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Item 8(ii) of the provisional agenda

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION
ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS
RESUMED FORTY-FIFTH SESSION AND BY THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AT ITS TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its resumed forty-fifth session

(A) Resolutions which requires action by the Commission, by the Secretariat, or both

1384 (XIV) Activities of the United Nations family of organizations in connexion with natural disasters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1049 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 and 1090 C (XXXIX) of 31 July 1965 and General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965 relating to assistance to countries which experience natural disasters,

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly to review at its twenty-third session the experimental arrangements provided for in paragraph 5 of its resolution 2034 (XX),

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations family of organizations in connexion with natural disasters,^{1/}

Recommends for adoption by the General Assembly the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965 on assistance to Governments in cases of natural disasters and its decision to review at its twenty-third session the experimental arrangements provided for in paragraph 5 of that resolution,

"Having noted the views of the Economic and Social Council on the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations family of organizations in connexion with natural disasters,^{1/}

"Noting with satisfaction that the arrangements provided for in General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX) and the assistance extended to Governments by the Secretary-General under that resolution have contributed towards relieving the distress and hardships which follow natural disasters,

"Noting with appreciation the co-operation and assistance offered by certain Governments and provided by various United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, as well as by the League of Red Cross Societies and other voluntary organizations, in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX),

"Having considered the view of the Secretary-General that United Nations assistance under General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX) would be of considerably wider use and benefit to the developing countries subject to natural disasters if its conditions were broadened,

"Recognizing the importance of scientific research and modern technology in reducing the impact of natural disasters on man and society,

"Reiterating the importance it attaches to adequate pre-disaster planning by Member States, in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters,

"1. Invites Governments which have not already done so, to make national preparations to meet natural disasters, including administrative arrangements and such measures as training of relief personnel, stock-piling of supplies needed for disaster relief, earmarking of means of transportation, the development of warning systems and of means of speedy communication;

"2. Invites Governments and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other organizations concerned, to give full recognition to the need to promote scientific research regarding the causes and early manifestations of impending disasters, to ascertain and assess areas and places of high vulnerability, and to encourage preventive and protective measures, such as the construction of disaster resistant housing;

"3. Urges the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system as well as the League of Red Cross Societies and other organizations concerned, to consider ways of expanding assistance to Governments in the fields referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to give early consideration to the strengthening of staff arrangements within the United Nations Secretariat for dealing with natural disasters, including the establishment of a co-ordinating group whose members would be drawn, as appropriate, from the existing staff of the Secretariat;

"5. Appeals to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to consider offering, through the United Nations or otherwise, emergency assistance to meet natural disasters, including stand-by disaster relief units or the earmarking of similar units for service in foreign countries, and requests the Secretary-General to consult States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies on the types of emergency assistance they would be in a position to offer;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to complete at an early date the study undertaken by the Secretariat concerning the legal status of disaster relief units made available through the United Nations, and in this

connexion to consult, as appropriate, States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies;

"7. Decides to extend for another three years the authority given to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX), namely, to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$100,000 in any one year for emergency aid in connexion with natural disasters, with a normal ceiling of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

"8. Decides, if funds are left from the amount of \$100,000 referred to in paragraph 7 above, to authorize the Secretary-General, as an interim measure, to expend up to \$10,000 per country for assistance to Governments, at their request, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies, in the elaboration of national preparations to meet natural disasters, it being understood that consideration will be given to obtaining, in the future, the necessary funds for such assistance from other sources;

"9. Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review periodically programmes and projects throughout the United Nations system which relate to natural disasters, and to include appropriate recommendations thereon in its reports to the Economic and Social Council;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution at the latest at one of its sessions to be held in 1970, and a comprehensive report at the fifty-first session of the Council;

"11. Decides to review at its twenty-sixth session, on the basis of the comprehensive report referred to in paragraph 10 above and the recommendations thereon by the Economic and Social Council, all aspects of the activities of the United Nations family of organizations in connexion with natural disasters."

1385 (XLV) The protein problem

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the protein problem,^{1/}

1. Transmits the report to the General Assembly;

^{1/} E/4592 and Add.1 and 2, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4.

