

"Reiterating its conviction that hunger and malnutrition must be eliminated as soon as possible and certainly by the end of this century,

"Taking note of the 'Elements of a global food programme' proposed by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"Considering that a co-ordinated strategy to eliminate hunger would play an important role in promoting the well-being of all peoples,

1. Invites the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the officers of the World Food Council, of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and of other relevant and concerned organizations, and taking into account the 'Elements of a global food programme' and 'Agriculture: toward 2000 and other relevant documentation, to develop short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies, plans and measures for a solution of global food problems:

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the short-term, medium-term and long-term global food strategies, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session."

World Food Day

The first annual observance of World Food Day was held on 16 October 1981, the anniversary of the founding of FAO in 1945.⁽³⁾ The decision to mark the day each year was taken by FAO in 1979,⁽⁶⁾ in order to increase public awareness of the nature of world food and agricultural problems.

The Day was marked by ceremonies at United Nations Headquarters and at FAO headquarters in Rome. Events also took place in some 150 countries, including addresses by heads of government and ministers on national priorities in food and agricultural development.

On 24 July 1981, the Economic and Social Council, as the General Assembly had done in December 1980,⁽²⁾ urged Governments and national, regional and international organizations to contribute to the celebration of the Day. It acted by adopting, without vote, a resolution⁽¹⁾ recommended by its First Committee.

The text had been approved by the Committee on 21 July, also without vote, on a draft submitted by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77. After informal discussions, the draft was orally revised to delete two preambular paragraphs describing access to food as a basic and universal human right and reaffirming support for FAO in the execution of its mandate as evolved in resolutions of the 1974 World Food Conference⁽⁴⁾ and the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.⁽⁵⁾

In the Assembly's Second Committee, Hungary said it was pleased to note that FAO had responded to a Hungarian proposal by proclaiming World Food Day.

Resolutions: ⁽¹⁾ESC, 1981/70, 24 July, text following; ⁽²⁾GA, 35/70, 5 Dec. 1980 (YUN 1980, p. 695).

Yearbook references: ⁽³⁾1946-47, p. 685; ⁽⁴⁾1974, p. 488; 1979, ⁽⁵⁾p. 500, ⁽⁶⁾p. 1253.

Meeting records: ESC: 1st Committee, E/1981/C.1/SR.10, 11, 15, 17 (10-21 July); plenary, E/1981/SR.41 (24 July).

Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/70

Adopted without vote Meeting 41 24 July 1981

Approved by First Committee (E/1981/108) without vote, 21 July (meeting 17); draft by Venezuela, for Group of 77 (E/1981/C.1/L.13), orally revised In informal consultations; agenda item 10.

World Food Day

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity.

Recalling resolution 1/79 of 28 November 1979, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twentieth session, and General Assembly resolution 35/70 of 5 December 1980, calling for the annual observance of World Food Day on 16 October, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.

Recalling also that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was established to take all necessary and appropriate action for "ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger",

Urges Governments and national regional and international organizations to contribute to the greatest possible extent to the effective celebration of World Food Day on 16 October 1981.

Food aid

The General Assembly, in its resolution of 17 December 1981 on the activities of the World Food Council (WFC),⁽¹⁾ urged developed countries, international institutions and other donors to increase external aid to the food sector. It cited an estimate that \$8.3 billion was needed in external assistance for food aid, and that the requirement would rise to \$12.5 billion by 1990, both figures at 1975 prices. It reiterated that food aid for the least developed countries should be provided as grants or on highly concessional terms and that donors should consider paying transport costs.

WFC, in May 1981, also called for increased efforts to expand and strengthen food aid (p. 717), especially through three main multi-lateral channels: the World Food Programme (p. 726), the Food Aid Convention (p. 729) and the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) (p. 729).

The world system for the provision of food aid to food-deficit countries was discussed in the Assembly during the Second Committee's debates on development and international economic co-operation and on the work of the Economic and Social Council.

Pakistan, stressing the need to launch developing countries on the path of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, said that what they sought was a strengthened resolve to meet the shortfalls that had plagued internationally agreed objectives. Cape Verde, urging an increase in the amount of