

523 (VI). Integrated economic development and commercial agreements

The General Assembly,

Considering that the under-developed countries have the right to determine freely the use of their natural resources and that they must utilize such resources in order to be in a better position to further the realization of their plans of economic development in accordance with their national interests, and to further the expansion of the world economy,

Considering that the existing sharp increase in the demand for raw materials, including the demand for stock-piling has resulted in an increase in the prices of a number of raw materials and in fluctuations in the prices of others; has in many cases been accompanied by increased prices and reduced availability of important items of machinery, equipment, consumer goods and industrial raw materials necessary for the development of under-developed countries; has created inflationary pressures and brought about the regulation of prices at different relative levels for different products and has thereby caused or increased the economic difficulties in many of the under-developed countries,

Recognizing that continued domestic and external inflationary pressures, if unchecked, are likely to affect unfavourably the rate and pattern of economic development of the under-developed countries,

Bearing in mind that one way of obtaining the means necessary for carrying out economic development plans in under-developed countries is the creation of conditions under which these countries could more readily acquire machinery, equipment and industrial raw materials for the goods and services exported by them,

1. *Recommends* that Members of the United Nations, within the framework of their general economic policy, should:

(a) Continue to make every possible effort to carry out the recommendations contained in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 341 (XII), section A, of 20 March 1951;^a

^a Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 341 (XII), section A, are quoted below:

"1. *Recommends* that all Members of the United Nations, during the period of general shortage of goods, take special measures to bring about adequate production and equitable international distribution of capital goods, essential consumers' goods and raw materials especially needed for the maintenance of international peace and security, the preservation of standards of living and the furthering of economic development;

"2. *Recommends* that all Members of the United Nations, during the period of general inflationary pressure, take measures, direct or indirect, to regulate at equitable levels and relationships, the prices of essential goods moving in international trade, including capital goods, essential consumers' goods and raw materials;

"3. *Recommends* that the equitable regulation of distribution and prices referred to in recommendations 1 and 2 above be maintained as long as strong inflationary pressures persist, in order to minimize changes in the purchasing power, in terms of imports, of current earnings from exports as well as of monetary assets;

"4. *Recommends* further that all Members of the United Nations take all steps in their power to prevent the development of inflationary pressures, thereby preventing speculative profits and maintaining the purchasing power of the poorer sections of the population."

(b) Consider the possibility of facilitating through commercial agreements:

- (i) The movement of machinery, equipment and industrial raw materials needed by the under-developed countries for their economic development and for the improvement of their standards of living, and
- (ii) The development of natural resources which can be utilized for the domestic needs of the under-developed countries and also for the needs of international trade,

provided that such commercial agreements shall not contain economic or political conditions violating the sovereign rights of the under-developed countries, including the right to determine their own plans for economic development;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and its regional economic commissions to encourage government action as recommended in the preceding paragraph and to facilitate such action by any steps which the Council may deem appropriate;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out such studies as will enable governments, the Economic and Social Council and its regional economic commissions to give effect to the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all Members of the United Nations to report to the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session on such action as they may have taken under the present resolution and under Council resolution 341 (XII), section A.

360th plenary meeting,
12 January 1952

524 (VI). Land reform

The General Assembly,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Land Reform—Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*,^a prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 401 (V) of 20 November 1950,

Convinced that in many countries the agrarian structure and, in particular, the systems of land tenure prevent improvement in the economic and social status of those who work the land, impede economic development and cause political instability,

Recognizing that, in view of the great diversity of conditions in under-developed territories in various parts of the world, no one standard measure or group of measures can be considered as best suited to the conditions of all such territories,

Recognizing that, when possible, reforms of systems of land tenure should be undertaken within a general programme of land reform in order effectively to improve the living conditions of agricultural populations,

Believing that rapid improvements in existing agrarian structures and land tenure systems in many under-developed countries require large-scale financial outlays,

Convinced that the form which an equitable and useful re-distribution of the ownership of land should take

^a See United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1951.II.B.3.