2. Draws the attention of the General Assembly to the comments and observations on the item contained in the addendum to the report of the Economic and Social Council.^{1/}

1386 (XIV) Report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association and report of the International Finance Corporation

The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association^{2/}and of the report of the International Finance Corporation.^{3/}

1387 (XIV) Report of the International Monetary Fund

The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Monetary Fund.^{4/}

^{1/} A/7203/Add.1 (Part V).

^{2/} International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - International Development Association, Annual Report, 1966-1967 (Washington, D.C.); transmitted to members of the Economic and Social Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/4593). A summary of the report was also transmitted to the members of the Council (E/4593/Add.1).

^{3/} International Finance Corporation, Annual Report, 1968 (Washington, D.C.); transmitted to members of the Economic and Social Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/4594). A summary of the report was also transmitted to the members of the Council (E/4594/Add.1).

^{4/} International Monetary Fund, Annual Report 1968 (Washington, D.C.); transmitted to the members of the Economic and Social Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/4596).

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its
twenty-third session

I. Resolutions on which the regional economic commissions and UNESOB
are required to take action

(A) Resolutions for which brief analyses of the relevant debates are made

2411 (XXIII) International development strategy

Speaking on this item, which was combined with the general debate, representatives in the Second Committee attempted to analyse the causes underlying the unsatisfactory results of the First Decade and to prescribe a machinery and a course of action which would enhance the changes for a successful Second Development Decade.

The general debate was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs with a statement elaborating on the global strategy for development. He stated that one should go beyond a mere act of declaration setting forth a carefully prepared plan of action, and should develop a continuing function. The international climate was not favourable to produce a treaty incorporating specific obligations relating to various aspects of development. Yet it would be a step forward if one regarded the global strategy not merely as a plan of action, as a frame of reference, but also as a machinery for "international surveillance". It would mean that it was not essential to define precisely in advance every part of a global strategy and that it would be possible to revise certain objectives in the light of experience or new circumstances. Similarly, it also became less necessary to express certain phenomena numerically, which was sometimes difficult, if there was a machinery for qualitative evaluation.

In connexion with the First Decade he mentioned that twenty-three countries had achieved growth rates higher than the target of 5 per cent during the period as reviewed by the World Economic Survey. Of those countries, nine had already exceeded 6 per cent. These countries were generally those whose economies were based on the extractive industries or those with a diversified export sector. However, two-thirds of the countries were still in the medium and low growth-rate categories. Those were countries with predominantly agricultural economies.

Speakers pointed out that the results of the First Decade were certainly slender and that the present climate was hardly favourable for launching a great international economic and social programme; but much could be learned from the experience with the First Decade, which failed, inter alia, because of the following circumstances: the lack of a global plan and policy, and of the political will on the part of countries concerned; lack of consistent unity among the developing countries; overburdened international machinery; and insufficient flow of resources to the Third World.

The preparation for the Second Development Decade must be more thorough and a global strategy and policy must be carefully formulated. The global strategy should include a programme of action and supervision for its implementation, establishment of attainable and quantifiable objectives, and practical measures for attaining them as well as for the acceptance of commitments. The global policy should serve as a guide for countries concerned on international co-operation for development.

For the success of the next Development Decade, it was important to ensure the political will of governments to relate international action to the targets. The participation of governments and peoples at the international, regional and national levels was essential. The waging of an international campaign to create a public opinion favourable for positive international action was therefore necessary. Mobilization and development of human and natural resources, and the transfer of technology and sufficient international resources to the Third World were also considered very important. Measures should be taken to relieve the debt-servicing burdens of the developing countries. The creation of new reserves should be linked with the flow of resources to the Third World. Commodity prices should be stabilized. Food and population problems were also considered crucial. Developing countries should assume responsibility to carry out necessary social and economic reforms and to mobilize the domestic resources required.

Speakers from the three developed countries of the West cautioned that the progress in the developing countries achieved during the First Decade should not be ignored. Average annual growth rate of the developing countries was 4.8 per cent, though that Decade did not yet come to a close. They also felt that the fruits of their assistance were meagre and that they had not been forthcoming as soon as had been expected. They stressed the need for measures which were pragmatic, flexible and realistic relative to the problems of the developed countries and the prevailing social conditions in the developing countries. The political will could only be achieved through a dialogue in a co-operative and not a demanding spirit.

