

1993/60. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/45 of 31 July 1992,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Also referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe¹⁵⁹ regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Conscious that the project for the permanent link will help offer better prospects* for the improvement of the transport networks connected to it and for the development of broader cooperation between Europe and Africa,

Also conscious of the economic impact and regional and interregional integration effects of the project,

Taking account, firstly, of the considerable work done on the project in terms of the surveying of the Strait of Gibraltar site and the engineering and socio-economic studies carried out and, secondly, of the ongoing programme of work, which, by the end of the year, should lead to the choice of the most advantageous solution,

Taking note of the recommendations and conclusions of the evaluation report on the studies relating to the project undertaken during the period 1982-1993,¹⁶⁰ prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe in accordance with Council resolution 1991/74,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project among the Governments of Morocco and Spain, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe;

2. *Also welcomes* the favourable response of the International Tunnelling Association and the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean to the appeal made by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1991/74;

3. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the work done in preparing the project evaluation report requested by the Council in resolution 1991/74;

4. *Invites* the scientific and technical institutions concerned to take part in the special session on the permanent

link through the Strait of Gibraltar, to be held at Cairo in April 1994 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Tunnelling Association;

5. *Invites* the States concerned and the competent bodies to cooperate with the Governments of Morocco and Spain in carrying out studies for the implementation of the project and to take part in the International Colloquium on the Permanent Link, to be held at Seville, Spain, in 1994;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to give his M1 support to the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above and, within existing priorities, to provide them with the necessary resources.

*46th plenary meeting
30 July 1993*