and, where appropriate, to bring new lands under cultivation and to increase their agricultural productivity, especially of foodstuffs, by following the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council on those questions;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies, in carrying out their studies and activities on the questions of land reform to place particular emphasis on:

(a) The speeding up, at the request of the interested governments and according to the circumstances prevailing in different countries or regions, of such practical measures to encourage the promotion and the carrying out of their land reform programmes as:

The convening of international and regional conferences on the development of natural resources, especially land resources, and on land administration,

The organization of seminars on problems connected with the welfare and economic and social progress of rural populations in a country or in countries of a geographical region, and

The setting up of regional centres for training experts in the several specialized fields relating to the improvement of agricultural structures;

(b) Practical measures of technical assistance so as to increase agricultural output, especially of foodstuffs, to prevent the loss of, or decrease in, harvests of those foodstuffs and to improve production methods, increase sales and encourage equitable distribution;

3. *Reiterates* paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 524 (VI) which "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";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist the governments of Member States, at their request, to give to the actions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with regard to the question of land reform the widest possible publicity among farm organizations and other interested persons or groups, in order to ensure that the policy recommendations of the United Nations shall be widely known and understood.

*411th plenary meeting,
21 December 1952.*

626 (VII). Right to exploit freely natural wealth and resources

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need for encouraging the under-developed countries in the proper use and exploitation of their natural wealth and resources,

Considering that the economic development of the under-developed countries is one of the fundamental requisites for the strengthening of universal peace,

Remembering that the right of peoples freely to use and exploit their natural wealth and resources is inherent in their sovereignty and is in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Recommends* all Member States, in the exercise of their right freely to use and exploit their natural wealth and resources wherever deemed desirable by them for their own progress and economic development, to have due regard, consistently with their sovereignty, to the need for maintaining the flow of capital in conditions of security, mutual confidence and economic co-operation among nations;

2. *Further recommends* all Member States to refrain from acts, direct or indirect, designed to impede the exercise of the sovereignty of any State over its natural resources.

*411th plenary meeting,
21 December 1952.*

627 (VII). Activities of regional economic commissions and economic development of under-developed countries

The General Assembly,

Considering that the report^a of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III, section V) gives an account of the interesting activities of the Economic Commissions for Latin America and for Asia and the Far East in the field of economic development of under-developed countries,

Considering the important contribution which the Economic Commission for Europe can make to the economic development of the under-developed countries, not only by its action on behalf of the less-developed regions of Europe, but also by the collaboration it has established with the other regional economic commissions in carrying out joint studies,

Bearing in mind that the economic development of under-developed countries, consistent with the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter, namely, the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development", can best be carried out through co-ordination among the countries of a region and among the various regions,

Bearing in mind that the regional economic commissions have become effective instruments of international economic co-operation and, for that reason, should continue to play an important part in the work

^a See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 3.*

Desirous however of formulating promptly a widely acceptable final text of the draft Convention with a view to opening it for signature as soon as possible,

Decides:

1. To proceed, at its fourteenth session, to a discussion of the text of the draft Convention as formulated by the Committee on the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information,⁹ established by the General Assembly in its resolution 426 (V) of 14 December 1950, giving special consideration to any new proposals that may be made;

2. To request the Secretary-General, in the light of the discussion in the Third Committee on this matter, to invite the Governments of States with which he communicated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1189 A (XII) to transmit to him any comments, observations, suggestions, proposals or amendments concerning the text of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session.

*788th plenary meeting,
12 December 1958.*

1314 (XIII). Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Noting that the right of peoples and nations to self-determination as affirmed in the two draft Covenants

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7, annex.*

completed by the Commission on Human Rights¹⁰ includes "permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources",

Believing it necessary to have full information at its disposal regarding the actual extent and character of this sovereignty,

1. *Decides* to establish a Commission composed of Afghanistan, Chile, Guatemala, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic and the United States of America to conduct a full survey of the status of this basic constituent of the right to self-determination, with recommendations, where necessary, for its strengthening, and further decides that, in the conduct of the full survey of the status of the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources, due regard shall be paid to the rights and duties of States under international law and to the importance of encouraging international co-operation in the economic development of under-developed countries;

2. *Invites* the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies to co-operate with the Commission in its task;

3. *Requests* the Commission to report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-ninth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with the necessary staff and facilities.

