

depends to a large extent and in many countries on the relationship between density of population, the supply of land and of other resources,

1. *Notes with approval* the statement in the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General concerning the favourable results in the social sphere obtained by countries which granted land and water rights to farmers lacking them;

2. *Approves* the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council with regard to this problem, as set forth in Council resolution 370 (XIII) of 7 September 1951;

3. *Urges* all governments, so far as the recommendations of the above-mentioned resolution are appropriate to the particular technical and financial circumstances of their countries, to carry out these recommendations and to undertake practical steps for implementing land reforms which would:

(a) Assist in increasing agricultural production, in eliminating food shortages, in raising the welfare of the populations of the under-developed countries, and which would safeguard the interest of small and medium-sized farmers and landless agricultural workers who constitute the majority of the rural population of the under-developed countries;

(b) Include measures which will enable farmers to secure agricultural equipment, draught animals, seeds, fertilizers and low-interest agricultural credit and assist them in developing various types of co-operatives for the production and disposal of agricultural products;

(c) Include the adoption of measures to enable agricultural workers, tenants and small and medium-sized farmers to reduce or liquidate indebtedness which may have arisen from unduly high rents, unfavourable conditions of land tenure, and usurious rates of interest and unduly high prices paid in the purchase of seeds, agricultural equipment, draught animals and other facilities;

(d) Include the adoption of appropriate wage and other social legislation for improving the conditions of labour and for raising the living standards of agricultural workers;

(e) Support the already existing agricultural associations and assist, where appropriate, in organizing new associations of landless agricultural workers, tenants and small and medium-sized farmers whose principal interest is in, and who have an active part to play in, the carrying out of all measures provided for under the land reforms;

4. *Further urges* all governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned in the preparation of the reports requested by the Council in paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned resolution;

5. *Urges* the governments of Member States, in working out their fiscal policies, to give active consideration to making funds available for projects of agrarian reform and invites the institutions providing international loans to give sympathetic consideration to loan applications from under-developed countries for development projects which are designed to implement their programmes of agrarian reform including

projects designed to bring new lands under agricultural cultivation, and invites these institutions, consistent with their maintenance as self-supporting entities, to consider making any such loans on terms of interest and amortization designed to place the smallest feasible burden on the borrowing countries;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council, to accord high priority to the recommendations in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Council resolution 370 (XIII); and to be prepared, upon the request of governments, to make specific studies and recommendations for the economic and social betterment of the agricultural population of their countries;

7. *Decides* to place the subject of land reform on the agenda of its seventh regular session and requests the Secretary-General to report to that session with regard to action taken and progress achieved.

*360th plenary meeting,  
12 January 1952.*

## 525 (VI). Food and famine

*The General Assembly,*

*Conscious* of the widespread conditions of hunger which prevail in many parts of the world, which conditions are intensified by the fact that the rate of increase of world food production has been less rapid than the rate of growth of the world's population and that this discrepancy between food production and growth of population is especially serious in those parts of the world in which conditions of hunger already prevail,

*Concerned* with the fact that, in addition to such widespread conditions of hunger, emergency famines are from time to time created by crop failure due to plague, drought, flood, blight, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and similar accidents of a natural character,

*Convinced* that emergency conditions of famine could make more difficult the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the achievement of the United Nations objectives with respect to the promotion of economic development and human welfare, and the maintenance of peace,

*Recalling* its resolution 202 (III) of 8 December 1948, and the actions taken by the Economic and Social Council in regard to the problem of food shortages,

*Noting* the resolutions on "Food shortages and famine" and on "Emergency food reserve", adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its Conference in Rome in December 1951 and annexed hereto,

*Noting with satisfaction* the work of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations in helping to control some of the natural forces that may cause famine,

*Expressing its appreciation* of the work of the voluntary non-governmental agencies of the several coun-

tries as an essential complement to governmental programmes for the alleviation of the suffering caused by emergency famines,

1. *Urges* all governments co-operatively to attack the problems of hunger and famine by:

(a) Giving high priority to food production programmes and continuing their efforts to accomplish the other objectives recommended in resolution 202 (III);

(b) Placing adequate emphasis on food production in their national economic development plans;

(c) Facilitating the transport of food to potential or actual emergency famine areas by the most expeditious means;

(d) Intensifying their co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization in its efforts to increase food production by strengthening national agricultural services; increasing the availability of agricultural implements and fertilizers at reasonable cost; making maximum use of domestic capital and of such foreign financial assistance as may be available for the establishment or expansion of agricultural credit systems; carrying out necessary land reform measures; improving the collection of technical and statistical information; and participating in technical assistance programmes designed to increase food production and overcome the causes of famines;

2. *Further urges* all governments to promote and facilitate the work of the voluntary non-governmental agencies organized to meet famine conditions and to promote agricultural development; to further public awareness and participation in such work; to correlate and integrate the resources and programmes of such voluntary organizations with their own relief resources and programmes; and to furnish current listings of the functions, programmes and potential resources of agencies of this kind within their countries;

3. *Calls* on the people in all countries to give increasing support to the work of voluntary non-governmental agencies as an essential complement to governmental programmes for alleviating the suffering caused by emergency famine and as a means to enable individual citizens to further the humanitarian objectives of the Charter;

4. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 405 (XIII) of 31 August 1951 that the Food and Agricultural Organization, in instances of pending critical food shortages or famine, make emergency reports thereon;

5. *Expresses the hope* that the results of the study to be undertaken by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of suitable ways and means whereby an emergency food reserve can be established and made available promptly to member States threatened or affected by serious food shortages or famine will be available for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its fifteenth session, and looks forward to receiving the report of the Economic and Social Council thereon immediately after the Council has completed its consideration of the matter;

6. *Requests* all States Members of the United Nations to offer their fullest co-operation to the Food

and Agriculture Organization so as to facilitate its study as described in paragraph 5 above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Directors-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization and of the World Health Organization, and with the executive heads of other organizations concerned, to prepare, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session, recommendations concerning procedures to bring about promptly concerted and effective action by governments, inter-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies in the event of actual or potential famines of an emergency character caused by disasters of the type mentioned in the preamble of the present resolution;

8. *Recommends* the observance of the principle that assistance to regions suffering food shortages and famine should not be made subject to demands for political, economic or military privileges for the countries according such assistance;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to include in its report to the General Assembly a special section on the problem of food shortages and on the steps taken by specialized agencies and by the governments of Member States to deal with the problem.

365th plenary meeting,  
26 January 1952.

#### ANNEX

#### *Resolution on food shortages and famine*

*Adopted by the sixth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome in December 1951*

The Conference *resolves*

1. That on receiving intimation from a member nation or region that a serious food shortage or famine exists or is likely to develop, which it is unable to cope with from its own resources, the Director-General shall depute one or more Food and Agriculture Organization officials to investigate the nature of the problem with the consent of the government concerned and to report on the extent, if any, of international assistance needed and communicate the report to the United Nations and the interested specialized agencies;

2. That when, in the opinion of the Director-General, there is an emergency, requiring international relief measures, he shall at his discretion convene forthwith a meeting of the Council or of interested governments to devise the most practical lines of action which may be required to bring about prompt, concerted and effective assistance by governments as well as by voluntary agencies; and that the Director-General shall thereupon report the action taken to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for transmission to the Economic and Social Council.

#### *Resolution on emergency food reserve*

*Adopted by the sixth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome in December 1951*

The Conference *resolves*

That the Council should study and explore suitable ways and means whereby an emergency food reserve can be established and made available promptly to member States threatened or affected by serious food shortages or famine.