



Resolution 961 (1991)¹

Food aid and food security policies

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly is seriously concerned that in developing countries more than 1 000 million people are living in poverty and as many as 550 million suffer from hunger and malnutrition at a time when the world's food reserves are at a minimum level.
2. It is also worried about the deterioration of the environment (soil erosion, desertification, air, soil and water pollution, etc.) and the mounting socio-economic problems in many parts of the world.
3. It is anxious to encourage and assist Central and East European countries in their efforts to base their economies more on market-oriented principles and wishes to make sure that food supplies will be sufficient during this difficult period. However, strengthened pan-European co-operation and solidarity must not result in extra hardship for the poor in the south whose populations also deserve the enjoyment of food security, human rights and democracy.
4. Consequently, the Assembly calls on the governments of member states and the European Community, in their food aid and development policies :
 - 4.1. to give the highest priority to the development of sustainable agriculture and fisheries at "grass-roots" level, with diversified crops well adapted to local conditions and nutritional requirements, as part of rural development for the enhancement of food security ;
 - 4.2. to fully incorporate food security strategies, including food aid and agricultural development, which integrate food production, distribution and consumption and nutrition objectives in all co-operation and structural adjustment programmes, and to work for such programmes to be people-motivated.
 - 4.3. to make sure that local populations, and in particular women, are fully involved in such development and that necessary support structures and services are catered for (maintenance workshops, advisory services, transport infrastructure, etc.) : food-for-work programmes should involve the poor and use their productive capacity, wherever feasible, to generate assets and stimulate their economic self-reliance ;
 - 4.4. to give special emphasis to human resources development for the advancement of society, the economy, democracy and respect for human rights, and to end man-caused starvation and malnutrition ;
 - 4.5. to do their utmost to ensure that development projects will preserve the environment and not lead to soil erosion, desertification, air, soil and water pollution, unwanted deforestation and loss of biodiversity ;
 - 4.6. to encourage family farming and to work for land reforms based on land use analysis, environmental impact assessments, population needs and economic development considerations ;
 - 4.7. to involve as much as possible the private and non-governmental sector in development work ; to stimulate trade in agricultural commodities at the local and regional levels as well as worldwide and to work for the establishment of fair international trade rules which will encourage sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the production of healthy food and the enhancement of food security ;

1. Assembly debate on 23 April 1991 (2nd Sitting) (see [Doc. 6404](#), report of the Committee on Agriculture, Rapporteur : Dame Peggy Fenner). Text adopted by the Assembly on 23 April 1991 (2nd Sitting).



- 4.8. to maintain food aid to meet needs and to use triangular transfer programmes where relevant, avoiding, if possible, adverse effects on trade ;
- 4.9. to make sure that food aid policies as well as economic restructuring programmes do not hamper the development of sustainable agriculture in countries suffering from food shortages, and that they contribute to a strategy of reducing poverty and food insecurity ;
- 4.10. to strengthen early-warning systems to identify emerging food crises and to help in assuring an adequate and speedy provision of food to the victims of natural and man-made disasters ;
- 4.11. to make sure that current agricultural policies, including set-aside programmes, are so designed that world food reserves are kept at a satisfactory level, and to work for the building up of a functioning, diversified production, storage and distribution capacity for increased food availability, stability of supply and for a guaranteed access to food by the poor ;
- 4.12. to make a special effort to keep up food security in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe during their transformation from command to market economies with particular emphasis on improvements of storage, processing and distribution and to exercise their influence on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to assist financially ;
- 4.13. to take an active part in the work of the United Nations, its specialised agencies and other dependent bodies, for the inclusion of the above-mentioned policy principles in their work programmes, and to make sure that this work is efficiently implemented, avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy and centralisation ;
- 4.14. to support the World Food Council, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in their work to achieve the objectives set out in this resolution ;
- 4.15. to work for the drawing up of an international convention for the safe passage of food and medicine supplies through dangerous zones in case of civil strife and to help with the creation of transport corridors through such zones.