Socialist countries mentioned, among others, that the programme for the Second Development Decade should fully reflect the measures needed to protect the economic interest of the developing countries. The share of these countries in the profits reaped by foreign capital from the exploitation of their natural resources should be increased. The outflow of resources from the developing countries in the form of income from capital should be limited, and the sovereignty of these countries over their natural resources should be protected. They also stressed the importance of the normalization of world trade in the spirit of the UNCTAD principles adopted in Geneva in 1964.

Several speakers stressed the importance of the global strategy to be consistent with regional and national plans. In this connexion many speakers referred to the important role which the regional economic commissions could play in contributing to the success of the next Development

Decade. They could be entrusted with the preparation of regional plans on the basis of information on national plans supplied by countries concerned. It was also mentioned that for this reason the Meeting of Executive Secretaries, with the participation of the specialized agencies, offered a useful forum for consultations. On the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2411 (XXIII) on international development strategy, which is analysed in the following paragraphs.

This resolution had obviously important implications on the work of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, although no direct reference to them was made in it. The General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to enlarge its Economic Committee by twenty-seven States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and IAEA, to be designated annually, until the completion of the preparatory work, by the President of the General Assembly. The enlarged Economic Committee was designated by the General Assembly as the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

The Preparatory Committee was instructed to prepare, on the basis of the relevant studies, conclusions and proposals formulated - within their respective fields of competence - by the bodies and organizations in the United Nations system, a draft of an international development strategy for the 1970s, which would enunciate, within a comprehensive, coherent and integrated framework, the goals and objectives, both general and sectoral, as well as concerted policy measures at the national, regional and international levels, to realize these goals and objectives. It was also instructed to make suggestions on evaluation and implementation mechanisms for the next Decade.

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in order to assist the Preparatory Committee in the fulfilment of its task to utilize the expertise available in, and the preparatory work already accomplished by, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariat of UNCTAD.

The General Assembly also requested the Preparatory Committee to establish its programme of work and calendar of meetings in such a manner as to be able to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session, a preliminary draft international strategy for development, with a view to finalizing the draft early in 1970. The Preparatory Committee was further requested to communicate its programme of work and calendar of meetings to governments and all organizations concerned in the United Nations system to facilitate their contribution to the formulation of an international strategy for development.

The General Assembly also took note of a decision by the Second Committee that the Chairman of the Committee should invite the President of the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, or their representatives, to be present on

12 December 1968 to participate in the Committee's discussions of the item on the United Nations Development Decade, and that the President of the European Investment Bank would also be informed of the Committee's decision and of its desire to have his participation, or that of his representative, in these discussions. Later the General Assembly took note of a further report of the Second Committee that only the President of the Inter-American Bank had accepted the invitation and had taken part in the Committee's discussion of the item.

2402 (XXIII) UNCTAD

The discussion of this item centred on the evaluation of the Second UNCTAD, on action taken by the seventh session of the Board and on the consideration of measures which should be promoted in the field of trade and development. Mr. Singh, President of the second session of UNCTAD, participated in the discussion, which was opened by Dr. Prebisch.

The consensus among the developing countries seemed to be that the results of the Second Conference were disappointing. Several decisions were, however, noted on the redefinition of the 1 per cent target for international aid. Not all developed countries, however, accepted this target, and no date was set for its attainment. The principle of a generalized non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory system of preferences was accepted in favour of the developing countries, in respect of their exports of manufactures and semi-manufactures. A declaration was adopted on trade expansion, economic co-operation and regional integration among developing countries. And decisions were taken on trade with socialist countries, shipping, landlocked countries and the least developed among the developing countries.

Among the factors contributing to the meagre results of the Conference, the following were cited: the unfavourable international situation, caused by the instability of the international monetary system; the cumbersome machinery of the Conference, including the rigid group system; the heavy agenda, and above all the lack of political will on the part of the developed countries.

The limited results of the Conference according to the socialist countries was due to the refusal of Western countries to implement the recommendations of the Geneva Conference, and the desire of the Western countries to maintain outmoded structures in international trade. They seemed, however, more inclined than the developing countries to attribute an overall positive result to the Conference. They stressed in particular the usefulness of broad exchange of views which had taken place at the Conference, the clarification of areas of agreement and disagreement, the new look at problems of trade and development, and the rapprochement among the various groups. They also noted in this connexion the resolutions on trade between countries with different social and economic structures, and on trade and economic co-operation between socialist and developing countries.

