

*Expressing its appreciation* to those countries that have made or pledged voluntary contributions to the Year,

*Recognizing* that the provision of adequate shelter is essential for the promotion and achievement of national economic and social development and human health,

*Recognizing also* that in order for Governments to address realistically the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, it is necessary to frame shelter policies that can mobilize all possible resources and policy instruments to meet the objectives of the Year,

*Recognizing further* that the Year provides an excellent opportunity for the United Nations and other international agencies to review their contributions to solving the problem of shelter for the homeless and for bilateral aid agencies and multilateral financial institutions to evaluate their role in this sector,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Settlements resolution 7/9 of 10 May 1984 and the information strategy for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, which had been submitted to the Commission at its eighth session,<sup>45</sup>

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the Plan of Action for 1986-1987,<sup>46</sup>

2. *Urges* Governments to demonstrate renewed political commitment to the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged by taking significant measures before 1987, including providing access to land and ensuring security of tenure in squatter settlements, adapting codes and regulations to the needs of the people, facilitating community participation, improving access to credit and loans and promoting local and affordable building materials;

3. *Also urges* Governments:

(a) To prepare or review shelter strategies, taking into consideration the options set out in the documentation for the Year;

(b) To prepare a programme to implement projects geared to their chosen shelter strategies;

4. *Requests* Governments to submit detailed reports on their activities in the Year to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as soon as possible, giving special attention to measures that will improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged during 1987 and to their strategies to improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor by the year 2000;

5. *Requests* all Governments, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and financial institutions to review their policies and raise the priority of shelter and settlements improvement programmes;

6. *Appeals* to all Governments to make or increase voluntary contributions to the Year and to all international agencies and financial institutions to provide effective financial and other support to the programme of the Year;

7. *Decides* to devote at least two plenary meetings at its forty-second session, in 1987, to issues related to shelter, in observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

*100th plenary meeting  
8 December 1986*

## 41/191. Food and agricultural 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,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted by the World Food Conference,<sup>47</sup>

*Stressing* the imperative need to keep food and agricultural issues at the centre of global attention,

*Reaffirming* that food and agricultural problems in developing countries should be considered in a comprehensive manner in their different dimensions and in their immediate, short-term and long-term perspectives,

*Reaffirming also* the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,<sup>30</sup> in which the African countries and the international community committed themselves, *inter alia*, to give priority attention and increased resources to the rehabilitation and development of food and agriculture in Africa,

*Noting with concern* that the present agricultural trade situation, marked by structural imbalances, protectionism, heavy direct and indirect subsidies and distortions in the use of resources, is detrimental to all countries, in particular the developing countries,

*Noting* the views expressed during its forty-first session on the issues of international agricultural trade,

*Emphasizing* the important role that a reliable and increasing supply of agricultural inputs and manpower development could play in enabling food-deficit developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to increase domestic food production and thereby stimulate national economic growth and social progress in those countries, especially in Africa,

*Reaffirming* that the right to food is a universal human right which should be guaranteed to all people and, in that context, believing in the general principle that food should not be used as an instrument of political pressure, either at the national or at the international level,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/44 of 21 July 1986, entitled "Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa",

*Reaffirming also* that the maintenance of peace and security and the strengthening of international co-operation in food and agriculture are important for improved economic conditions and enhanced food security,

*Welcoming* the support given by the international donor community to agricultural development in developing countries, and the efforts of these countries in their food and agricultural developments,

*Recognizing* the positive efforts of developing countries to intensify regional and interregional co-operation to increase their food and agricultural production through

<sup>45</sup> HS/C/8/4/Add.1.

<sup>46</sup> HS/C/9/6.

