

22. At its fifty-sixth session, held in May-June 1974, the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene in 1975, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations, an international conference during the International Women's Year to examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system have implemented the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment and to launch an international action programme including short-term and long-term measures aimed at achieving the integration of women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, and at achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination [resolution 1851(LVI)].

23. In resolution 1855(LVI), the Council requested the organizations and institutions within the United Nations system and the competent non-governmental organizations to take into account in connexion with the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy the extent to which programmes endorsed by them include projects aiming at the integration of women in the development effort, also bearing in mind the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session and the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/577).

International Fertilizer Supply Scheme

24. Noting the urgent need to increase the supply of fertilizers to developing countries, to assist them to finance their fertilizer imports and to provide them with the necessary technical and financial assistance to process their own raw materials into semi-finished or finished fertilizer products, and noting also the scarcity and prevailing high prices of fertilizers and pesticides, the Council welcomed the decision of the FAO Council to establish an International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. It invited the Governments of developing countries to keep the Director-General of FAO informed of their current fertilizer and pesticides import requirements and to submit requests for fertilizers under the Scheme [resolutions 1836(LVI) and 1879(LVII)].

### Science and technology

25. Recognizing the pivotal role of modern science and technology in the development of all nations, the Council urged Governments and the regional economic commissions to continue giving full attention to the World Plan of Action and the regional plans as aids to the selection and preparation of specific projects relevant to the needs of their countries. It requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary action, in consultation with international organizations, and with interested Member States, for the establishment, at the regional or global level, as might be required, of consultative groups or other such machinery aimed at achieving rapid progress in areas scheduled for research and for the application of existing knowledge, as identified in the World Plan of Action.
26. The Council invited the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, in close co-operation with the organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, to keep the World Plan of Action and the regional plans under specific review and appraisal and, in the light of new developments, to prepare new areas of topics of research and development for incorporation in the World Plan of Action or the regional plans.
27. The Council also urged on all Governments the importance of drafting and implementing national science and technology policies and of giving high priority to the establishment of at least one centre for advisory services in the field of science and technology policy in each region, and requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with international organizations, to promote effective assistance in that field [resolution 1900(LVII)]7.
28. In resolution 1905(LVII), the Council requested the Secretary-General to make a study on the work currently being undertaken throughout the United Nations system in the field of the development of and the transfer of science and technology, particularly in the interests of the developing countries, and to study the feasibility of the establishment of a United Nations science and technology programme to assist, facilitate and ensure the application of science and technology to development, particularly of the developing countries.
29. In resolution 1899(LVII), the Council urged Governments and the organizations concerned within the United Nations system to effect a wide exposure of the World Plan of Action and the regional plans to the technological community of developed and developing countries by conducting intensive campaigns through the use of appropriate mass media and, inter alia, by way of meetings or seminars on a national and regional basis.

Annex: LIST OF RECENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

- 1827 (LV) Second United Nations Development Decade: Review and appraisal of progress in implementing the international development strategy
- 1828 (S-II) Measures to be taken following the natural disaster in Pakistan
- 1829 (LV) United Nations University
- 1830 (LV) Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1975-1976
- 1831 (LV) World Food Conference
- 1832 (LVI) Assistance to Zambia
- 1833 (LVI) Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia
- 1834 (LVI) Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine
- 1835 (LVI) **Arrangements for the World Population Conference**
- 1836 (LVI) Emergency measures in regard to the supply of fertilizers and pesticides
- 1837 (LVI) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
- 1838 (LVI) The convening of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East
- 1839 (LVI) First United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas
- 1840 (LVI) Preparations for the World Food Conference
- 1841 (LVI) Social indicators for measuring social progress and application of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development
- 1842 (LVI) Channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations
- 1843 (LVI) Report of the International Narcotics Control Board
- 1844 (LVI) Abuse of customs transit systems by drug smugglers
- 1845 (LVI) Co-operation for drug law enforcement in the Far East region
- 1846 (LVI) Cultivation and chewing of the coca leaf: clandestine manufacture of and illicit traffic in cocaine
- 1847 (LVI) Convention on Psychotropic Substances: ratifications and accessions
- 1848 (LVI) Periodicity of the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- 1849 (LVI) International Women's Year
- 1850 (LVI) Establishment of a fund for voluntary contributions for the International Women's Year
- 1851 (LVI) International Conference to be held during the International Women's Year
- 1852 (LVI) Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and of related instruments
- 1853 (LVI) Legal capacity of married women, including the capacity to engage in independent work



