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**RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS  
THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION**

The first part of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly was held at New York from 15 September to 18 December 1981. This paper, whose aim is to draw the attention of States members of the Commission to the main resolutions and decisions of the Assembly which either require action by them or which they should note, will therefore deal with the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly during the first part of its thirty-sixth session.

2. As the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for Africa, ECA followed with great interest developments in the Second, Third and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly which are responsible respectively for economic and financial; social, humanitarian and cultural; and administrative and budgetary matters.
3. As a demonstration of its interest and also with a view to participating in the adoption of proposals of concern to the socio-economic development of the African continent, the Executive Secretary undertook a mission to United Nations Headquarters from 25 October to 10 November 1981 and addressed the Second Committee twice, the Fifth Committee and the African Group.
4. The Executive Secretary's first address to the Second Committee dealt with the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. He once again appealed to the entire international community to participate fully and positively at the forthcoming technical consultative meetings.
5. In his second address to the Second Committee, the Executive Secretary touched on the major crises facing Africa and referred to the subregional organizational arrangements for promoting economic and technical co-operation among African countries - the MULPOCs. On the Lagos Plan of Action he drew attention to the characteristics of the policies followed by African Governments prior to the Plan and which the Plan seeks to redress.

6. As far as the Economic Commission for Africa, which serves the least developed of the developing regions, was concerned, the policy of zero growth imposed by the Secretary-General with regard to budgetary matters, the necessity to implement fully the reclassification of posts in the secretariat and the need to continue the African translator training programme were the salient points raised by the Executive Secretary in his address to the Fifth Committee.

7. The objective of the many meetings the Executive Secretary held with members of the African Group was to brief them on the economic and social matters before the General Assembly which were of critical concern to Africa and for which the support of the Group of 77 was necessary. Included among these were the situation of food and agriculture in Africa, the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the expansion of conference facilities at ECA.

8. The Executive Secretary's mission to New York, his presentations to the Second and Fifth Committees, his discussions with members of the African Group and the support of both the African Group and the Group of 77 to the cause of Africa's socio-economic development all contributed favourably to the main resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly.

9. Pursuant to its resolution 35/64 of December 1980, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/180 on special measures for the social and economic development of Africa in the 1980s. This resolution, whose primary purpose is to help African countries in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, recognized the primary responsibility of the African countries for their development and the importance of the mobilization of their national resources for their socio-economic development, whilst not overlooking the need for increased and sustained external resources to achieve the aims and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action. Thus donor countries and all international financial institutions were urged to provide the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and to continue to consider actively increasing substantially their development assistance to Africa. In this context, the Secretary-General was requested to continue to allocate necessary resources to the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into account its role as the main economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the African region, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202.

10. The situation of food and agriculture will be discussed by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole under the agenda item entitled : Implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa : Progress, problems and prospects. Nevertheless, it is worth observing that the causes for the alarming deterioration in the situation of food and agriculture in Africa are both man-made and natural.

11. In resolution 36/186 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa, the General Assembly, after recognizing the useful contribution that the effective execution of the Lagos Plan of Action can make to the improvement of the food situation, in particular, and to rapid over-all development of Africa, urged, inter alia, all the countries of Africa to implement, in accordance with their national development programmes and priorities, measures to increase substantially their food and agricultural production. The General Assembly also requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to take every necessary measure, including the holding of joint meetings with a view to considering the possibilities for implementing General Assembly resolution 35/69 and the present resolution.
12. With regard to industrial development co-operation and more particularly to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/66 B of 5 December 1980, proposals for the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Decade will be considered by the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and due note will be taken of resolution 36/182 on industrial development co-operation in part II of that resolution dealing with the Industrial Development Decade for Africa whereby the General Assembly decided to allocate adequate financial resources to assist in the rapid industrialization of Africa within the time-frame and scope of the Lagos Plan of Action, with particular reference to the least developed countries, as from the 1982-1983 biennium.
13. In the field of transport and communications, as a follow-up to its resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 by which the General Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa for the period 1978-1988, the Assembly every year adopts a similar resolution by which it requests African member States and the international community as well as donor countries and funding agencies to undertake some specific actions.
14. The action requested from States members of the Commission as well as from other institutions and agencies under resolution 36/177 will be analyzed in the report on the implementation of the Decade programme to be submitted to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole. One fact which emerged clearly during the discussion in the Assembly on the implementation of the Programme of the Decade was that the over-all level of resources mobilized so far is far below the level required to finance the subregional programmes. Consequently, the General Assembly, once again, called upon States members of the Economic Commission for Africa to step up their efforts in connexion with the study of the possible sources of finance for the implementation of the projects adopted for the Decade, and appealed to donor countries and funding agencies to increase their financial support to the regional and subregional projects for the Decade.
15. Still in the field of transport and communications, member States may wish to note resolution 36/139 on the particular problems facing Zaïre with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets, by which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to give strong support to the Economic