The Western countries, while admitting that the results of the Conference were limited, warned against the danger of giving too much emphasis on the idea of failure, since this might lead to apportioning responsibility among the developed and developing countries and among geographical groupings. They also emphasized the need to distinguish between short-term possibilities and long-term objectives. They felt that the rigidity of the group system might have promoted a confrontation of maximum demands and minimum offers.

Regarding the decisions taken by the Board at its seventh session, most countries welcomed resolution 45(VII) of the Trade and Development Board to improve its institutional machinery, though many countries thought that it did not go far enough, and did not enable UNCTAD to tackle specific problems.

Resolution 47(VII) of the Trade and Development Board establishing an inter-governmental working group on the Second Development Decade was more controversial. While the developing countries recognized the important role of UNCTAD in the preparations and implementation of the plans for the Second Development Decade, many of the developed countries considered the resolution with misgivings. The resolution could namely be interpreted as an attempt to take over certain functions that properly belong to the Economic and Social Council. In this connexion a number of countries welcomed the statement by Dr. Prebisch before the resumed forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council that UNCTAD was ready to co-operate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and to co-ordinate its work with the activities of the Department.

On the proper strategy and measures which UNCTAD should adopt, the developing countries stressed, inter alia, the following points: UNCTAD had passed its deliberative state and should devote more consideration to exploration, consultations and negotiations. UNCTAD's machinery should be adjusted to this new phase and reorganized accordingly. The developed countries should show the political will to make UNCTAD a success. UNCTAD should adopt a less ambitious approach and aim to reach more limited objectives.

The Western countries on their part felt that the developing countries should be more realistic in the short term, and that the group system should be made more flexible.

On the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2411(XXIII) on UNCTAD. Of this resolution, operative paragraph 8 required particular attention of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. The General Assembly requested governments of States Members of UNCTAD, the regional commissions and UNESOB, the specialized agencies and IAEA, as well as inter-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Conference, to make every effort to enlighten public opinion ... with a view to obtaining the widest possible support for the work of the Conference.

2417(XXIII) Outflow of trained professional and technical personnel at all levels from the developing countries, its causes, its consequences and practical remedies for the problems resulting from it

This is a question of acute interest to the countries in the developing regions, and also a question of particular complexity as assessed by the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/7294) on which centred the discussion in the Second Committee.

There was general agreement with the Secretary-General's report concerning the fact that the problems involved delicate aspects of a political, economic and social nature. On the other hand, the recommendations contained therein were object of a varying degree of approval and skepticism. While it was generally recognized that the exodus of professionals and specialists to the more industrialized world centres operated to the detriment of the developing countries, it was equally recognized that the underlying causes were many and complex and that any attempt to meet this problem should take into due account the basic human rights of the individual such as his freedom of movement.

Perhaps the most interesting development at this stage was the wide variety of reaction to this question among the developing countries themselves: the emigration of professionals from these countries had been differently appraised as a serious handicap for development and as a welcomed relief of economic and social pressures, namely unemployment.

As for the resolution itself, the General Assembly reiterated its recommendation regarding the creation and expansion of local training institutions. On the one hand, it drew the attention of the developing countries to the need to expand and reorientate their educational and training facilities according to their development requirements, and, on the other, recommended the developed countries to co-operate in minimizing the adverse effects of the outflow of trained personnel from developing countries.

Further, it requested the Secretary-General to undertake selective studies of a few developing countries aimed at clarifying the problem, and in particular to assess its consequences for their economies and to make appropriate recommendations for practical action.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to formulate suggestions for ways of tackling the problems arising from the outflow of trained personnel at all levels from developing countries, within the framework of the strategy of the next Development Decade.

The General Assembly, in addition, requested the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the appropriate organizations and programmes within the United Nations system to the need to assist Member Governments of the

developing countries at their request; in the improvement of their statistical and research activities aimed at assessing the magnitude and characteristics of the outflow of their trained personnel.

Finally, it invited the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions, the UNITAR, and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system concerned to assist the Secretary-General in strengthening co-ordination of research and operational activities of the United Nations in this field.

