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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ryszard RYSINSKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

"Operational activities for developmenta

"(a) Operational activities of the United Nations system;

"(b) United Nations Development Programme;

"(c) United Nations Population Fund;

"(d) United Nations Children's Fund;

"(e) World Food Programme"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 33rd to 36th, 38th, 42nd and 49th to 55th meetings, on 6 to 8, 12, 14, 28 and 30 November and on 5, 7, 10, 11 and 14 December 1990. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.2/45/SR.33-36, 38, 42, 49-55). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 8 to 11 October (A/C.2/45/SR.2-9).

3. **For** its consideration of the item, the **Committee** had before it the following documents :

A/45/3 and Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap, VI, sect, A **1**/
Add, 1 and 2

A/45/76 **Note** by the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the
E/1990/12 Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of rural development
activities of the United Nations **system** in three African least
developed countries"

A/45/76/Add.1 Note by the Secretary-General, transmitting the **comments** of the
E/1990/12/Add.1 the Administrative **Committee** on Co-ordination on the report
of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation **of** rural
development activities of the United Nations **system** in three
African least developed countries"

A/45/77 **Note** by the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the
E/1990/ 10 Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of the regional
project **RLA/79/031: Programme on joint studies on Latin
American economic integration**"

A/45/77/Add.1 **Comments** of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint
E/1990/10/Add.1 **Inspection** Unit entitled "Evaluation of **the** regional project
**RLA/79/031: Programme on joint studies on Latin American
economic integration**"

A/45/504 Letter dated 4 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative
of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration of the
Ministers **for Foreign Affairs** of the Group of 77, adopted on
3 October 1990 on the occasion of their fourteenth annual
meeting

A/45/598 Letter dated 3 October 1990 from the **Minister** for Foreign
S/21854 Affairs of the Union of Soviet socialist Republics and the
Secretary **of** State of the United States **of** America addressed to
the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Joint
American-Soviet Statement: Responsibility for Peace and
Security in the Changing World

A/44/646 Note **by** the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the
Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed
at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of
procurement for technical co-operation projects"

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/45/3/Rev. 1).

- A/45/640 'Comments on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical co-operation projects"
- A/45/675 Letter dated 26 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents issued by the Presidents of the Rio Group on the occasion of the Presidential Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and concerted Political Action, held at Caracas on 11 and 12 October 1990

(a) Operational activities of the United Nations system

- A/45/273-
E/1990/85
and Corr.1
and Add. 1-5 Note by the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities for development
- A/45/201-
E/1990/66
and Corr.1 Report of the Secretary-General on future administrative arrangements for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

(b) United Nations Development Programme

- E/1990/29 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1990, its special session and its thirty-seventh session 2/
- A/45/347 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

84 (c) United Nations Population Fund

- E/1990/29 Relevant chapter of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme 2/

A/45/529 **Note by the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration and on efforts to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance (DP/1990/44)**

(d) United Nations Children's Fund

A/45/3 and **Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. VI, sect. A 1/
Add.1 and 2**

E/1990/20 **Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund 3/**

(e) World Food Programme

A/45/3 and **Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. VI, sect. A 1/
Add.1 and 2**

E/1990/99 **Fifteenth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes**

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 6 November, introductory statements were made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, of the United Nations Children's Fund (see A/C.2/45/SR.33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/45/L.32 and L.53

5. At the 42nd meeting, on 14 November, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.32) entitled "Future administrative arrangements for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities", which read as follows:

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8, (E/1990/28-E/ICEF/1990/3).

