

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.*