2462(XXIII) Multilateral food aid

During the discussion of this item in the Second Committee, the representative of one major contributor of food aid, Canada, stressed that administration of food aid could generally be dealt with most efficiently on a bilateral basis, and that multilateral and bilateral food aid programmes were co-ordinated most effectively through informal consultations among donors and recipient countries on a country-by-country basis.

It was pointed out that food aid was only a part of the complex of efforts to solve the food problems of developing countries in the context of planning for the Second Development Decade, and that, therefore, it was important not to lose sight of the terms of reference in General Assembly resolution 2096(XX) on "Programme of studies on multilateral food aid".

One point stressed by several delegations was that food aid would continue to be necessary as a supplement to financial and technical assistance, but it must supplement not replace other types of aid.

Another point worth noting was that developing countries generally preferred aid to be provided multilaterally, and that the World Food Programme's machinery and experience should be utilized to the maximum for the purpose.

The relation between food aid and the world protein consumption crisis was generally recognized, as well as the relation between food aid and the need to promote agricultural production.

As for the resolution adopted on the subject, the General Assembly, in the operative paragraphs, reaffirmed that the ultimate solution to the food problem lies in increased production in the developing countries, with the co-operation of the developed countries; recognized that an opportunity now exists for food aid operations to become more purposeful and efficient. To this end, the General Assembly outlined a series of measures.

Also, it considered useful to utilize the special competence and experience of the World Food Programme; urged States Members of the United

Nations and members of FAO to make every effort to attain the target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme; and invited the Director-General of FAO to give consideration to the possible ways, including the suggestions by the Secretary-General, for making appraisals of prospective food deficits and food aid needs.

Furthermore, it requested the United Nations/FAO Inter-governmental Committee of the World Food Programme to take a series of specific measures; and the Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO to provide assistance as required to the Inter-governmental Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

The General Assembly requested also a progress report of the Inter-governmental Committee to be submitted to the Council of FAO and the Economic and Social Council. Finally, it invited the Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO to keep under review, in the context of the Second Development Decade, the evolution of the food problem in developing countries and the progress made towards its solution, bearing in mind that this would require an integrated approach.

2416(XLIII) Increase in the production and use of edible protein

During the debate leading to the adoption of this resolution, all delegations from developing as well as from developed countries stressed that the protein crisis was one of the world's most serious current problems. Protein deficiency was affecting the physical and mental capacity of millions of people in the developing countries. It also threatened the health of millions of unborn and newly born children. It was also pointed out that the problem was all the more dangerous because the casual relationship between protein deficiency and the resulting damage was not very simple and obvious.

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs drew attention to the need for encouraging the use of applied technology in the manufacture of protein-rich food from oil-seeds. More studies were needed, for application in regions where grains were the main sources of protein, on the possible utilization of protein concentrates and amino acids such as lysine. The fact that the General Assembly might not be prepared to take decision, regarding such an action as a large-scale campaign, should not prevent the Committee from considering solutions. The impetus so far achieved must be maintained, so that activities on a broad scale could be initiated at an opportune time during the Second Development Decade.

It was agreed that there was no need to set up any new body; existing organizations should be relied on.

The representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization made reference to the work that had been and was being undertaken by his organization concerning the protein problem. He mentioned that in the

FAO budget for 1968-1969, a section had been included for the promotion of protein-rich foods as an urgent necessity. The co-ordinating, advisory and service mechanism of the Protein Advisory Group and its secretariat had been enlarged and its resources increased by the three sponsoring agencies. He expressed that the resolution was timely in its emphasis on the urgency of the problem and the need for policy action by Member States and in seeking to enlist world interest and support.

The representative of the World Health Organization referred to the medical and health aspects of the protein deficiency problem. He reiterated the readiness of his organization to collaborate in the implementation of the resolution. The resolution itself, in its operative paragraphs, after taking note of the comments made in the Economic and Social Council, considered that the momentum generated by the report entitled "International action to avert the impending protein crisis" (Sales No.E.68.XIII.2) should be sustained by a series of actions that were spelled out in the resolution. It also welcomed the action taken by FAO, WHO and UNICEF in expanding the functions of the Protein Advisory Group; requested the Secretary-General to prepare and submit reports on the progress being made towards the solution of the protein problem; invited FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNIDO and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other United Nations bodies to include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council special reference to work done by their organizations to increase the production and use of edible protein.

