

**1710 (XVI) United Nations 1st Development Decade**

A programme for international economic co-operation

1084th plenary meeting,

19 December 1961•

There were no other targets . The strategy only included general goals on different issues as:

1. "Designates the current decade as the United Nations Development Decade, in which Member States and their people will intensify their efforts to mobilize and to sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining growth of the economy of the individual nations and their social advancement so as to attain in each under-developed country a substantial increase in the rate of growth, with each country setting its own target, taking as the objective a minimum **annual rate of growth of aggregate national income of 5 per cent at the end of the Decade;**

a. "The achievement and acceleration of sound self-sustaining economic development in the less developed countries through industrialization, diversification and the development of a highly productive agricultural sector;"

b. "Measures for assisting the developing countries, at their request, to establish well-conceived and integrated country plans - including, where appropriate, land reform - which will serve to mobilize internal resources and to utilize resources offered by foreign sources on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis for progress towards self-sustained growth;"

c. "...improval of the use of international institutions and instrumentalities for furthering economic and social development;"

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d. " Measures to accelerate the elimination of illiteracy, hunger and disease, which seriously affect the productivity of the people of the less developed countries;

e." ... promoting education in general and vocational and technical training in the developing countries with the co-operation, where appropriate, of the specialized agencies and States which can provide assistance in these fields, and for training competent national personnel in the fields of public administration, education, engineering, health and agronomy;"

f." The intensification of research and demonstration as well as other efforts to exploit scientific and technological potentialities of high promise for accelerating economic and social development,"

g." ...finding and furthering effective solutions in the field of trade in manufactures as well as in primary commodities, bearing in mind, in particular, the need to increase the foreign exchange earnings of the under-developed countries;"

h." ...review facilities for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of statistical and social development and for providing a constant measurement of progress towards the objectives of the Decade;"



**General Assembly - Twenty-fifth Session**

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE**

2626 (XXV). International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade

**B. Goals and Objectives**

**Economic Growth**

13. "The average **annual rate of growth in the gross product** of the developing countries as a whole during the Second United Nations Development Decade **should be at least 6 per cent, with the possibility of attaining a higher rate in the second half of the Decade** to be specified on the basis of a comprehensive mid-term review. This target and those derived from it are a broad indication of the scope of convergent efforts to be made during the Decade at the national and international levels; it should be the responsibility of each developing country to set its own target for growth in the light of its own circumstances."

14. "The average annual rate of growth of gross product per head in developing countries as a whole during the Decade should be about 3.5 per cent with the possibility of accelerating it during the second half of the Decade in order at least to make a modest beginning towards narrowing the gap in living standards between developed and developing countries. An average annual growth rate of 3.5 per cent per head will be represent a doubling of average income per head in the course of two decades. In countries with very low incomes per head, efforts should be made to double such incomes within a shorter period."

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15. "The target for growth in average income per head is calculated on the basis of an average annual increase of 2.5 per cent in the population of developing countries, which is less than the average rate at present forecast for the 1970s. In this context, each developing country should formulate its own demographic objectives within the framework of its national development plan."

16. "An average annual rate of growth of at least 6 per cent in the gross product of developing countries during the Decade will imply an average annual expansion of:

- 4 per cent in agricultural output
- 8 per cent in manufacturing output"

17. "For attaining the over-all growth target of at least 6 per cent per annum, there should be an annual expansion of:

**0.5 per cent in the ratio of gross domestic saving to the gross product so that this ratio rises to around 20 per cent by 1980;**

**Somewhat less than 7 per cent in imports and somewhat higher than 7 per cent in exports.**

18. b) Particular attention should be **paid to achieving enrolment of all children of primary school age**, improvement in the quality of education at all levels, a substantial reduction in illiteracy, the reorientation of educational programmes to serve development needs and, as appropriate, the establishment and expansion of scientific and technological institutions;

### 1. International trade

21. "All efforts will be made to secure international action before 31 December 1972, including, where appropriate, the conclusion of international agreements or arrangements on commodities mentioned in resolution 16 (II) of 25 March 1968, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its second session, in accordance with the procedure agreed upon at that session, and on the basis of a time-table for the consideration of those matters to be drawn up by the Conference."