*788th plenary meeting,
12 December 1958.*

¹⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/2573), annex I.*

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Other decisions taken by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Third Committee

Draft International Covenants on Human Rights (item 32)

At its 788th plenary meeting on 12 December 1958, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Third Committee¹¹ that the Assembly, at its fourteenth session, should give priority to the consideration of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights.

¹¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 32, document A/4045, para. 92.*

1515 (XV). Concerted action for economic development of economically less developed countries

The General Assembly,

Believing that the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations with regard to international economic and social co-operation should be reaffirmed now when so many States have recently become Members of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also that one of the principal objectives of the United Nations is to promote higher standards of living and that Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action to achieve this purpose,

1. *Reiterates* that a prime duty of the United Nations is to accelerate the economic and social advancement of the less developed countries of the world, thus contributing to safeguarding their independence and helping to close the gap in standards of living between the more developed and the less developed countries;

2. *Recognizes* that this social and economic advancement requires the development and diversification of economic activity, that is, the improvement of conditions for the marketing and production of foodstuffs and the industrialization of those economies which are largely dependent on subsistence agriculture or on the export of a small range of primary commodities;

3. *Believes* that in the present circumstances the achievement of these ends demands, *inter alia*:

(a) The maintenance of a high and expanding level of economic activity and of generally beneficial multilateral and bilateral trade free from artificial restrictions, in order to enable the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary commodities to sell more of their products at stable and remunerative prices in expanding markets, and so increasingly to finance their own economic development from their earnings of foreign exchange;

(b) The increasing provision of public and private capital on acceptable terms from the more developed to the less developed countries, notably through international organizations and through freely negotiated multilateral or bilateral arrangements;

(c) The expansion of technical co-operation between countries at all stages of development, with the objective of aiding the people of under-developed countries to increase their knowledge of, and capacity to apply, modern techniques;

(d) Scientific and cultural co-operation and the encouragement of research;

(e) Proper regard for the human and social aspects of economic development;

4. *Recommends*, with these objects in view, that:

(a) Member States and the international organs concerned should continue as a matter of urgency to seek and apply ways of eliminating both excessive fluctuations in primary commodity trade and restrictive practices or measures which have unfavourable repercussions on the trade in basic products of the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary products, and to expand trade in these products;

(b) In particular, the Economic and Social Council should give close and serious attention to the problems of commodity trade and to the recommendations of the Commission on International Commodity Trade designed to deal with them, including those such as compensatory financing relating to off-setting the effects of large fluctuations;

(c) Technical training, education and pre-investment assistance, whether undertaken by international organizations or by individual Governments, should be regarded as an important factor in the economic development of under-developed countries and, in particular, the fullest possible support should be given to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to the Special Fund and to the other voluntary programmes of the United Nations which are concerned with these ends;

(d) Technical assistance and the supply of development capital, which are increasing, should be increased further—whether provided through existing and future international organizations and institutions or otherwise—should be of a kind and in a form in accordance with the wishes of the recipients and should involve no unacceptable conditions for them, political, economic, military or other;

(e) Regional economic grouping should be designed to offer the opportunities of an expanding market to all trading nations, taking into account the interests of third parties;

5. *Recommends further* that the sovereign right of every State to dispose of its wealth and its natural resources should be respected in conformity with the rights and duties of States under international law;

6. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Governments of States members of these organizations to take note of the present resolution and asks them to play their appropriate part effectively in carrying out its objectives and principles for the general and common benefit of the human race.

