

to find practical solutions to the increasing external indebtedness of developing countries,

Bearing in mind resolution 59 (III) of 19 May 1972 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its third session,¹⁰⁰

Noting that, according to official information given by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its third session, the combined gross national products of the countries of the world increased by \$1,100,000 million during the First United Nations Development Decade and all the developing countries together accounted for only 20 per cent of that increase,

Taking into account the report of the World Bank Group to the Board of Governors, dated 25 September 1972,¹⁰¹ on the steadily increasing burden of external debt servicing (amortization and interest) by the developing countries, which this year will exceed \$7,000 million,

Aware that, by absorbing ever-increasing percentages of their export earnings, the servicing of the external debt of the developing countries is jeopardizing the chances of attaining the goals set for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Considering therefore that it is urgently necessary to adopt practical measures to reduce effectively the burden represented by the external debt servicing of the developing countries,

1. *Requests* the Trade and Development Board to study, through its Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade at its sixth session, the problems deriving from the burden for the developing countries represented by the servicing of their external debt, including the desirability and feasibility of the establishment and operation of a special fund for the financing, and/or compensation, of the interest on that debt;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare, after consultation with the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, a study on the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above with a view to its submission to the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade for consideration at its sixth session.

2115th plenary meeting
19 December 1972

3040 (XXVII). Multilateral trade negotiations

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 82 (III) of 20 May 1972 as well as resolution 62 (III) of 19 May 1972, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its third session,¹⁰² and the principles

¹⁰⁰ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

¹⁰¹ See International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—International Development Association, *Annual Report, 1972* (Washington, D.C.).

¹⁰² See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

contained in paragraph 1 of resolution 82 (III), which were drawn up by the developing countries to serve as guidelines for the multilateral trade negotiations in 1973,

Recalling further the agreed conclusions adopted by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its twelfth session,¹⁰³

Considering the importance of those multilateral trade negotiations from the point of view of the trade and economic interests of the developing countries,

Recognizing that the negotiations may lead to very important changes in world economic affairs and that the interests of the developing nations should be taken fully into account both in the field of trade and in the spheres of international monetary reform and development financing,

Considering that the summing-up by the Chairman of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade at its twenty-eighth session, on 14 November 1972, regarding the objectives of the developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations may be considered a step forward in so far as it states that the negotiations should aim at securing additional benefits for the international trade of the developing countries so as to achieve a substantial increase in their foreign exchange earnings, diversification of their exports and an acceleration of the rate of growth of their trade, taking into consideration their development needs,

Taking into account the establishment of a Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,

1. *Invites* all Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to give priority attention to the economic and development needs of developing countries during the preparatory work as well as in all stages of the multilateral trade negotiations;

2. *Also invites* the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to re-examine, with a view to their adoption, the objectives of the developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations that were not included in the summing-up by the Chairman at the twenty-eighth session of the General Agreement, particularly those relating to the economic development of the developing countries, such as an increased share for the developing countries in world trade, an improvement in the conditions of access for their exports to the markets of the industrialized countries and new rules for the international trade of those countries;

3. *Declares* that the multilateral trade negotiations should contribute effectively to a more equitable international division of labour;

4. *Recommends* that the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade should take full account of the following principles, to serve as guidelines for the multilateral trade negotiations:

(a) The developing countries, collectively or individually, shall not suffer, directly or indirectly, adverse or prejudicial effects as a result of these negotiations; on the contrary, the negotiations shall provide the developing countries with additional benefits that repre-

¹⁰³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/8715/Rev.1)*, part one, annex I.

sent a substantial and meaningful improvement of their position in international trade so that they may secure an increasing share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development on the basis of non-reciprocity, non-discrimination and preferential treatment;

(b) If the preferential advantages enjoyed by developing countries are adversely affected by the results of these negotiations, the developed countries shall take additional measures to compensate the developing countries so affected;

(c) Developed countries shall provide more favourable and acceptable conditions of access to the products of developing countries and ensure for these products a larger share of the markets of developed countries, and devise measures designed to attain stable, equitable and remunerative prices for these products;

(d) All developing countries, whether or not contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, shall be entitled and enabled to participate fully, effectively and continuously in all stages of these negotiations so that their interests are fully taken into account;

(e) All concessions that may be exchanged by developed countries among themselves shall automatically be extended to all developing countries;

(f) Concessions granted by the developed countries to developing countries need not be extended to the developed countries;

(g) In the negotiations among developing countries, the tariff and other concessions which they may negotiate among themselves shall not be extended to the developed countries;

(h) The negotiations should, as a matter of priority, secure significant concessions for the products of particular interest to the least developed countries;

(i) The utmost priority shall be accorded to the removal of all barriers to the products of export interest to developing countries in the markets of developed countries;

(j) Concessions agreed upon in the negotiations in favour of developing countries shall be made available to them immediately and will not be phased, nor will accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade be a **prior condition** for the enjoyment of the benefits of such concessions;

5. *Further invites* the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to study and adopt:

(a) New rules fully recognizing the right of developing countries, especially the land-locked countries, to non-reciprocity, non-discrimination and preferential treatment for developing countries, and to incorporate these rules in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

(b) Objectives aimed at ensuring the acceleration of the economic development of developing countries;

(c) Objectives aimed at defining in the trade negotiations specific goals, both global and sectoral, and on a product-by-product basis;

6. *Invites* the Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations to study ways and means for economic and financial compensation for any loss incurred by developing countries as a result of these negotiations;

7. *Recommends* that the negotiations should, as a matter of priority, secure significant concessions for

the primary commodities, including processed and semi-processed products, for the least developed among the developing countries and for the land-locked developing countries, with a view to improving substantially their export of these products;

8. *Further recommends* that the trade negotiations should secure the liberalization of tariff and non-tariff barriers on a preferential basis for the exports of developing countries, whether or not contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to make intensive efforts to assist developing countries in the preparations for the negotiations and in the negotiations themselves, drawing up and implementing interregional, regional and country programmes, in full collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

10. *Endorses fully* section D of resolution 82 (III) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, particularly with regard to co-ordination between the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

11. *Requests and recommends* that in general the decisions and measures that the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade adopt in favour of the developing countries should be applicable to all of them; it also requests and recommends that, in whatever action or special measures they take in favour of the least developed countries, they should ensure that the interests of the other developing countries are in no way harmed or prejudiced.

*2115th plenary meeting
19 December 1972*

3041 (XXVII). Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its third session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, 2570 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969, 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and 2725 (XXV) of 15 December 1970,

Recalling further resolution 2820 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, in which it laid down the objectives for the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and decided to consider the results of that session as a matter of high priority,

Recalling in particular section II of its resolution 2820 (XXVI) on a comprehensive review of the institutional arrangements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with a view to improving the efficiency of its operations, and on the essential role of the Conference to review and appraise, within its field of competence, the progress achieved in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second Nations Development Decade,¹⁰⁴

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its third

¹⁰⁴ Resolution 2626 (XXV).