Commission for Africa and other appropriate organs of the United Nations to provide the necessary technical assistance as soon as possible, so that the studies referred to in General Assembly resolutions 34/193 and 35/59 can be undertaken and completed without delay.

16. With regard to regional and interregional co-operation, the Commission adopted on 1 March 1977 resolution 311 (XIII) by which it established the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). In compliance with section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system so as to make them more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, ECA decided to make its newly established MULPOCs an integral part of the Commission and to have them serve as its operational arms in the field.

17. The General Assembly addressed the problem of financial resources for the MULPOCs and in its resolution 36/178 called upon the Secretary-General urgently to seek to provide extrabudgetary resources to enable all the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to carry out, in 1982 at the subregional level, their work programme in the field of general programming, research and the organization of meetings. However, as will appear from the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Commission, the Inspectors have described the resource situation of the MULPOCs as "patently inadequate" and have concluded that the MULPOCs require a core of staff financed by the regular budget of the United Nations to ensure a degree of stability in the manning of these important Centres.

18. Acting on proposals submitted by the Group of 77 from a draft worked out by the African Group, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/176 on the expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa whereby the Secretary-General was requested to undertake, as a matter of urgency, a study of the adequacy of the conference facilities at the headquarters of ECA to meet the demands thereon as a result of the enlarged membership and increased activities of the Commission.

19. A report on this subject is being submitted to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

20. In the field of energy and as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held at Nairobi from 10 to 21 August 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/193, an omnibus resolution in seven parts, which, inter alia, urges all Governments to take effective action for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and to maintain and/or establish, as the case may be, national focal points to facilitate such implementation. In section V of the resolution, which deals with regional and subregional action, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of regional and subregional efforts for implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action and requested the regional commissions to undertake immediately, as necessary, the development of regional plans and programmes, bearing in mind, in particular, the areas for priority attention identified in paragraph 71 of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and to report thereon to the Interim Committee at its session in 1982 (see section II of the resolution).

21. Special attention should be paid to section VI of the resolution on co-operation among developing countries. In that section, the General Assembly recognized that developing countries sought to enhance their collective self-reliance in various areas, which were in their mutual interest, through programmes of economic and technical co-operation in such areas as exchange of information, joint ventures in project development, joint effort in research development, demonstration and adaptation of technologies for new and renewable sources of energy, and technical assistance, to supplement the indispensable action to be undertaken by the international community.

22. Resolution 36/194 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted in follow-up to the Paris Conference is analyzed in the paper submitted for consideration by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries scheduled to be held from 15 to 17 April 1982 in preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries to be held from 26 to 27 April 1982 at Tripoli. In resolution 36/194 the General Assembly endorsed the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Paris Conference and called upon all Member States as well as intergovernmental and multilateral institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and all other concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action as part of international action for the establishment of the new international economic order.

23. By resolution 36/44 on technical co-operation among developing countries, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its second session, and requested the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their spheres of competence, programmes of work and available resources and in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute to the preparation of the third session of the Committee and to participate actively therein.

24. In the field of social and humanitarian affairs the General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions relating to women and development, youth, the aged, the disabled and refugees.