26. "**Developed countries will accord priority to reducing or eliminating duties and other barriers to imports of primary products**, including those in processed or semi-processed form, of export interest to developing countries through international joint action or unilateral action with a view to ensuring that developing countries have improved access to world markets and to market growth for products in which they are presently or potentially competitive. Achievement of this objective will be sought through the continuance and intensification of intergovernmental consultations with the aim of reaching concrete and significant results early in the Decade. Efforts will be made with a view to achieving these results before 31 December 1972."

32. "**Arrangements concerning the establishment of generalized, non-discriminatory, non-reciprocal preferential treatment to exports of developing countries** in the markets of developed countries have been drawn up in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and considered mutually acceptable to developed and developing countries. Preference-giving countries are determined to seek as rapidly as possible the necessary legislative or other sanction with the aim of implementing the preferential arrangements as early **as possible in 1971**. Efforts for further improvements of these preferential arrangements will be pursued in a dynamic context in the light of the objectives of resolution 21 (II) of 26 March 1968, adopted by the Conference at its second session."

42. "Each economically advanced country **should endeavour to provide by 1972 annually to developing countries financial resource transfers of a minimum net amount of 1 per cent of its gross national product** at market prices in terms of actual disbursements, having regard to the special position of those countries which are net importers of capital. **Those developed countries which have already met this target** will endeavour to ensure that their net resource transfers are maintained and envisage, **if possible, an increase in them**. Those developed countries **which are unable to achieve this target by 1972 will endeavour to attain it not later than 1975.**"

43. "In recognition of the special importance of the role which can be fulfilled only by official development assistance, a major part of financial **resource transfers to the developing countries should be provided in the form of official development assistance**. Each economically advanced country will progressively increase its official development assistance to the developing countries and will exert its best efforts to reach a minimum net amount of **0.7 per cent of its gross national product at market prices by the middle of the Decade.**"

## 7. Science and technology

61. "Developing countries will continue to **increase their expenditure on research and development** and will endeavour to attain, by the end of the Decade, **a minimum average level equivalent to 0.5 per cent of their gross product**. They will endeavour to inculcate, among their people, an appreciation of the scientific approach which will influence all their development policies. The research programme will be oriented to the development of technologies that are in line with the circumstances and requirements of individual countries and regions. They will put particular stress on applied research and seek to develop the basic infrastructure of science and technology.

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## International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade

### PREAMBLE

#### Quality of Life and Women Status

8. "The development process must promote human dignity. The ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the **entire population** on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom. In this context, **a substantial improvement in the status of women will take place during the Decade**. In this perspective, economic growth, productive employment and social equity are fundamental and indivisible elements of development."

#### Economic Growth

20. "Each developing country will set its own target for growth in the light of its particular circumstances. In order to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy, the average annual **rate of growth of gross domestic product for the developing countries as a whole during the Decade should be 7 per cent, and in the early part of the Decade, as close as possible to this rate**. This target and those derived from it are a broad indication of the scope of concerted efforts to be made during the Decade at the national and international levels. On the basis of regional needs, circumstances and patterns of growth, more specific regional goals may be elaborated in the framework of the regional commissions. **Special efforts are required to ensure that the low-income developing countries attain the average rate of 7 per cent.**"

#### Population Growth

21. "If the **average annual rate of growth of population in the developing countries were to remain at about 2.5 per cent, an average annual increase of 7 per cent in gross domestic product would lead to an annual increase of about 4.5 per cent in per capita gross domestic product**. This would double income per capita in developing countries around the middle of the 1990s. Such a growth in income is necessary if real progress is to be made towards raising substantially the share of the developing countries in world production of goods and services and towards eliminating the growing gap between the standards of living of developing and developed countries."

