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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)

Rapporteur: Mrs. Maureen STEPHENSON-VERNON (Jamaica)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee continued its consideration of this item at its 35th, 37th, 41st, 43rd and 46th meetings, on 3, 4, 11, 14 and 20 November 1980. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/35/35, 37, 41, 43 and 46). Action on subitem (j) is discussed in section II below.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the
United Nations system (subitem (j))

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.20 and Rev.1 and
draft decision A/C.2/35/L.115

2. At the 35th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of Argentina and Jamaica, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/35/L.20) entitled "Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system".

3. At the 43rd meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.2/35/L.20/Rev.1).

4. At its 46th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision (A/C.2/35/L.115) submitted by Mr. J. Valtasaari, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.20/Rev.1 (for the text, see para. 21, annex to draft decision I).

5. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on the administrative and financial implications of draft decision A/C.2/35/L.115, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/35/L.115 (see para. 21, draft decision I).
7. After the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of Czechoslovakia (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Jamaica.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.41 and A/C.2/35/L.114

8. At the 37th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/35/L.41) entitled "Implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in particular section VIII of the annex to resolution 32/197 and section IV of resolution 33/202 regarding the United Nations Secretariat,

"Recalling also its resolution 34/215 of 19 December 1979,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system: implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and section IV of General Assembly resolution 33/202'; 1/

1/ A/35/527 and Corr.1.

"2. Welcomes the consultative arrangements at the secretariat level envisaged by the Secretary-General on policy issues pertaining to economic and social activities 2/ and on planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation; 3/

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for all concerned United Nations entities at the secretariat level to extend the necessary co-operation and assistance to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the effective functioning of these consultative arrangements;

"4. Reaffirms the need for further measures, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/215, for the effective implementation of the provisions of section IV of Assembly resolution 33/202;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to effect the adjustments required in the existing reporting arrangements, as indicated in paragraph 25 of his report, in order fully to reflect the authority and accountability envisaged for the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, particularly paragraph 5 (c) of section IV, and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a report, including a revised organizational chart embodying these adjustments;

"6. Reaffirms the responsibilities of the Director-General for establishing policy-related guidelines for all activities undertaken by United Nations services and organs in the economic and social fields, in order to ensure their coherence, co-ordination and efficient management, and exercising in that context a general oversight of proposals and actions at the secretariat level in the economic and social fields, particularly from the point of view of their policy and institutional implications for the Organization as a whole;

"7. Decides to consider at its thirty-sixth session, in the light of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General, the issues involved in the effective exercise by the Director-General of his functions, as defined in paragraph 64 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, on the basis of the principles pertaining to interagency co-ordination contained in Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202;

"8. Takes note of the considerations regarding the resources required for the effective discharge by the Director-General of his responsibilities, outlined in paragraphs 34 to 39 of the report of the Secretary-General;

"9. Invites the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly, requested in paragraph 5 above, information on measures envisaged by him in respect of the issues dealt with in section III of his report on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. 1/"

2/ Ibid., paras. 9-15.

3/ Ibid., paras. 16-20.

9. At its 46th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/35/L.114) submitted by Mr. J. Valtasaari, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.41.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.114 (see para. 20).

11. In the light of the adoption of the draft resolution, the sponsors withdrew draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.41.

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement (see A/C.2/35/SR.46).

C. Draft decisions A/C.2/35/L.67 and A/C.2/35/L.120

13. At the 41st meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/35/L.67) entitled "Implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions", which read as follows:

"At its _____ meeting, the Second Committee decided to:

"(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system: implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions; 4/

"(b) Endorse the immediate programme priorities for 1981 of the regional commissions set out in chapter 2 of that report, deriving from their expanded responsibilities as elaborated in the above-mentioned resolutions;

"(c) Invite the regional commissions to consider further at their plenary sessions in 1981 the implications for their role and functions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, in the light, inter alia, of the observations and recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, particularly paragraphs 76 to 79 thereof, and to report thereon, for action by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report called for under General Assembly resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979."

14. A statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of draft decision A/C.2/35/L.67 was circulated in document A/C.2/35/L.93.

15. At its 46th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision (A/C.2/35/L.120) submitted by Mr. J. Valtasaari, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/35/L.67. In introducing draft decision A/C.2/35/L.120, the Vice-Chairman stated that an agreed understanding had been reached concerning the financial implications of paragraph (b) of the draft decision. In accordance with that understanding, the Secretariat would, prior to the Fifth Committee's consideration of the matter, review the proposals, as contained in document A/C.2/35/L.93, from the point of view of their consistency with intergovernmental decisions at the regional level and would, on that basis, prepare a revised submission of administrative and financial implications for consideration by the Fifth Committee at its current session.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/35/L.120. (see para. 21, draft decision II).