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on future administrative arrangements for the Conference, 1/

"Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/80 of 27 July 1990,

"1. Decides that the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities should remain the principal forum for Member States and others to pledge their contributions to United Nations operational activities for development, that it should continue to be convened early in November and that its basic format should remain unchanged)

"2. Decides further:

"(a) That the Conference should be limited to one day and should continue to be opened by the Secretary-General;

"(b) That greater use should be made of written pledges, delegations being given an opportunity to make pledges in writing before the Conference takes place, those pledges to be announced at the Conference in the President's opening statement;

"(c) That, as a general rule, statements by participants in the Conference should be limited to five minutes each;

"(d) That a speakers' list should be established for Member States and others wishing to pledge, the only other statements to be an opening and closing statement by the President of the Conference, should he or she wish, and short closing statements by executive heads of the United Nations programmes and funds or their representatives;

"(e) That the adoption and signing of the Final Act of the Conference should be replaced by the adoption of the report of the Conference."

"1/ A/45/281-E/1990/66 and Corr.1.

6. At the 49th meeting, on 28 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaoiane (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.53), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.32.

7. Following statement@ by the representative of Tunisia and the Vice-Chairman Of the Committee, the title of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.53 was orally revised by deleting the words "Future administrative arrangements for the" before the words "United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.53, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 29, draft resolution I).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.32 was withdrawn by the sponsor.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/45/L.61 and L.85

10. At the 50th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.61) entitled "United Nations Population Fund", on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zimbabwe. The draft resolution read as follows!

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling it@ resolution 44/210 of 22 December 1989, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to examine in particular the implications for population programme@ of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations 1/ and to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council,

"Mindful of the diversity in cultures and traditions and in social, economic and political condition@ among countries,

"Noting decision 90/35 of 23 June 1990 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Population Fund,

"Also noting resolution 1990/82 of 27 July 1990 of the Economic and Social Council,

"1. **Emphasizes** the sovereignty of nations in the formulation, adoption and implementation of their population policies, consistent with the human rights and responsibilities of individuals, couples and families;

"1/ A/C.2/44/6, annex.

"2. **Takes note** of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration and on efforts to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, ^{2/} which outlines the unmet and expanding resource needs for population activities;

"3. **Encourages** the Fund to sustain the momentum generated by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1999, through continued follow-up on the recommendations of the Amsterdam Declaration;

"4. **Urges** all Governments, concerned international and regional organizations, including the World Bank, and non-governmental organisation@ to make every effort to increase significantly their allocations for population activities in order to reach the target of \$9 billion per year by the year 2000, taking into account the potential for user contributions, where feasible and advisable J

"5. **Emphasizes** the crucial importance of resource investments in health and education, especially for women, for the success of population programmes, and urges all Governments of developing countries to increase their political and financial commitments to investments in the social sector and all Governments of developed countries and concerned international, regional and non-governmental organisations to strengthen their financial and technical support to the areas of health and education;

"6. **Stresses** the desirability of further concentrating Fund resources on those countries most in need of assistance in the field of population, and notably the poorest developing countries, including the least developed countries;

"7. **Encourages** the Fund, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 44/211, to strengthen and utilize national capacities through national execution; to enhance accountability to adopt a programme-oriented approach and decentralize capacity and authority to the field level; and to support co-ordination of the United Nations system at the country level through the resident co-ordinators; and, in this context, encourages the Fund to increase the utilization of available national expertise in the formulation and implementation of population assistance activities;

"8. **Further encourages** the Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation and other relevant United Nation@ organisations and specialized agencies, to strengthen their co-operation in the field of maternal and child health care and family planning, each within its own mandate J

^{2/} DP/1990/44.

"9. **Agrees** with the Fund's 1990 **State of World Population** report that population growth and distribution are closely linked with environmental and development issues, and emphasises the need to give population due importance in the preparation@ for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"10. **Reaffirms** the importance attached to the role of population policies and programmes in improving individual welfare and enhancing social and economic development as emphasised, **inter alia**, in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the revitalisation of Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 3/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 4/

"11. **Welcomes** the willingness of the 19 members of the Development Assistance Committee, as expressed in the December 1989 policy statement by Committee aid ministers and heads of aid agencies for their aid policies for the 1990s and reiterated at Committee meetings on population and development matters held in April and June of 1990, to help developing countries to establish, fund and implement effective population strategies and programmes as a matter of priority;