- 1854 (LVI) Study on the inter-relationship of the status of women and family planning
- 1855 (LVI) Implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development
- 1856 (LVI) Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers
- 1857 (LVI) Employment of women by the secretariats of organizations within the United Nations system
- 1858 (LVI) Technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women
- 1859 (LVI) Activities of the International Labour Organisation to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development
- 1860 (LVI) Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development
- 1861 (LVI) Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence
- 1862 (LVI) Influence of mass communication media on the formation of new attitudes towards the roles of women in present-day society
- 1863 (LVI) Decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination
- 1864 (LVI) The adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to colonial and racist régimes in southern Africa
- 1865 (LVI) The historical and current development of the right of peoples to self-determination, on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, with particular reference to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- 1866 (LVI) Implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination
- 1867 (LVI) Question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems relating to human rights in developing countries
- 1868 (LVI) Activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts
- 1869 (LVI) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts
- 1870 (LVI) Model rules of procedure for United Nations bodies dealing with violations of human rights
- 1871 (LVI) Question of international legal protection of the human rights of individuals who are not citizens of the country in which they live
- 1872 (LVI) Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirtieth session
- 1873 (LVI) Protection of human rights in Chile
- 1874 (LVII) The economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region

- 1875 (LVII) Assistance to Zambia
- 1876 (LVII) Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia
- 1877 (LVII) Assistance to southern Sudanese returnees and displaced persons
- 1878 (LVII) The drought problem in Africa
- 1879 (LVII) Emergency measures in regard to the supply of fertilizers and pesticides
- 1880 (LVII) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund
- 1881 (LVII) Proposal for an International Children's Year
- 1882 (LVII) Establishment of an international habitat and human settlements foundation
- 1883 (LVII) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
- 1884 (LVII) Technical assistance activities of the United Nations in housing, building and planning
- 1885 (LVII) World Housing Survey
- 1886 (LVII) Improvement and development of building technologies based on locally available materials
- 1887 (LVII) International Book Year, 1972, and the Second United Nations Development Decade: Report of the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- 1888 (LVII) Reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency
- 1889 (LVII) Special report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on information systems
- 1890 (LVII) Agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization
- 1891 (LVII) Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations
- 1892 (LVII) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
- 1893 (LVII) Meetings of working groups of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
- 1894 (LVII) Rationalization of the work of the Council
- 1895 (LVII) Change of name from "Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East" to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific"
- 1896 (LVII) Regional co-operation
- 1897 (LVII) Question of convening a United Nations conference on science and technology
- 1898 (LVII) World programme of development research and application of science and technology to solve the special problems of the arid areas
- 1899 (LVII) Mobilization of public opinion in relation to the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the regional plans

- 1900 (LVII) Implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development
- 1901 (LVII) Quantification of scientific and technological activities related to development
- 1902 (LVII) The role of an international technological information system in the transfer and assessment of technology and in the indigenous growth of appropriate technologies in developing countries
- 1903 (LVII) Application of computer science and technology to development
- 1904 (LVII) Outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries
- 1905 (LVII) Institutional arrangements for science and technology
- 1906 (LVII) Review of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency
- 1907 (LVII) Revised pattern of meetings
- 1908 (LVII) The impact of transnational corporations on the development process and on international relations
- 1909 (LVII) United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- 1910 (LVII) Priorities in the economic, social and human rights fields
- 1911 (LVII) Implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order; Mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy; special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation
- 1912 (LVII) Special Programme to provide emergency relief and development assistance to the most seriously affected developing countries.