

408 (V). Mechanization and unemployment in under-developed countries

The General Assembly,

Having in mind that, at its fourth session, it expressed its belief that "action is needed to overcome unemployment and under-employment such as that arising, particularly in under-developed countries, among large numbers of people engaged in agricultural pursuits; and that, to this end, it is necessary, inter alia, to stimulate the economic development of under-developed countries",¹⁰

Having noted that the group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General under Economic and Social Council resolution 221 E (IX) of 11 August 1949 to report on national and international measures required to achieve and maintain full employment has expressed the view that, in the under-developed countries, a large part of the population could be diverted from agricultural occupations without any decrease in agricultural output, and that "the only remedy for this form of disguised unemployment is economic development, which constitutes the major economic problem of the world",¹¹

Bearing in mind that the terms of reference¹² of the Sub-Commission on Economic Development, whose functions now fall to the Economic, Employment and Development Commission, include "studying the effects of industrialization and changes of a technological order upon the world economic situation",

Commending the Economic and Social Council for the action it has initiated in paragraph 22 of resolution

¹⁰ See resolution 308 (IV) of 25 November 1949.

¹¹ See *National and International Measures for Full Employment*, United Nations Publications, Sales No. 1949.II.A.3, page 12.

¹² See Economic and Social Council resolution 1 (III).

290 (XI) of 15 August 1950 on full employment, by which the Secretary-General is requested to appoint a group of experts to prepare, in the light of the current world economic situation and of the requirements of economic development, a report on the national and international measures required to reduce unemployment and under-employment in under-developed countries,

Realizing that the mechanization of production essential for increased productivity may in many cases give rise to unemployment unless additional employment opportunities already exist or are simultaneously created in the economy as a whole,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to impress upon the group of experts to be appointed by him under paragraph 22 of Economic and Social Council resolution 290 (XI) the necessity of giving due consideration in the course of their work to:

(i) Ways and means of preventing any aggravation of the problems of unemployment and under-employment in under-developed countries that may occur as a result of the mechanization of production in certain branches of industry and agriculture;

(ii) Measures of social security designed to ensure that there will be no interruption in the income of workers temporarily unemployed through mechanization or technological progress, taking into account the work of the International Labour Organisation in this field;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned, in facilitating the work of the above group of experts, to bear in mind the present resolution.

*320th plenary meeting,
12 December 1950.*