#### International Trade

22. "An acceleration in the tempo of production in developing countries will require a rapid expansion and diversification of their international trade. For developing countries in general, **exports and imports of goods and services should expand at annual rates of not less than 7.5 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.**"

### **Domestic saving**

23. "The acceleration of production will require that **gross investment reaches the level of about 28 per cent of gross domestic product by 1990**. The developing countries, therefore, must fully mobilize their domestic financial resources. To this end, for developing countries in general, **gross domestic saving should be increased to reach about 24 per cent of gross domestic product by 1990**. The developing countries that have a **saving ratio of less than 15 per cent** should make vigorous **efforts to raise it to 20 per cent as early as possible**. The countries that have or will soon have a **during the Decade**, a **saving ratio of 20 per cent should raise it significantly**

### **Elimination of Hunger and Malnutrition**

28. "Hunger and malnutrition must be eliminated as soon as possible and certainly by the end of this century. Substantial progress should be made during the Decade towards food self-sufficiency and food security in developing countries so as to ensure an adequate level of nutrition for everybody. **Agricultural production in developing countries as a whole should expand at an average annual rate of at least 4 per cent so that it will be possible to meet the nutritional needs of the populations, to enlarge the base for industrialization and the diversification of economic structures, and to redress current imbalances in world production.**"

### **Expansion of Manufactures**

29. "Developing countries as a whole **should expand manufacturing output at an average annual rate of 9 per cent**, thereby making a significant contribution during the Decade towards raising the share of developing countries in world manufacturing production and **laying the basis for achieving the target of a 25 per cent share of world production by the year 2000** as set out in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation."



### Full employment

44. "The achievement of **full employment by the year 2000** remains a primary objective. Intensive efforts will have to be made to **increase the opportunities for productive employment**, especially for the new entrants to the labour force, **as this is expected to increase by 2.5 per cent per annum**, and to reduce and eliminate the present massive unemployment and underemployment."

### Human Resources development

46. "The development of human resources provided a broad basis for development; it enhances the capacity of people to participate constructively in the development process. In this context, education is an important element, and the provision of universal education on the broadest possible scale, **the eradication or considerable reduction of illiteracy, and the closest possible realization of universal primary enrolment by the year 2000 remain major goals of all countries during the Decade**. A parallel and harmonious expansion of all levels and types of education is equally necessary, keeping in view the decisive role of education and training for national development and individual fulfilment."

### Health

48. "The attainment by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit all peoples of the world to lead a socially and economically productive life is an important objective of the international community. Primary health care is a key measure for the attainment of this objective. All countries will broaden the access of the poorest groups in their populations to health facilities and, with the assistance of the international community, will ensure immunization against major infectious diseases for all children as early as possible during the Decade. **Safe water and adequate sanitary facilities should also be made available to all in rural and urban areas by 1990**. The **reduction of mortality** should be reduced to **less than 120 per 1,000 live births**. **Life expectancy in all countries should reach 60 years as a minimum, and infant mortality rates should reach 50 per 1,000 live births**, as a maximum, by the year 2000. Particular efforts should be made to integrate the disabled in the development process. Effective measures of prevention and rehabilitation are therefore essential."

### Food Requirements

88. "Since the Food Aid Convention agreed upon recently for 7. million tons falls considerably short of the target of 10 million tons, every effort should be made both to enlist new contributors and to increase the commitments of existing ones so that the new Convention can be renewed by mid-1981 with a firm assurance that the target will be the absolute minimum flow of assistance, even in times of high prices and food shortage. Urgent consideration will be given to a revision of the target, **taking into account the estimated requirements of 17 to 18.5 million tons of cereals which provide a useful indicator of the over-all requirement of food aid by 1985**. This estimate will be reviewed periodically."



### Food Annual Requirement

89. "While considering annual requirements of food aid by 1985, estimates of 300,000 tons of dairy products and 350,000 tons of vegetable oil, which also provide useful indicators of annual requirements, should be taken into account."

90. "Resources of the World Food Programme will be augmented and every effort will be made to reach the current minimum agreed target of \$ 1 billion for 1981/82 and the target agreed upon for each subsequent biennium during the Decade for this programme."

### Emergency Good Reserve

92. "The target of 500,000 tons of cereals for the International Emergency Food Reserve should be realized immediately. All countries, particularly those which are not yet contributing to it, should make or increase their contributions to the Reserve. The Reserve should be maintained at 500,000 tons."