17. In the light of the adoption of the draft decision, the sponsors withdrew draft decision A/C.2/35/L.67.

18. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of Czechoslovakia also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement (see A/C.2/35/SR.46).

D. Draft decision on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

19. At its 46th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the following documents (see para. 21, draft decision III):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VI of the annex to resolution 32/197 (A/35/540);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the arrangements for future United Nations pledging conferences for development activities (A/C.2/35/9).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

20. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

Implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Reaffirming its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in particular section VIII of the annex to resolution 32/197 and section IV of resolution 33/202 regarding the United Nations Secretariat,

Recalling also its resolution 34/215 of 19 December 1979,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system: implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and section IV of General Assembly resolution 33/202"; 5/
2. Welcomes the consultative arrangements at the secretariat level envisaged by the Secretary-General on policy issues pertaining to economic and social activities 6/ and on planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation; 7/
3. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for all concerned United Nations entities at the secretariat level to extend the necessary co-operation and assistance to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the effective functioning of these consultative arrangements;
4. Reaffirms the need for further measures, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/215, for the effective implementation of the provisions of section IV of Assembly resolution 33/202;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to effect the adjustments required in the existing reporting arrangements, as indicated in paragraph 25 of his report, in order to reflect fully the authority and responsibilities envisaged for the Director-General with respect to all services and organs of the United Nations

5/ A/35/527 and Corr.1.

6/ Ibid., paras. 9-15.

7/ Ibid., paras. 16-20.

expressed in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, particularly paragraph 5 (c) of section IV, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, including a revised chart incorporating these adjustments;

6. Takes note with interest of the efforts made by the Secretary-General, as reported in section II B of his report on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, to ensure that the Director-General exercises effective leadership and over-all co-ordination within the United Nations system, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in accordance with the recommendations outlined in his report, that the provisions of paragraph 64 (a) are fully complied with;

7. Reaffirms the responsibilities of the Director-General under the direction of the Secretary-General for establishing policy-related guidelines for all activities undertaken by United Nations services and organs in the economic and social fields, in order to ensure their coherence, co-ordination and efficient management, and for exercising in that context a general oversight of proposals and actions at the secretariat level in the economic and social fields, particularly from the point of view of their policy and institutional implications for the Organization as a whole;

8. Decides to consider at its thirty-sixth session, in the light of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General, the issues involved in the effective exercise by the Director-General of his functions, as defined in paragraph 64 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, on the basis of the principles pertaining to interagency co-ordination contained in Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202;

9. Takes note of the considerations regarding the resources required for the effective discharge by the Director-General of his responsibilities, as outlined in paragraphs 34 to 39 of the report of the Secretary-General;

10. Invites the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly, requested in paragraph 5 above, information on measures envisaged by him in respect of the issues dealt with in section III of his report on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

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21. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly
resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and
social sectors of the United Nations system

The General Assembly decides:

/...

(a) To resume consideration of the text of the draft resolution annexed to the present decision at its thirty-sixth session, with a view to taking substantive action;

(b) To request its President to arrange intersessional consultations in order to facilitate such consideration at its thirty-sixth session, taking into account the discussions held on the subject at its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions, on the understanding that those consultations should also give attention to the manner in which such consideration should be undertaken, taking into account the direct relevance of certain proposals to a number of the Main Committees of the Assembly.

ANNEX

Draft resolution on the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system 8/

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling further its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which it, inter alia, established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling also its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, by which it, inter alia, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee,

Recalling also its resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979, in which it, inter alia, requested certain actions and measures within the framework of the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee,

Reaffirming that the process of restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system is an integral part of the efforts

8/ Originally issued under the symbol A/C.2/35/L.20/Rev.1.

required to ensure the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation,

Noting Economic and Social Council decision 1979/57 of 2 August 1979 regarding the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Recalling, in particular, paragraph 13 of the annex to its resolution 32/197,

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 7 of its resolution 34/212 of 19 December 1979,

Bearing in mind its decision 34/453 of 19 December 1979,

1. Notes with regret paragraph (a) of Economic and Social Council decision 1979/57 concerning the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

2. Recognizes the imperative need to enable the General Assembly to focus its attention on the major global issues relating to development and international economic co-operation, and to deal with other issues on a less frequent basis;

3. Recognizes also that expansion of the membership of the Economic and Social Council to include all States Members of the United Nations as full members would make the Council a more effective organ for carrying out the functions assigned to it in the Charter of the United Nations and for discharging the responsibilities laid down in section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, as well as for assisting the Assembly, as may be requested by it;

4. Decides therefore, in accordance with Article 108 of the Charter, to adopt the following amendment to the Charter and to submit it for ratification by the States Members of the United Nations:

"Article 61

"1. The Economic and Social Council shall consist of all the States Members of the United Nations.