*948th plenary meeting,
15 December 1960.*

1516 (XV). Economic and social consequences of disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959,

Conscious that the impact of disarmament is likely to set in motion great changes in the domestic economies of States and in international economic relations, as a result of the progressive diversion of human and material resources from military to peaceful purposes,

Recognizing that effective action at the national and international levels will need to be taken to make use of material and human resources becoming available as a consequence of disarmament, in order to promote social progress and better standards of living in the world,

Bearing in mind the importance of comprehensive and systematic studies in this field to enable Member States, especially those which are under-developed, to make the necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament,

General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources"

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 523 (VI) of 12 January 1952 and 626 (VII) of 21 December 1952,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1314 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, by which it established the Commission on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources and instructed it to conduct a full survey of the status of permanent sovereignty over natural wealth and resources as a basic constituent of the right to self-determination, with recommendations, where necessary, for its strengthening, and decided further that, in the conduct of the full survey of the status of the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources, due regard should be paid to the rights and duties of States under international law and to the importance of encouraging international co-operation in the economic development of developing countries,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1515 (XV) of 15 December 1960, in which it recommended that the sovereign right of every State to dispose of its wealth and its natural resources should be respected,

Considering that any measure in this respect must be based on the recognition of the **inalienable** right of all States freely to dispose of their natural wealth and resources in accordance with their national interests, and **on respect for the economic independence of States,**

Considering that nothing in paragraph 4 below in any way prejudices the position of any Member State on any aspect of the question of the rights and obligations of successor States and Governments in respect of property acquired before the accession to complete sovereignty of countries formerly under colonial rule,

Noting that the subject of succession of States and Governments is being examined as a matter of priority by the International Law Commission,

Considering that it is desirable to promote international co-operation for the economic development of developing countries, and that economic and financial agreements between the developed and the developing countries must be based on the principles of equality and of the right of peoples and nations to self-determination,

Considering that the provision of economic and technical assistance, loans and increased foreign investment must not be subject to conditions which conflict with the interests of the recipient State,

Considering the benefits to be derived from exchanges of technical and scientific information likely to promote the development and use of such resources and wealth, and the important part which the United Nations and other international organizations are called upon to play in that connection,

Attaching particular importance to the question of promoting the economic development of developing countries and securing their economic independence,

Noting that the creation and strengthening of the inalienable sovereignty of States over their natural wealth and resources reinforces their economic independence,

Desiring that there should be further consideration by the United Nations of the subject of permanent sovereignty over natural resources in the spirit of international co-operation in the field of economic development, particularly that of the developing countries,

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Declares that:

1. The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be exercised in the interest of their national development and of the well-being of the people of the State concerned.
2. The exploration, development and disposition of such resources, as well as the import of the foreign capital required for these purposes, should be in conformity with the rules and conditions which the peoples and nations freely consider to be necessary or desirable with regard to the authorization, restriction or prohibition of such activities.
3. In cases where authorization is granted, the capital imported and the earnings on that capital shall be governed by the terms thereof, by the national legislation in force, and by international law. The profits derived must be shared in the proportions freely agreed upon, in each case, between the investors and the recipient State, due care being taken to ensure that there is no impairment, for any reason, of that State's sovereignty over its natural wealth and resources.
4. Nationalization, expropriation or requisitioning shall be based on grounds or reasons of public utility, security or the national interest which are recognized as overriding purely individual or private interests, both domestic and foreign. In such cases the owner shall be paid appropriate compensation, in accordance with the rules in force in the State taking such measures in the exercise of its sovereignty and in accordance with international law. In any case where the question of compensation gives rise to a controversy, the national jurisdiction of the State taking such measures shall be exhausted. However, upon agreement by sovereign States and other parties concerned, settlement of the dispute should be made through arbitration or international adjudication.
5. The free and beneficial exercise of the sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural resources must be furthered by the mutual respect of States based on their sovereign equality.
6. International co-operation for the economic development of developing countries, whether in the form of public or private capital investments, exchange of goods and services, technical assistance, or exchange of scientific information, shall be such as to further their independent national development and shall be based upon respect for their sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources.
7. Violation of the rights of peoples and nations to sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources is contrary to the spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and hinders the development of international co-operation and the maintenance of peace.
8. Foreign investment agreements freely entered into by or between sovereign States shall be observed in good faith; States and international organizations shall strictly and conscientiously respect the sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources in accordance with the Charter and the principles set forth in the present resolution.