It also urged Governments of Member States to make use of the expertise and advice of the agencies concerned with this problem in formulating their development plans, and invited the specialized agencies concerned to provide developing countries with the appropriate specialized services aimed at an increased production and consumption of protein.

Finally, it invited the interested organizations to consider the possibility of expanding their activities in the protein field; and requested the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to relate its work in the protein field to the preparation for the Second Development Decade.

(B) Other resolutions requiring action by Regional Economic Commissions and UNESOB

Of special interest to ECA are the following two resolutions admitting Swaziland and Equatorial Guinea to membership in the United Nations. In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of ECA's Terms of Reference, Membership of the Commission is open to countries which are within the geographical scope of the Commission on becoming Members of the United Nations.

2376 (XXIII) - Admission of Swaziland to membership in the United Nations

By this resolution, adopted by acclamation, on 24 September 1968, the General Assembly decided to admit Swaziland to membership in the United Nations.

2384 (XXIII) - Admission of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to membership in the United Nations

By this resolution, adopted by acclamation, on 12 November 1968, the General Assembly decided to admit Equatorial Guinea to membership in the United Nations.

ECAFE 2378 (XXIII) - Assistance to Iran in connexion with the earthquake of August 1968

Since Iran is a member of ECAFE, this resolution would be of special interest to ECAFE. In operative paragraph 3, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in the light of funds available, to bear in mind the needs of the Government of Iran in connexion with its plans for the reconstruction of the devastated areas when deciding on the services to be provided to Member States.

2388 (XXIII) - United Nations Institute for Training and Research

In this resolution, the General Assembly, after noting the Executive Director's policy paper on the strategy, scope and limitations of the Institute's training activities, as well as the Executive Director's intention to conduct a review of the research programmes of the Institute reaffirmed in operative paragraph 6 the importance of co-operation and co-ordination between the Institute and the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions and other United Nations bodies, as well as with appropriate national and international institutions.

2414 (XXIII) - International co-operation in problems related to oceans

Although no direct reference is made in this resolution to the regional commissions or UNESOB, they would have to co-operate in the various tasks which the General Assembly has asked the Secretary-General to undertake in this resolution.

The General Assembly endorsed in this resolution, the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research. It requested the Secretary-General to present to the ECOSOC at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive outline of the scope of this long-term programme. The General Assembly also invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the UNDP, to consider the possibility of extending technical assistance services to the Governments of Member States which may request them in relation to the development of mineral resources of their continental shelf areas. It also called upon the Secretary-General to pursue the tasks of collecting and disseminating available information regarding the mineral and other resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and techniques appropriate for their development and of providing the assistance which the proposed competent organ of the United Nations may request for the solution of related issues.

The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General in co-operation with specialized agencies concerned, to report, through appropriate channels, to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

2435 (XXIII) - Assistance in cases of natural disaster

In the operative paragraphs of this resolution, the General Assembly invited the Governments and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other organizations concerned, to make preparations to meet natural disasters, to give full recognition to the need to promote scientific research regarding the causes, to ascertain and assess areas and places of high vulnerability, and to encourage preventive and protective measures.

It urged the Secretary-General to consider ways of assistance to Governments in the fields referred to above; requested the Secretary-General to give early consideration to the strengthening of staff arrangements within the United Nations Secretariat dealing with natural disasters.

The General Assembly also appealed to States Members in general to consider offering emergency assistance to meet natural disasters; requested the Secretary-General to complete at an early date the study undertaken by the Secretariat concerning the legal status of disaster relief units made available through the United Nations; and decided to extend for another three years the authority given to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX), namely, to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$100,000 in any one year for emergency aid in connexion with natural disasters.

Further, the General Assembly decided, as an interim measure, to give the Secretary-General additional authority in the administration of the said Fund; requested the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review periodically programmes and projects throughout the United Nations system which relate to natural disasters.

Finally, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to ECOSOC an interim report on the implementation of this resolution, and decided to review at its twenty-sixth session all aspects of the activities of the United Nations family of organizations in connexion with natural disasters.

