

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,²²¹

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,²²²

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,²²³

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,²²⁴

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

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

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

²²³ 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.

²²⁴ See A/S-11/14, annex I.

would be committed to mobilizing financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa, in accordance with the criteria for holding international years set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.

*115th plenary meeting
21 December 1982*

37/247. Food problems

The General Assembly.

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference²²⁵ and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,²²⁶

Recalling its resolutions 34/110 of 14 December 1979 and 35/68 of 5 December 1980 on the report of the World Food Council and 35/69 of 5 December 1980 on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa, as well as its resolutions 36/185 and 36/186 of 17 December 1981,

Having considered the report of the World Food Council on the work of its eighth ministerial session²²⁷ and the seventh annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes,²²⁸

Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for acting as host to the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial session, held at Acapulco, from 21 to 24 June 1982, and for the generous hospitality accorded to the participants,

Concerned that progress towards realizing food policy objectives, particularly in developing countries, is impeded by the prolonged world recession, growing production costs, high interest rates and inflation and by growing international political tension,

Expressing its deep concern at the fact that a substantial part of world resources, material as well as human, continues to be diverted to armaments with a detrimental effect on international security and on efforts to achieve the new international economic order, including the solution of food problems, and calling upon Governments to take effective measures in the field of real disarmament that would increase the possibilities of allocation of the resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, especially development of developing countries, and to upgrading their food conditions,

Recognizing that a substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries is essential for the adequate financing of their overall economic development and their imports of food and agricultural inputs,

Noting the need for all countries, particularly the developed countries, to adopt policies designed to bring about the reduction and elimination of obstacles in order to avoid disruption of international trade in agricultural products and to facilitate access to international markets of agricultural exports, especially those of developing countries,

Urging all countries to consider improvements in the generalized system of preferences, including the inclusion of additional agricultural products, especially those of export interest to least developed countries,

Recognizing that the lasting solution to the problems of food and agriculture in developing countries depends on progress towards the attainment of self-reliance through increased food and agricultural production and investment as part of the overall development of those countries within the framework of structural changes in international economic relations,

Emphasizing that, within the framework of national economic development, due priority must be given to the development of the food sector,

Deeply concerned about the precarious nature of the food situation and the alarming trends of the growing food import dependency in many of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, while noting the increase in world food production in the past year,

Emphasizing that African countries, in particular, require the strongest assistance of the international community for their efforts to reverse the trend of deteriorating food production and of growing hunger and malnutrition in their region, 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,²²⁴

Concerned with the continuing instability of food supply occasioned by fluctuating production and prices in international grain markets and with increased food security risks for many developing countries and reduced self-reliance engendered by uncertain returns to domestic producers,

Regretting the fact that international assistance to the food and agricultural sector in developing countries has been decreasing since 1979 and is now lagging far behind the internationally estimated requirements,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the World Food Council at its eighth ministerial session;²²⁹

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the seventh annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;

3. *Commends* the developing countries that have achieved increased food self-reliance through a determined application of policies, resources and technology and urges that such efforts should be continued;

4. *Calls upon* the Governments concerned to implement agrarian reform and rural development within the framework of their national plans and objectives and in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhancing the role of multilateral assistance in support of food production and agricultural development in the developing countries;

²²⁵ *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

²²⁶ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP), part one.

²²⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19)*.

²²⁸ See E/1982/73.

²²⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/37/19)*, part one.