

the meantime, the existing operating procedures of the System shall continue;

3. *Further decides* that the following special arrangements will be necessary in early 1983:

(a) The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will meet in special session for a period of one week in February or March 1983 for the purpose of:

- (i) Assessment of the resource situation for the Financing System for the year 1983 together with the outlook for the two following years;
- (ii) Establishment of the provisions of the financing plan and, in this context, rules for the voting pattern of the Executive Board;
- (iii) Confirmation (final pledges) of contributions for 1983 and, if possible, indications for 1984 and 1985;

(b) At its fifth session in June 1983, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will, *inter alia*, proceed to elect members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

*115th plenary meeting  
21 December 1982*

### **37/245. Situation of food and agriculture in Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

*Noting with grave concern* that, over the past two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has drastically deteriorated, resulting in a decline in food production per capita with detrimental effects on dietary standards, which are already well below the minimum requirements, as well as in an alarming increase in the number of people exposed to malnutrition, hunger and starvation,

*Recognizing* the high priority attached to food and agriculture in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,<sup>217</sup>

*Recognizing* the commitment and determination of Africa to devoting its limited resources on a priority basis to agricultural development, in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action,

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the development of food and agricultural production lies primarily with the developing countries themselves and that there is an increasing effort and growing commitment by the developing countries to accelerate the development of their food and agricultural sectors,

*Recognizing* the role of food-sector strategies, which emerged from the World Food Council as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary additional international resources,

*Welcoming* the priority assigned to food and agricultural development in the deliberations of heads of State and Government held in 1981 and 1982,

*Noting with interest* the conclusions of the African Ministers for Food and Agriculture at the World Food Council Regional Consultation for Africa, held at Nairobi on 16 and 17 March 1982,<sup>218</sup> as well as the special attention devoted to food and agriculture by the Ministerial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Rome in November 1981, and by the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial session, held at Acapulco from 21 to 24 June 1982,<sup>219</sup>

*Convinced* that increased international support to combat drought, desertification, African animal trypanosomiasis, African migratory locust and post-harvest losses, among other problems, is crucial to the attainment of food self-sufficiency in Africa,

*Further convinced* that collective action at the global level can reinforce the efforts of the African countries to resolve the technological, managerial and financial resource gaps impeding food and agricultural production in Africa,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa;<sup>220</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 35/69 of 5 December 1980 and 36/186 of 17 December 1981 and calls for their early and full implementation;

3. *Urges* 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;

4. *Urges* the international community to provide increased assistance in support of essential policy adjustments by African Governments, within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, to alleviate food deficits in Africa, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the African Ministers for Food and Agriculture at the World Food Council Regional Consultation for Africa and endorsed by the Council at its eighth ministerial session;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support efforts undertaken by African countries at the national, subregional and regional levels to increase food production through, *inter alia*, the provision, on a priority and long-term basis, of additional financial and technical assistance to Africa by organizations of the United Nations system, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations involved in the financing of agricultural development, and through an increase in lending by the World Bank to the agricultural sector in Africa;

6. *Also calls* for the adoption by multilateral and governmental institutions, when providing financing for agricultural development in the form of grants and loans on concessional terms, of a positive and flexible approach which would take into account, *inter alia*, the recurrent expenditure arising from investment and the cost of factors of production;

7. *Recognizes* the role of the international community, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the World Food Council and the International Fund for Agricultural Development in mobilizing food aid and agricultural assistance

<sup>218</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19)*, annex III.

<sup>219</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19).

<sup>220</sup> A/37/390.

<sup>217</sup> A/S-11/14, annex I.

in Africa, and requests existing and new donor countries to increase the resources required to meet African needs for food aid and agricultural development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources, the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary resources to undertake, in consultation with relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other organizations dealing with food and agriculture and inter-governmental institutions based in Africa, a survey of existing food and agriculture technology in Africa, taking into account the existing and ongoing studies thereon, and to make an assessment of the gap, detailing what exists and what is required to enable the countries in the region to begin to make an effective impact on the resolution of the food and agriculture problem, and to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983, to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

9. *Urges* all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to expand their training programmes in the building up of national capabilities for the preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development projects in Africa;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, a progress report on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa and on the implementation of the present resolution.

115th plenary meeting  
21 December 1982

**37/246. International year for the mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa**

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting with grave concern* that, over the past two decades, the situation of food and agriculture in Africa has drastically deteriorated, resulting in a decline in food production per capita and a reduction of average dietary standards below essential requirements,

*Recalling* its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

*Recalling* its resolutions 35/69 of 5 December 1980 and 36/186 of 17 December 1981 on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa,

*Recalling also* the relevant decisions and recommendations of the World Food Conference,<sup>221</sup>

*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, the annex to which contains the guidelines for international years,

*Recalling*, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/58 of 24 July 1980 relating to the report of the World Food Council on the work of its sixth ministerial session,<sup>222</sup>

*Taking into account* the deep concern reflected in the decisions on the food situation and agriculture outlook in Africa adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twentieth session,<sup>223</sup>

*Recognizing* that all countries of Africa should implement, in accordance with their national development programmes and priorities, measures to increase substantially their national food and agriculture programmes through, *inter alia*, national, subregional and regional measures, including economic and technical co-operation among developing countries,

*Recognizing* the commitment and determination of Africa to devoting its limited resources on a priority basis to food and agriculture development in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,<sup>224</sup>

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

*Recognizing* the role of food-sector strategies, which emerged from the World Food Council as a means for interested developing countries to adopt an integrated approach for increasing food production, improving consumption and attracting the necessary additional international resources,

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

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

*Deeply concerned* at the critical food shortages currently affecting many countries in the African region, which necessitate a distressingly large allocation of the scarce foreign exchange of those countries for the import of foodstuffs, to the detriment of their overall development,

*Convinced* that substantial and sustained international efforts by Governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and other bodies could significantly augment domestic efforts to resolve the crisis of hunger and malnutrition in Africa,

*Encouraged* by the priority given to food and agriculture by the heads of State and Government at the summit conferences held in 1981 and 1982,

1. *Expresses the view* that an international year devoted to the mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa could be an appropriate occasion to focus the attention of the international community on this problem and would stimulate a process that would lead to a significant improvement in the situation in the region;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after appropriate consultations with Governments, the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Council, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Development Programme, to submit an interim report, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983, to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implications of declaring an international year which

<sup>221</sup> See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap II.

<sup>222</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/35/19).

<sup>223</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report of the Conference of FAO, Twentieth Session, Rome, 10-28 November 1979 (C 79/REP and Corr.2), para. 33.

<sup>224</sup> See A/S-11/14, annex I.