

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give early consideration to the strengthening of staff arrangements within the United Nations Secretariat for dealing with natural disasters, including the establishment of a coordinating group whose members would be drawn, as appropriate, from the existing staff of the Secretariat;

5. *Appeals* to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to consider offering, through the United Nations or otherwise, emergency assistance to meet natural disasters, including stand-by disaster relief units or the earmarking of similar units for service in foreign countries, and requests the Secretary-General to consult States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies on the types of emergency assistance they would be in a position to offer;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete at an early date the study undertaken by the Secretariat concerning the legal status of disaster relief units made available through the United Nations and in this connexion to consult, as appropriate, States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies;

7. *Decides* to extend for another three years the authority given to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX), namely, to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$100,000 in any one year for emergency aid in connexion with natural disasters, with a normal ceiling of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

8. *Decides*, as an interim measure, to the extent that it does not prove necessary in any one year to make advances from the Working Capital Fund up to the maximum amount of \$100,000 for the purposes referred to in paragraph 7 above, to authorize the Secretary-General to advance the balance from the same source in the following year, in amounts not exceeding \$10,000 per country, for assistance to Governments, at their request, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies where appropriate, in the elaboration of national preparations to meet natural disasters, it being understood that consideration will be given to obtaining, in the future, the necessary funds for such assistance from other sources;

9. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to review periodically programmes and projects throughout the United Nations system which relate to natural disasters, and to include appropriate recommendations thereon in its report to the Economic and Social Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council, at the latest at one of its sessions to be held in 1970, and a comprehensive report to the Council at its fifty-first session;

11. *Decides* to review at its twenty-sixth session, on the basis of the comprehensive report referred to in paragraph 10 above and the recommendations thereon by the Economic and Social Council, all aspects of the activities of the United Nations family of organizations in connexion with natural disasters.

1748th plenary meeting,
19 December 1968.

2436 (XXIII). World social situation

The General Assembly.

Taking note with appreciation of the Report on the World Social Situation, 1967,¹⁶ of the comments thereon by the Economic and Social Council,¹⁷ of Council resolution 1320 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and of the report of the Secretary-General setting out conclusions and suggestions for realizing substantial progress in the social field,¹⁸ prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2293 (XXII) of 11 December 1967,

Noting with deep concern that the world social situation continues to grow worse and that the gap in standards of living between the developed and developing countries continues to widen,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare¹⁹ and, in this respect, commending the Secretary-General for the preparation and organization of that Conference,

Recalling its resolution 2293 (XXII), in which it called upon the Economic and Social Council to request the Committee for Development Planning to take fully into account the role of social development in accelerating the attainment of the goals of development of nations, particularly for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2083 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1274 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967 on the development and utilization of human resources and Council resolution 1327 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 on the access of women to education,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1353 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 on youth participation in international co-operation and 1354 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 on programmes of international action relating to youth,

Emphasizing the imperative need to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all with a view to effective participation of the members of society in achieving common objectives of development,

1. *Recommends* that Member States should incorporate social as well as economic objectives and targets in their national plans, programmes and research, giving attention, where appropriate, *inter alia*, to:

(a) Eliminating hunger, poverty and illiteracy, improving nutrition, health and education and providing housing for all;

(b) Considering, as they deem necessary, demographic problems, taking into account the objectives of raising standards of living and promoting social progress, as well as the importance of the family as a basic unit of society and the right of parents to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children;

(c) Promoting industrialization with due regard for its social aspects;

(d) Increasing opportunities for full and productive employment in both urban and rural areas;

¹⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.IV.9.

¹⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7203)*, chapter X, section A; *ibid.*, Supplement No. 3A (A/7203/Add.1), chapter VI.

¹⁸ A/7248 and Corr.1.

¹⁹ E/4590 and Corr.1.

(e) Pursuing policies aimed at the equitable distribution of income and wealth, as an important factor in sustained economic growth and social development;

(f) Intensifying programmes for the benefit of children, especially in nutrition, health, education and welfare;

(g) Creating conditions for the full participation of youth in national development and in the advancement of human rights, and promoting programmes to meet the needs of young people, especially in relation to education, training and employment;

(h) Intensifying their efforts to promote education and training programmes for women and to encourage changes in the economic and social structure that would enable them to carry out their role more effectively both in the family and in society and to make full use of their potential for participation in economic and social development;

(i) Finding new approaches to the problems of income security and also introducing or extending appropriate systems of protection against unemployment;

(j) Promoting a more effective strategy of social security and welfare with emphasis on preventive measures integrated into broader programmes of national development for the purpose of improving, without any discrimination, the levels of living of families and individuals, with particular attention to the disabled;

(k) Devising appropriate policies for dealing with juvenile delinquency and criminality in the context of rapid social change;

(l) Co-ordinating competent government authorities in their efforts to anticipate, plan and implement government policies in the field of social and economic development;

(m) Applying structural reforms designed to eliminate, where they exist, forms of political, economic and social organization which impede the participation of all sectors of society in the benefits of progress and culture, especially by means of thorough and accelerated land reform and measures of social integration and participation;

2. *Recommends* that Member States should advocate and implement policies aimed at the elimination of colonialism, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and any kind of exploitation of man, all of which hinder social progress and development;

3. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of all countries and peoples to exercise sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources in the interests of their national social and economic development;

4. *Calls upon* the economically advanced Member States which have not yet reached the target fixed in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 27 (II) of 28 March 1968 entitled "Aid volume target"²⁰ to make every effort to reach it as soon as possible, so that the problems of social development can be dealt with appropriately in co-ordination with the solution of the problems of economic development;

5. *Invites* the developing countries, in formulating requests for assistance, to take into account the importance of social factors in the over-all process of development;

²⁰ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Second Session*, vol. I and Corr.1 and Add.1, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.II.D.14), p. 38.

6. *Endorses* the guidelines for an integrated approach to the goals and programmes for the Second United Nations Development Decade contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1320 (XLIV), and requests the Council and other United Nations bodies as appropriate, in continuing their efforts to formulate an effective development strategy, to give particular attention to these guidelines as well as those set out in paragraph 1 above;

7. *Recommends* that Governments make further efforts in the field of disarmament and that the resources released thereby should be utilized for economic and social development, in particular for that of the developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme and of other programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned to provide, within available resources, all possible assistance to Governments in their efforts to pursue the objectives outlined in paragraph 1 above;

9. *Specially recommends* the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association, in their studies of lending plans for investment, to consider investment in the fields of industrialization, land reform, health, housing, administration of justice and community development, as they have already done in the field of education, considering the importance of these investments for social development;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to give particular attention to the strengthening of concerted international action in the development and utilization of human resources as an essential aspect of the activities to be planned for the Second United Nations Development Decade;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the next report on the world social situation in 1970 and requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission for Social Development to consider at what intervals thereafter the report should be produced in order to accord with the timing of national development plans and the need to assess the world social situation in the middle and at the end of each decade.

1748th plenary meeting,
19 December 1968.

2437 (XXIII). Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2062 (XX) of 16 December 1965 relating to the consideration of the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Noting once again Economic and Social Council resolution 1237 (XLII) of 6 June 1967, in which the Council endorsed the recommendation to the General Assembly contained in the draft resolution proposed by the Commission on Human Rights,²¹ and Council resolution 1238 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 on the question concerning the implementation of human rights through

²¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/4322 and Corr.1), chapter XVII, draft resolution IV.*