## D. FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

### Official Development Assistance

101. "In the context of the general increase of official development assistance, equitable efforts will be made by donor countries with a view to doubling as soon as possible the flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries, taking into account the relative performance of the donor countries. All donor countries will give all due consideration, not later than at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1981, to the proposals for further measures to provide an adequate minimum flow of official development assistance, including those proposals for tripling the net disbursement of concessional assistance by 1984 and quadrupling it by 1990 at 1977 prices."

## I. TRANSPORT

### Merchant Fleet

128. "The international community will continue to take the necessary steps to enable developing countries to compete more effectively and to expand their national and international merchant fleets so as to increase their share substantially with a view to reaching as close as possible to 20 per cent of the dead-weight tonnage of the world merchant fleet by 1990. The Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences will be implemented by its signatories."



132. "The international community will give adequate support, to extent possible, to regional co-operation in the transport and communication sector, especially to the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988."

## **J. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

### **Least developed countries**

146. "Serious consideration will be given by developed countries to increasing substantially and in real terms official development assistance to the least developed countries during the Decade. The proposals made by the Group of High-Level Experts on the least developed countries **for the allocation by developed countries to the least developed countries of a minimum of 0.15 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance by the first half of the 1980s, rising to 0.20 per cent during the second half of the 1980s**, will be appropriately considered by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1981 within the context of an overall increase in official development assistance with a view to achieving the internationally accepted targets."

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## International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

### The General Assembly

1. Proclaims the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, starting on 1 January 1991;
2. Adopts the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting

21 December 1990

## II. Goals and Objectives

### Economic Growth

17. "The attainment of the aims of the Strategy **calls for more than marginal increases in growth rates.** The developing countries must be enabled to generate progressively the resources needed to ensure productive employment for a fast-growing labour force, to overcome hunger, disease and ignorance and to raise living standards. The negative trends of the 1980s need to be reversed and conditions created for a kind of development that signifies a genuine transformation and does more than keep a growing population from the brink of famine. The time has come to move beyond adjusting to the shocks of the 1980s and to lay the foundations for a new wave of development. **For most developing countries, growth rates must accelerate significantly** during the decade. Growth objectives will vary from country to country. For the relatively few countries where growth in the 1980s was satisfactory, the aim would be to consolidate progress and ensure that it is sustained. In the many countries where growth was interrupted, the first requirement is a return to a path of expansion where economic growth does not merely keep pace with, but well exceeds, the growth of population. In the second half of the decade, the foundations for higher rates of growth should have been established. **On the basis of the experience of some countries, it is considered that sustained growth at a rate of the order of 7 per cent would provide the necessary conditions for a genuine transformation of the economy, with rapid increases in productive employment and poverty eradication, and would generate the resources needed for the protection of the environment.**"

## EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

### Debt Service

38." Reduction in the burden of debt-service payments, as discussed earlier, is an essential requirement for reversing the negative trends relating to the flow of external resources to developing countries. But there must also be significant improvements in the flow of finance for development from the major sources of such finance, that is, official bilateral assistance, lending by commercial banks, direct private investment and multilateral financial institutions.



Such improvements, when taken as a whole, should be adequate for the requirements of development finance in the 1990s. In order merely to restore a positive net transfer to the developing countries in a foreseeable future, during which no substantial flows of commercial credits can be expected, **net official flows of loans and grants from all sources, which remained virtually constant at \$ 35 billion in the 1980s, would have to grow substantially in the first half of the 1990s."**

#### **Increasing International Aid**

40. "Aid programmes of donor countries have in many cases remained at low levels and need to be substantially improved in the 1990s. Official development assistance has, on average, remained at only **half of the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product. Donor countries should, in the 1990s, implement such undertakings as they have made to reach or surpass this target, as well as the targets for the least developed countries** as adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. There should also be continued improvements in the quality of aid as well as in its utilization. The release of resources from any reductions in military spending and the recovery in the industrial countries should ease the budgetary constraints of donor countries, and rising concern about the environment and world poverty should provide new opportunities for development co-operation."

#### **Agricultural Productivity**

72. "There are several important components of the policies and measures needed for raising **agricultural production and productivity. An annual rate of growth of the order of 4 per cent on average in food production would make a major contribution to food security** and support agro-industrial development. But the great diversity of country situations means that there is no single set of policies of general applicability. Success will often depend on the removal of key constraints, which vary greatly from country to country. However, politics and measures based on the considerations set out below will be of broad applicability."

