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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1539 (XLIX). Feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1444 (XLVII) of 31 July 1969 which requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to study the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development, and its resolutions 1353 (XLV) and 1354 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 concerning respectively youth participation in international co-operation and programmes of international action relating to youth,

Recalling also its resolution 1407 (XLVI) of 5 June 1969, in connexion with long-term policies and programmes for youth in national development,

Noting the interest which the United Nations is increasingly showing in the participation of youth in national and international development efforts, and the emphasis which the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations would give to youth generally,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General (E/4790), and the views expressed by the members of the Council on this subject;
2. Recommends to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly

Recalling its resolution 2460 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1444 (XLVII) of 31 July 1969, and also of the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development (E/4790),

"Convinced that the active participation of the younger generation in all aspects of social and economic life constitutes an important factor in ensuring the increased effectiveness of collective efforts necessary for a better society,

"Convinced also that voluntary service in development assistance activities is a rewarding form of such participation and one which can make a substantial contribution to their success by the provision of an additional source of trained manpower, provided that:

"(a) such service is well planned and directed, utilizes volunteers recruited and serving on as wide a geographical basis as possible including in particular the developing countries, and that the necessary resources are made available;

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"(b) volunteers have the technical and personal qualifications required for the development of recipient countries including the transfer of skills;

"(c) volunteers are not sent to a country without the explicit request and approval of the recipient governments concerned,

"1. Welcomes the Secretary-General's proposals in his report;

"2. Decides to establish within the existing framework of the United Nations system, with effect from 1 January 1972, an international group of volunteers the members of which shall be designated collectively and individually as United Nations Volunteers;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) to designate the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme as the Administrator of the United Nations Volunteers;

"(b) in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to appoint a co-ordinator within the framework of the Programme to promote and co-ordinate the recruitment, selection, training and administrative management of the activities of the United Nations Volunteers within the United Nations system in collaboration with the United Nations agencies concerned and in co-operation with organizations concerned with national and international voluntary service and where appropriate with relevant youth organizations;

"4. Invites Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and individuals to contribute to a special voluntary fund for the support of United Nations Volunteers activities;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report through the Governing Council of the Programme and the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on the experience gained from the operation of the United Nations Volunteers programme in implementing this resolution and to make such proposals as they deem advisable to enable the Volunteers to serve better the aims and ends in view."

1720th plenary meeting,
28 July 1970.