2436 (XXIII) - World Social Situation

This resolution makes no special reference to the regional economic commissions or UNESOB. However, some of the operative paragraphs seem to require special attention from the commissions and UNESOB, in view of the contributions they may be asked to make in implementing the requests directed to the Secretary-General. The General Assembly in operative paragraph 1 of this resolution recommended to Member States to incorporate in their national plans, programmes and research, a number of specific social and economic objectives and targets. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide, within available resources, all possible assistance to Governments in their efforts to pursue the objectives outlined in operative paragraph 1. It also requested the Secretary-General to give particular attention to the strengthening of concerted international action in the development and utilization of human resources as an essential aspect of the activities to be planned for the second Development Decade. It requested the Secretary-General to submit the next report on the world social situation in 1970.

2478 (XXIII) - Pattern of Conferences

As was the case with similar General Assembly resolutions adopted in the past, dealing with pattern of Conferences, this resolution should receive special attention from the regional economic commissions and the regional secretariats.

In it, the General Assembly approved the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1969 contained in annex III of the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/7361). It approved further the recommendations regarding the pattern of recurrent conferences and meetings contained in paragraph 24 of the Committee's report and in this connexion requested the United Nations bodies, committees and commissions concerned to review their meetings programmes and to report to their parent organs so as to enable them to make their decisions available to the Committee on Conferences in time for the latter to present its relevant conclusions to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session. It should be noted that the Committee in paragraph

24 (b) of its report recommends that the Economic and Social Council should invite the functional and regional commissions which now hold annual sessions to consider meeting biennially.

The General Assembly also decided that meetings not covered by the calendar for 1969 should not be convened, except for an emergency meeting. It also reaffirmed for application in 1969, that the United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective Headquarters, with some specific exceptions. In this connexion, it was stipulated that the regular sessions of ECAFE, ECLA and ECA, as well as meetings of their subsidiary bodies, might be held away from their headquarters when the commission concerned would so decide, subject, in the case of regular sessions of the commissions, to the approval of the ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

In operative paragraph 9 of the resolution it was also urged that the United Nations should plan their future conferences and meetings in accordance with a number of specific recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the General Assembly endorsed ECOSOC resolution 1379 (XLV) concerned with dispensing with summary records by the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. It requested all organs other than those listed in paragraph 35 of the report of the Committee on Conferences, to consider dispensing with summary records.

2480 (XXIII) - Composition of the Secretariat

This resolution dealing with geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat at all levels and with the use of the working languages and with the establishment of a language bonus and with linguistic balance would seem to require the full attention of the regional secretariats.

2485 (XXIII) - Salary scales for the professional and higher categories

This resolution on the amendment of salary scales for the professional and higher categories would be of interest to the regional secretariats.

(C) Resolutions which the Regional Economic Commissions and UNESOB may note;

1. 2377 (XXIII) Pledging Conference on the United Nations Capital Development Fund
2. 2385 (XXIII) Revision of the lists of States eligible for membership in the Industrial Development Board
3. 2386 (XXIII) Permanent sovereignty over natural resources
4. 2387 (XXIII) Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament
5. 2401 (XXIII) Technical assistance in trade and related fields
6. 2406 (XXIII) Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy
7. 2407 (XXIII) United Nations Industrial Development Organization
8. 2408 (XXIII) Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme
9. 2409 (XXIII) Promotion of follow-up investment
10. Decision, taken on 17 December 1968, 1745th plenary meeting, on provision of operational personnel by the United Nations Development Programme
11. 2410 (XXIII) United Nations Capital Development Fund
12. 2412 (XXIII) International Education Year
13. 2413 (XXIII) Exploitation and conservation of living marine resources
14. 2415 (XXIII) External financing of economic development of the developing countries
15. 2421 (XXIII) Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
16. 2434 (XXIII) Technical assistance in the field of narcotics
- UNESOB 17. 2452 (XXIII) Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
18. 2458 (XXIII) International co-operation with a view to the use of computers and computation techniques for development

19. 2459 (XXIII) The role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development
20. 2460 (XXIII) Human Resources for development
21. 2461 (XXIII) International monetary reform
22. 2467 (XXIII) Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind
23. 2481 (XXIII) Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

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