#### **Women contribution to Agricultural Progress**

76. "There is often considerable potential for improving the contribution of women to agricultural progress. In most developing countries, women form an important part of the active farming population and of the agricultural labour force. **Policies and measures to increase their productivity and involve them more in key decisions should raise their contribution to output and their incomes.** Schemes for rural selfhelp and for the mobilization of labour for community development and for the upgrading and maintenance of the rural infrastructure can also play an important part in the drive for agricultural progress."



### **Vulnerable groups. Women & Children**

83. "Women and children are a particularly vulnerable group in situations of poverty. **Policies and measures for poverty eradication should have a particular focus on their needs and give special attention to maternal and child health care and to nutrition. Food security** is also a major aspect of the fight against hunger and poverty and calls for an integrated approach to food production and consumption."

## **2. Human resource and Institutional Diseases.**

### **Education-Eradication of Illiteracy**

88. "Education is both a basic human need and a prerequisite for the achievement of the other objectives of development. The educational skills of the labour force determine to a large extent a country's competitive strength and its capacity to adjust to new and sophisticated technologies. In a number of developing countries, expenditure on education declined in absolute or relative terms during the 1980s against the background of a worsening economic situation, and there was a resulting deterioration in the quality of education. Attention needs to be given, in the light of country situations, to each of the aspects of the educational system. The eradication of illiteracy needs special emphasis, including its eradication among women. **A target of reducing adult illiteracy by at least one half during the decade has already been seen** by the international community. But a sound base of primary and secondary education is a basic requirement. Policies and measures in this area must provide for the relatively rapid increase in the school-age population that accompanies the growth of population common to most developing countries. In fact, **the goals for the decade of providing universal access to basic education and of the completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of the school-age group have been internationally accepted.** This calls for adequate resources, both financial and administrative, capital and current, for the provision of facilities and materials and for the recruitment of teachers. At the same time there is a need to ensure that the expansion of the educational base does not result in a deterioration of quality and is supported by policies to train and retain teachers. The content of education at the primary and secondary level must also be relevant to a country's need for economic, social and political progress. In the framework of action to meet basic learning needs, it is important to ensure the speedy implementation of the World Declaration on Education for All, adopted by the World Conference on Education for All."

### **Health-Primary Health Service**

90. "In the field of health services, special attention needs to be given to primary health care and the prevention of chronic diseases, as well as to general development objectives such as sanitation, safe drinking-water and nutrition. This will help relieve the strains on the curative medical system to which increasing numbers tend to have recourse as a result of population growth, education and social change. Policies and measures in the field of health need to give

special attention to women and children. Several targets for the decade have already been agreed upon by the international community. **These include the reduction of under-five mortality rates by one third or 70 per 1,000 live births (whichever saves more lives); the reduction of malnutrition among children under five by one half; and the halving of maternal mortality rates.** The participatory and environmental aspects of health care should be emphasized in the design of programmes. There should also be a special focus on preventing the spread of epidemics and other diseases that are endemic in many developing countries. Urgent steps also need to be taken for the control and prevention of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)."

#### IV. Special Situations, including those of the Least Developed Countries

98. "Over two decades ago, the United Nations adopted criteria to identify the countries that were economically the weakest among the developing countries and that faced the most recalcitrant structural problems. It was recognized that those countries, designated the least developed countries, needed special support measures from the international community in their efforts to transform their economies and to improve their prospects for sustained development. In 1981, the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, in which a number of measures to support the development process in those countries were agreed upon. **The measures included the setting of a target of 0.15 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries for concessional aid to the least developed countries.**"

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99. "However, those very countries, and others that were among the poorest and the weakest, were the hardest hit by the difficulties that arose in the 1980s on the world economic scene. In terms of the criteria initially adopted, the number of countries falling into the category of least developed countries - **instead of declining as a result of successful development - actually increased from 24 in 1972 to 41 in 1990.** **The measures taken by the international community to support the least developed countries** did not suffice to offset the adverse factors that affected their development experience in the 1980s. In the light of developments in the world economy there is a risk that those countries will become increasingly marginalized; this risk needs urgently to be avoided."

