Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council

982 (LVVI). Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 1516 (XV) of 15 December 1960, 1837 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, and Council resolution 891 (XIV) of 26 July 1962,

Bearing in mind the importance which general and complete disarmament would have for the expansion and acceleration of economic and social progress in the world by freeing humanity from the heavy burden of military expenditures and giving it the possibility of utilizing these freed resources so as to lead to the improvement of economic and social conditions throughout the world,

Considering the important part that may be played by various United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, in studying the economic and social consequences of disarmament and in assisting in the development of plans for international action in this field,

Recognizing the importance of national and international study directed to assessing and dealing as effectively as possible with the economic and social problems that would be involved in the reconversion process,

Noting with interest the report by the Secretary-General (A/3736) which, in accordance with Council resolution 891 (XIV), presents the results of his request to Member States for information on their activities in this connexion, reviews the related activities of the Secretariat at Headquarters and in the regional economic commissions in co-operation with the appropriate agencies, and suggests that further studies on the impact of disarmament on international economic relations would be useful,

A/63-11747
Recognizing that the activities of many national Governments, as well as the work programmes of the United Nations, the regional economic commissions, and a number of specialized agencies, include various kinds of research and analysis which, though not related directly to the problems of economic and social adjustment to a disarmament process, expand the base of knowledge essential to planning for such adjustment,

Taking into account the possibilities that may be afforded through the release of additional resources by disarmament for accelerating well-integrated development plans of a national and regional character,

noting that the subject of economic and social planning in developing countries to take advantage of resources released by disarmament will be covered in a separate report to be submitted to the General Assembly under resolution 1837 (XII),

noting also the statements in the Secretary-General's report regarding the nature and progress of United Nations work programmes in the field of international economic relations which he deems most relevant to the economic aspects of disarmament,

1. Expresses the hope that the Governments of all States will intensify their efforts to achieve an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control with the desire to realize the benefits for mankind to which the Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament (resolution 1837 (XII) of the General Assembly) is addressed;

2. Hopes also that Member States, particularly those significantly involved, will continue, in the light of developments bearing on disarmament, to pursue studies and activities relating to the economic and social consequences of disarmament and the problems it would entail for them, and means for dealing with these problems;

3. Recommends that the regional economic commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council do all they can in their respective fields to advance any studies which the competent organs of the United Nations and the Secretary-General request them to undertake in the field of economic and social aspects of disarmament, including ways in which they may contribute to international action for dealing with the economic and social problems that would be involved in the reconversion process;

4. Invites the specialized agencies, in particular UNESCO, ILO, FAO, and ECA, and the UN, to co-operate with the Secretary-General in advancing their studies and activities designed to contribute to international action for dealing with the economic and social problems referred to in paragraph 3 above;
5. **Requests** the Secretary-General in connexion with his comprehensive study of various problems in the field of international economic and trade relations relevant to the economic aspects of disarmament to make an adequate survey of the possibilities for undertaking an international study of the problems that might arise in relation to primary commodities for which the demand would be significantly affected during and immediately following the transition period and to report his findings to the Economic and Social Council at an early session.

1303rd plenary meeting,
2 August 1963.