"12. **Stresses** the primary role of Governments in the co-ordination of population activities at the national level and the role of the United Nations Population Fund, upon request, in supporting the development of national capacities in that respect and further @stresses the need for co-ordination at the regional and interregional levels to focus on issues related to the attainment of specific population goals and objectives;

"13. **Recommends** that the Fund continue to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes and on the need to find adequate resources to address these issues and, in that context, urges the Fund to continue to undertake activities aimed at building up better awareness of population issues and their relation to environment and development issues, including World Population Day;

"14. **Invites** the Executive Director of the Fund to give more attention, in the specific section on policy and programme co-ordination of her annual report, to the co-operation of the Fund with other relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies."

"3/ A/RES/S-18/3, annex.

"4/ Resolution 45/___.

11. At the 54th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.85) entitled ****Population Md development****, which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.61; he orally revised draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.85 by making operative paragraph 6 operative paragraph 5 (c) Md renumbering the paragraphs accordingly.

12. The Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.85, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution II).

13. In light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.85, draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.61 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

14. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Colombia made a etatement (see A/C.2/45/SR.54).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/45/L.62 and L.74

15. At the 50th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft rerolution (A/C.2/45/L.62) entitled "World Summit for Children", oa behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, t h e United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Samoa, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Viet Nam. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Welcoming the adoption by the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1990 on the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection Md Development of Children and the Plan of Action for its implementation, 1/

"1. Urges all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals and objectives endorsed in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action as an integral part of their national plans Md international co-operation;

"2. Urges especially the donor countries to assist developing countries in achieving the goals set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action by increasing their contributions to development co-operation targeted for the special needs of children;

"3. Also urges all relevant organs, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals, strategies and recommendations of the Declaration and Plan of Action in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their competence, to address the special needs of children in the light of the Declaration and Plan of Action;

"4. Calls upon the United Nations system to ensure appropriate dissemination of the Declaration and Plan of Action;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to ensure the implementation and monitoring by the relevant organs, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system of the provisions of the present resolution)

"6. Take ~~use~~ of the provisions in the Plan of Action for appropriate mechanisms in the United Nations system to monitor its implementation, and invites, in this connection, the Executive of the United Nations Children's Fund to consider requesting the Fund, consistent with its mandate for children, to prepare as an integral part of its regular monitoring, reporting and evaluation functions, in co-operation with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and in close collaboration with other relevant organs, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system, a consolidated analysis of the plans and actions undertaken by individual countries and the international community, as called for in the Declaration and Plan of Action;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled 'Implementation of the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and its Plan of Action, in particular the response of the United Nations system';

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

16. At the 52nd meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.74), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.62.

17. The Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.74 without a vote (see . pars. 27, draft resolution III).

18. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.74, draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.62 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

D . Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.63

19. At the 50th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.63) entitled "Governance of the World Food Programme", on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zaire.

20. At the 51st meeting on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), made a statement in which he informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution, and orally revised operative paragraph 2 thereof by inserting the words "contained in document E/1990/101 of 9 July 1990" after the words "Welcomes the decision".

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.63, as orally revised (see para. 27, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75

22. At the 53rd meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/45/L.75) entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/171 of 5 December 1986, 42/196 of 11 December 1987, 43/199 of 20 December 1988 and 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

"Emphasizing the need for a co-ordinated and prompt implementation of its resolution 44/211 by all organs, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system, on the basis of a three-year schedule, taking into account the linkages and interrelationship among issues, especially in the areas of the national execution modality, programming, decentralisation, and simplification, harmonisation and adaptation of rules and procedures,

"Recalling its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalisation of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,

"Conscious of the objectives and priorities identified in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 1/

"1/ Resolution 45/___.

/...

