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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

691 (XXVI) INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PROBLEMS

A

RECONSTITUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADE

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 512 A (XVII), of 30 April 1954, 557 F (XVIII) of 5 August 1954, 620 (XXII) of 9 August 1956, 656 (XXIV) of 30 July 1957, and 674 B (XXV) of 1 May 1958.

Having examined the Report of the Commission on International Commodity Trade on its sixth session^{1/}, which inter alia refers to the Council the reconsideration of the terms of reference of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the desirability of making the work of the Commission on International Commodity Trade more effective,

Having noted the responsibilities which have been assigned to the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements under existing Council resolutions,

Having in mind the special competence of the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agriculture Organization with respect to agricultural commodities,

Considering that the development of specific proposals for possible action by Governments with respect to particular commodities continues to be the responsibility mainly of commodity study groups,

1. Notes with approval the report of the Commission on International Commodity Trade;
2. Decides to reconstitute the Commission with the following terms of reference, functions and responsibilities:

^{1/} E/3124

(a) The basic task of the Commission shall be to study and analyze developments and trends in international commodity trade, including excessive fluctuations in the prices and volume of commodity trade and movements in the terms of trade and the effect of such developments on both the international and domestic economic position of countries participating in international commodity trade, especially on the economic developments of less developed countries; in this connexion the Commission shall bring to the attention of the Council or Governments Members of the United Nations its views and recommendations as to the need for governmental or intergovernmental action to deal with problems or emerging problems which its studies may disclose;

(b) The Commission shall also have the following functions:

(i) To keep constantly under review the movements of world primary commodity markets by the assembly and analysis of appropriate data;

(ii) To submit periodic reports to the Council on its work;

(iii) To publish studies and statistical reports on prices, terms of trade and other matter relating to international trade in primary commodities;

(c) Any Member of the United Nations not represented on the Commission may bring to the Commission's attention any developments with respect to commodity markets or particular commodities affecting it and may take part in the Commission's discussion of the problem.

3. Decides, therefore, having reconstituted the Commission, to proceed with the election of its members at the present session;

4. Decides further that resolution 557 F (XVIII) of the Council shall remain in effect and shall apply to the reconstituted Commission except to the extent that it may be inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, or with other Council decisions.

1043rd plenary meeting,
31 July 1958

B

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADE

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that it is more than ever necessary to develop economic co-operation between the nations, to expand markets, to increase employment of the population and to raise the standard of living of the peoples,

Considering that, as a contribution to overcoming the difficulties which hamper world trade and as a contribution to expediting the balanced economic development of the under-developed countries, it is highly desirable to avoid excessive fluctuation in commodity prices,

1. Decides to convene the reconstituted Commission on International Commodity Trade within the first three months of 1959;

2. Recommends that the Commission examine particularly, at that session within the framework of its new terms of reference:

(a) Fluctuations in commodity prices and in the volume of commodity trade, including changes in terms of trade, and the measures applied or proposed for the solution of problems connected with primary commodity trade;

(b) The medium and long-term prospects for consumption and production in the main commodities with reference, inter alia, to developments in the consumption and production of synthetic and substitute materials;

3. Invites, on the one hand, States Members of the United Nations or of members of specialized agencies directly interested in commodity problems, especially the States Members of the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agriculture Organization, and on the other hand, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Interim Co-ordinating Committee on International Commodity Arrangements, the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the other specialized agencies, to take part in the work of the proposed session under the rules of procedure in force;

4. Requests States who will participate in that session to be represented by highly qualified experts;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to grant the necessary priority for preparations for this session, if necessary with the aid of consultants and in consultation with the intergovernmental bodies concerned with particular commodities, to assemble or prepare the necessary documentation, including documents relating to the discussions of the present session of the Council;

6. Decides that the report of the Commission, including the conclusions it may reach, shall be examined at the twenty-eighth session of the Council.