25. By resolution 36/126 on the United Nations Decade for Women, the Assembly called upon the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to reserve adequate resources for, and pay increased attention to, the implementation of the Programme of Action for the second half of the Decade, particularly as regards the dissemination of information on the participation of women. The Assembly also urged the regional commissions to report in full to the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session in 1982, on the evolution of the situation of women in all the sectors of their development programmes, in order to strengthen and reorient the programmes and reporting methods of those commissions, so as to reflect more adequately the regional concerns of women.

26. By resolution 36/128 on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the General Assembly insisted on the urgency of assuring the prompt establishment of the Institute and requested the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Institute in their respective fields of competence.
27. With regard to the problem of youth and in pursuance of its previous resolutions 34/151 of 17 December 1979 and 35/126 of 11 December 1980, the General Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session adopted resolution 36/28 on International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, whereby it was recalled that the Assembly decided to designate and observe 1985 as International Youth Year and to appoint an Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year. In adopting resolution 36/28 the General Assembly endorsed the specific Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year, and invited all States, all United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and the international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as youth organizations, to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the specific Programme of Measures and Activities, in accordance with their experience, conditions and priorities.
28. By resolutions adopted previously, the General Assembly, recognized that aging persons constitute a valuable human resource as much in the economic and social fields as in the transmission of cultural heritage, decided to convene a World Assembly on Aging in 1982. By resolution 36/30 the General Assembly decided that the World Assembly on Aging will be held at Vienna, Austria, from 26 July to 6 August 1982.
29. The year 1981 was observed as the International Year of Disabled Persons. By resolution 36/77, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction to all Member States which elaborated national policies and programmes for the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, and again invited Member States to submit national reports to the Secretary-General on their implementation of the Plan of Action for IYDP and, in particular, to consider elaborating, on the basis of their experiences, national long-term programmes of action in the field of disability. In this context, the General Assembly further requested the regional commissions to give high priority to the formulation and implementation of regional programmes related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation, and urged the specialized agencies and relevant organs of the United Nations system to continue the implementation of such programmes.
30. As a follow-up to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa held at Geneva in April 1981 which was convened jointly by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/124 on the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa by which it expressed its appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries and to the international community at large for their very positive response to the appeal for assistance to African refugees and for their contribution to the assistance to refugees in Africa.

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to keep the African refugee situation under close and constant scrutiny and to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 a report containing up-to-date information on the condition of refugees in the countries concerned in order to facilitate consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session of the necessity of convening an international conference in 1983 to review the status of contributions and commitments made at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, and to assess the needs and measures for future assistance for refugees and returnees in implementation of programmes for their relief, rehabilitation and resettlement.

31. As in previous years, a series of resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session with regard to special assistance to developing countries - the majority of which are African countries - in various fields : refugee problems, natural disasters and general socio-economic problems. Such resolutions were adopted in respect of the following countries and areas : Equatorial Guinea (reconstruction, rehabilitation and development), Liberia (development), Benin (special assistance), Sao Tome and Principe (special assistance), Chad (special assistance), Cape Verde (special assistance), the Comoros (special assistance), Zambia (special assistance), Mozambique (special assistance), Djibouti (special assistance), Guinea-Bissau (special assistance), Uganda (special assistance), Lesotho (special assistance), the Gambia (reconstruction, rehabilitation and development), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (drought), Botswana (special assistance), Zimbabwe (special assistance), Ethiopia (displaced persons), Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan (refugees), the Sudano-Sahelian region (Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme), Central African Republic (reconstruction, rehabilitation and development).

32. Member States may wish to note the following resolutions which are of general interest to the Commission and which are not analyzed here because they do not require any specific action on the part of the Commission:

36/71	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
36/72	Human Settlements
36/142	Sixth Session of the Conference of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
36/143	Signature and Ratification of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities
36/144	Multifibre Arrangement
36/175	Specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
36/183	United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development
36/187	Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system
36/192	International co-operation in the field of the environment

33. The full texts of all resolutions mentioned above will be issued as an addendum to the present document.