"2. Each member of the Economic and Social Council shall have one representative."

5. Urges all Member States to ratify the above amendment in accordance with their respective constitutional processes as soon as possible and to deposit their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General;

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6. Decides to delete, as from the date of the entry into force of the above amendment, rules 145 and 146 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

7. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should decide at its next organizational session that, as from 1981, its sessional committees should be open to the participation of all States as full members;

8. Recommends further that, until the amendment to the Charter adopted in paragraph 4 above enters into force, the consideration of all substantive questions should be entrusted by the Council to its sessional committees;

9. Decides to discontinue the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;

10. Decides also that the General Assembly will be directly assisted by the Council in respect of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 9/ and accordingly requests the Council to make adequate time provisions to that end;

11. Decides, in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 11 (d) of the annex to its resolution 32/197, that the preparation of all future ad hoc conferences in the economic and social fields will be directly assumed by the Economic and Social Council;

12. Decides further not to establish, in future, subsidiary bodies for the purpose of undertaking functions of a permanent or ongoing nature, but to assign such functions to the Economic and Social Council, as provided for in Article 66, paragraph 3, of the Charter;

13. Requests the Economic and Social Council to discontinue the Commission for Social Development, the Population Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Commission on Transnational Corporations, while retaining the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct until completion of its mandate;

14. Requests the Economic and Social Council, in formulating its biennial programme of work for 1981 and 1982 at its organizational session for 1981, to make provision for the consideration, in subject-oriented sessions, of the following questions on the dates and at the venues indicated:

1981

- (a) Population questions, including review, as appropriate, of the World Population Plan of Action (New York, 26 January-4 February);
- (b) Social development questions (Vienna, 9-19 February);
- (c) Science and technology for development (New York, 16-20 March or 26 May-5 June);
- (d) Preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (New York, 30 March-10 April);
- (e) Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (New York, 14-17 April);
- (f) Natural resources (New York, 27 April-5 May);
- (g) Transnational corporations (New York, 18-28 May);
- (h) Human rights and related questions (Geneva, May/June (10 days));
- (i) Final preparatory session for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (New York, 8-26 June);
- (j) Economic, programme and co-ordination questions 10/ (Geneva, 1-24 July);
- (k) Special economic and disaster relief assistance (New York, September (one week));

10/ This session in 1981 will include, inter alia, the following questions, on the understanding that further adjustments will have to be made in the light of future decisions of the General Assembly regarding further rationalization of its work:

- (a) General debate on economic and social policy;
- (b) Regional co-operation;
- (c) Operational activities;
- (d) Food;
- (e) Environment;
- (f) Industrial development;
- (g) Human settlements;
- (h) Co-operation and co-ordination of United Nations system activities;
- (i) Administrative matters: calendar etc.

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1982

- (a) Questions relating to the status of women, including the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (Vienna, February/March (10 days));
- (b) Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (New York, April (one week));
- (c) Science and technology for development (New York, April (one week));
- (d) Human rights and related questions (New York, May (10 days));
- (e) Transnational corporations (New York, May (10 days));
- (f) Economic, programme and co-ordination questions (Geneva, July (four weeks));
- (g) Special economic and disaster relief assistance (New York, September (one week));

15. Requests the Economic and Social Council, as part of the measures required to attain the purposes of the present resolution, to revise, as necessary, its rules of procedure in order to ensure the adequate functioning of the Council until the amendment to the Charter provided for in paragraph 4 above enters into force:

16. Recommends, in the context of the above, that the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1981 and thereafter, should elect, among representatives of the States Members of the United Nations, those who are to preside over each of the sessional committees when dealing with each question listed in paragraph 14 above; in the transitional period, those representatives would participate in the meetings of the Bureau of the Council, if they are not members thereof;

17. Decides, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 34/212, that beginning in 1981, it will give consideration to the following questions in accordance with the schedule outlined and that, in the intervening years, the Economic and Social Council will give substantive consideration and action to those items in the context of its own programme of work:

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council Annually

- 11/ Based on the subitems on the agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under item 61.

DRAFT DECISION II

Implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202
for the regional commissions

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 for the regional commissions; 12/

(b) To endorse those immediate programme priorities for 1981 which the regional commissions have approved;

(c) To invite the regional commissions to consider further at their plenary sessions in 1981 the implications for their role and functions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, in the light, inter alia, of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, particularly paragraphs 76 to 79 thereof, and to report thereon, for action by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General called for under General Assembly resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979.

DRAFT DECISION III

Documentation relating to the restructuring of the economic
and social sectors of the United Nations system

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977; 13/

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the arrangements for future United Nations pledging conferences for development activities. 14/

12/ A/35/546.

13/ A/35/540.

14/ A/C.2/35/9.