<sup>47</sup> Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

such measures as the harmonization of pricing policies, the creation of preferential trade mechanisms and the accelerated promotion of regional and subregional food strategies,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations, as adopted, contained in the report of the World Food Council on the work of its twelfth ministerial session, held at Rome from 16 to 19 June 1986;<sup>48</sup>

2. *Affirms* that increasing food production in developing countries will contribute significantly to the elimination of poverty and malnutrition and to the attainment of self-reliance, and recommends that higher priority be given to food production in the national development policies of those countries and that the agricultural sector be granted a larger part of resources devoted to economic and social development;

3. *Stresses* the need to continue and to intensify the support for programmes and policies for increasing food and agricultural production and raising nutritional standards in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, and in this context urges the international community, in particular the developed countries, to take further determined action, in support of the efforts of developing countries, to increase the flow of resources, in particular the concessional flow, by, *inter alia*, increasing their contributions to multilateral organizations;

4. *Emphasizes*, in this context, the particular need to increase the aid commitments to food and agriculture and for such assistance to be channelled through existing organizations and programmes;

5. *Emphasizes also* that the success of efforts of developing countries to solve their food and agricultural problems in immediate, medium-term and long-term perspectives depends overwhelmingly on their economic growth, which, in turn, requires an international climate favourable to development, and calls for further concrete international action towards that end;

6. *Urges* all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take effective action for the rapid and full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, in which the international community recognized that the African countries needed additional external resources and in that context committed itself to making every effort to provide sufficient resources to support and supplement the efforts of the African countries in achieving the growth and development of the food and agricultural sector through the promotion of national and regional food strategies, particularly taking into account the role that improvement in that sector could play in Africa's overall development and noting in this regard the four-point programme of action endorsed in September 1986 by the Fourteenth Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;<sup>49</sup>

7. *Stresses* the urgent need to provide the International Development Association with adequate financial resources for its eighth general replenishment in order to meet the increasing demand for assistance from that

source, especially for the development of food and agriculture;

8. *Appeals* to the international community to contribute generously to the achievement of the target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1987-1988, as set out in General Assembly resolution 40/176 of 17 December 1985, and urges the international community to fulfil the unmet food aid needs of the African countries affected by drought and famine;

9. *Urges* the international community to give its full and enduring support to the International Fund for Agricultural Development by providing it with a firm financial basis and, in this context, appeals for increased contributions for the implementation of the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification of the Fund;

10. *Appeals* to donor countries to increase, within and consistent with their development assistance programmes, the provision of essential agricultural inputs;

11. *Welcomes* the commitments agreed upon at the special ministerial session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 15 to 20 September 1986, on standstill and roll-back, also applicable to agricultural trade, and recognizes that the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, taking into account all the general principles governing those negotiations, including the principle of differential and more favourable treatment, embodied in part IV of the General Agreement, as well as other relevant provisions thereof, will address agricultural trade issues with the aim of achieving greater liberalization of trade in agriculture as well as in tropical products;

12. *Recognizes* that further consideration of the problems which impede liberalization of international agricultural trade is necessary, and requests the Secretary-General to keep these problems under review, to report orally to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987 and to make available to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987, the relevant reports prepared by various competent organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system;

13. *Stresses* the importance of competent international organizations and agencies according high priority to human resources development with a focus on professional training in agricultural production and research and rural development, especially at the farm level;

14. *Emphasizes* the urgency of strengthening international co-operation in the field of transfer of agricultural technologies to developing countries and of enhancing research so as to allow constant innovation and technological improvement adaptable to climate, soil and agricultural systems, strengthening advisory services and increasing support in this regard and to facilitate free exchange of information on experience and technology relating to food production, processing and storage;

15. *Encourages* efforts to increase productivity of small farmers and to optimize employment possibilities in rural areas through adoption, where appropriate, of labour-intensive technologies;

16. *Stresses* the need for promoting co-ordinated international action to tackle the longer-term problems of migratory pest control, particularly in Africa, and calls upon donors to continue to give high priority to the implementation and co-ordination by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of emergency control programmes against grasshoppers and locusts at present

<sup>48</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/41/19), part one.

