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WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The reports of the Secretary-General on the world social situation, at present issued quadrennially, are considered by the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 2215 (XXI) of 19 December 1966.
2. A summary (E/CN.5/512) of the 1974 report on the world social situation was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session through the Commission for Social Development. The Council adopted resolution 1927 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, in which it reaffirmed the role of the Commission for Social Development in examining the fundamental problems of social development in connexion with review and appraisal of progress during the United Nations Second Development Decade.
3. The Council also endorsed the statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade. <sup>1/</sup> The statement, while recognizing that some progress, both national and international, had been made thus far in the Decade, emphasized that in many countries the majority of the population continued to live in varying degrees of deprivation and mass poverty. It noted that the deterioration in the world economic situation had further impaired the ability of countries to respond to the critical needs of their population and that an increasingly greater share of the costs of this deterioration was being borne by the most vulnerable nations and social groups. The statement reaffirmed the objective of development in terms of greater social justice and equity, the provision of the minimum conditions for a decent life for all people and their participation as active agents in development. It expressed concern that preoccupation with the purely economic aspects of the problem should not

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<sup>1/</sup> For the text of the statement, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5617), chap. I, sect. B, resolution 7 (XXIV).

jeopardize the prospects for greater conscious efforts to improve social conditions. It further noted the urgent need for elaborating new goals and policies as provided for in paragraph 79 of the International Development Strategy, based on the review and appraisal of the early years of the Second United Nations Development Decade, in order to establish an integration between the social, economic, cultural and humanitarian objectives of the Strategy. It also called for action at the international, regional and national levels to ensure a more integrated approach to development.

4. The 1974 Report on the World Social Situation <sup>2/</sup> and the relevant parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council <sup>3/</sup> will be before the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

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<sup>2/</sup> The report is a revision of document E/CN.5/512 and Addenda 1-17, taking into account the discussions on the world social situation in the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session and the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session.

<sup>3/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/10003).