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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: FOOD PROBLEMS

Yugoslavia: revised draft resolution

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 resolution 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, 1/

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,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

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

Reaffirming also the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 2/ 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 surpluses, growing protectionism, heavy subsidies and distortions in the use of resources, is not in the interest of developed and developing countries,

Welcoming the commitment agreed upon at the special ministerial session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on standstill and rollback, which are applicable to agricultural trade, and recognizing that the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, taking into account the general principles governing those negotiations, including, inter alia, the principles 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, taking into account that agreements reached at an early stage may be implemented on a provisional or definitive basis by agreement prior to the formal conclusion of the negotiations,

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 international level,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/44 of 21 July 1986, entitled "Countries affected 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,

Recognizing the positive efforts of developing countries to intensify regional and interregional co-operation to increase their food and agricultural production through such measures as the harmonization of pricing policies, the creation of preferential trade mechanisms and the accelerated promotion of regional and subregional food strategies,

2/ General Assembly resolution S-13/2.

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 in Rome from 16 to 19 June 1986; 3/
2. Affirms that increasing food production in developing countries will significantly contribute 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 overwhelmingly depends 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, organisations 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 recognised 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 taking into account the Four-Point Plan of Action endorsed in September 1986 by the Fourteenth Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

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 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. Takes note that views differed at the forty-first session of the General Assembly on the issue of subsidies, other farm support policies and trade barriers and their distorting impact on international agricultural trade, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of the World Food Council and a comprehensive and analytical report on this question to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session;

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

13. 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 to facilitate free exchange of information on experience and technology relating to food production, processing and storage ;

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

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

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

17. **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 in Nairobi on the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;** 4/

18. **Invites the World Food Council :**

(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 trade-distorting agricultural policies on the agricultural development of all countries and suggest remedial measures, where necessary;**

(c) **To maintain an active interest in the progress and outcome of the negotiations on agricultural and trade issues in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations;**

(d) **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 conclusions and recommendations reached at the regional and interregional consultations organized by the World Food Council in 1986;**

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