<sup>49</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report of the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire), 2-11 September 1986 (ARC/86/REP), paras. 21 and 46 to 55 and annex H.

affecting vast areas of Africa, and to remain prepared to provide assistance to affected countries at short notice, as necessary;

17. *Supports* the establishment of effective early-warning systems and national, subregional and regional food security arrangements in developing countries to combat future food emergencies;

18. *Urges* Governments to ensure and enhance the participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national food policies, plans and projects, in view of the importance accorded to food and the acknowledged role of women farmers in food production, marketing and family nutrition and in view of the consensus achieved on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;<sup>50</sup>

19. *Invites* the World Food Council within its mandate:

(a) To assess the impact of economic adjustment policies in developing countries on the nutrition levels of low-income groups and to suggest, where necessary, remedial measures in this area, including ways to stimulate the provision of resources to alleviate the sufferings of these groups;

(b) To assess the impact of the present agricultural trade situation in all its aspects and to maintain an active interest in the progress and outcome of multilateral negotiations on agricultural trade issues;

(c) To assist in accelerating the promotion of regional and subregional food strategies by stimulating vigorous follow-up action with all parties concerned in order to implement the recommendations adopted at the regional and interregional consultations organized by the World Food Council in 1986;

(d) To stimulate progress in and contribute actively to the implementation of the food policy and programme components of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, particularly in increasing food production and reducing hunger, and to assist African Governments in implementing the mutually agreed food-sector priorities through concrete and accelerated assistance in support of food strategies and policies.

*100th plenary meeting  
8 December 1986*

#### 41/192. Special programmes of economic assistance

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the special programmes of economic assistance,<sup>51</sup>

*Affirming* the validity of the concept of special programmes of economic assistance and the need to enhance their efficiency,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Endorses* the recommendation made by the Secretary-General that special programmes of economic assistance should be limited to countries genuinely in need of such assistance and to special circumstances falling out-

side the competence of the regular programmes of the United Nations system;<sup>52</sup>

3. *Also endorses* the recommendation that the special programme of economic assistance for a country should be of limited duration and should be terminated after the review mission and, where the special circumstances that gave rise to the special programme of economic assistance remain, any continuing assistance should then be channelled through the regular programmes of the system;<sup>52</sup>

4. *Recommends* that efforts to transfer the implementation of the special programmes of economic assistance to other United Nations bodies should be continued, if practicable;

5. *Affirms* that special programmes of economic assistance should be drawn up in consultation with the recipient Governments concerned and recommends that the programmes should, as far as possible, be established and reviewed through the field offices of the United Nations system.

*100th plenary meeting  
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#### 41/193. Assistance to Solomon Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Deeply concerned* at the devastation in Solomon Islands caused by cyclone "Namu" from 17 to 19 May 1986, which resulted in loss of life, destruction of housing and extensive damage to the economic and social infrastructures and to the agricultural, stock-farming, transport and industrial sectors,

*Concerned* at the negative impact of this damage on the development efforts of Solomon Islands,

*Noting with appreciation* the emergency assistance provided by several States, international and regional organizations, specialized agencies and voluntary agencies,

*Noting* the efforts of the people and Government of Solomon Islands to deal with the emergency situation and to initiate a reconstruction and rehabilitation programme,

*Affirming* the need for prompt and concerted international action to assist the people and Government of Solomon Islands in carrying out the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected regions and sectors,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the States, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system and inter-governmental, non-governmental and voluntary organizations that provided assistance to Solomon Islands during the emergency;

2. *Urges* all States to participate generously through bilateral or multilateral channels in projects and programmes for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Solomon Islands;

3. *Requests* international organizations, in particular the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system, regional organizations and voluntary agencies to continue and increase their assistance in response to the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development needs of Solomon Islands;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize the financial, technical and material assistance needed for im-

<sup>50</sup> *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A, paras. 174-188.

<sup>51</sup> A/41/308-E/1986/67.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. III.B.