"Welcoming the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York On 30 September 1990, 2/

"Recognizing the importance of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held at Paris in September 1990, and stressing the need for the United Nations development system to implement urgently the relevant measures contained therein,

"Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of recipient countries to formulate their multisector and subsector strategies, which should also be used as a frame of reference for the programming of resources received from the United Nations system, and, in this context, stressing the need to remove structural obstacles in the processes and procedures of the United Nations system to enable the recipient Governments to exercise full responsibility in determining their priorities,

"Reaffirming also that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universality, their voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism, and their ability to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

"Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development to overcome their economic difficulties,

"Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 3/ and recognising the need for successor arrangements beyond 1990,

"Recalling also its resolution 420231 of 12 May 1986 on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America,

"Recognizing that the 1980s have been marked by the longest period of sustained economic growth in the developed countries and the continued deterioration of socio-economic conditions in the developing countries,

"2/ A/45/625, annex.

"3/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

"Concerned that multilateral resources for official development assistance, in particular those resources channelled through the United Nations system, are growing at a slower pace than the overall official development assistance, and that the official development assistance as a percentage of the gross national product of developed countries has been falling,

"Stressing the consequent need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the *increasing* needs of all developing countries, and emphasizing the special needs of the least developed countries,

"Recalling the role of the United Nations Development Programme as the central funding mechanism for technical co-operation in the United Nations system, the full potential of which has *not yet* been realized,

"Stressing that resources channelled through trust funds should be additional to programme resources,

"Emphasizing the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries on a priority basis, through the rapid and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 4/ in order to enhance the capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries,

"Taking note of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its thirty-seventh session, on the fifth programming cycle, 5/ on elements of a funding strategy for the United Nations Development Programme, 6/ on agency support costs 7/ and on national execution, 8/

"Reaffirming that national execution and the full utilisation of national capacities would contribute to ensuring that programmes and projects are managed in an integrated manner and to promoting their long-term sustainability and wider impact on the development process,

"4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

"5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I, decision 90/34.

"6/ Ibid., decision 90014.

"7/ Ibid., decision 90026,

"8/ Ibid., decision 90/21.

"Recalling the themes and objectives of the operational activities of the United Nations system, including those identified in paragraphs 3 to 8 of its resolution 440211 and in decisions 90014 concerning element 6 of a funding strategy and 90034 on the fifth programming cycle, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, and stressing that the themes and objectives identified therein should in no way limit the prerogative of each recipient country to use United Nations assistance in the areas it chooses in accordance with its national priorities and objectives and local, cultural and socio-economic realities,

"Taking into account the difficulties that many developing countries have been facing in recent years in meeting their counterpart financial obligations under technical assistance programmes and projects of the United Nations system,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including the response of the United Nations development system, and a synthesized summary of views of some Governments on the implementation of its resolution 44/211; 2/

"2. Calls upon the international community, in particular donor countries, for a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, and urges all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development)

"3. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

"4. Affirms that there should be a significant increase, in real terms, in the grant resources allocated to each developing country for operational activities, unless a significant increase, in real terms, in the per capita income of a country should justify otherwise;

"5. Urges continued action by the governing bodies of the United Nations development agencies in 1991 to enhance national execution of United Nations-assisted programmes and projects)

"6. Requests the Director General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session proposals for developing clear system-wide guidelines for national execution on concrete measures designed to expedite the process of national execution in all United Nations-assisted programmes and projects, with a view to strengthening national capacities, taking into account the following elements:

"(a) The crucial importance of simplifying the rules and procedures for national execution and their adaptation to the procedures of the recipient Government so as to reduce the administrative burden on Governments and on the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, and to avoid unnecessary delays in the appraisal, approval, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects;

"(b) The need to ensure that the shift towards national execution reorients the human and technical capacities of the specialised agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system away from the administrative burdens of the recruitment of experts, the procurement of equipment and the award of fellowships and towards a focus on the provision of relevant technical advice and monitoring, as well as on global research, analysis and policy functions)

"(c) The need for United Nations agencies to localise, at the country level, information on data bases and rosters on sources of equipment, experts and training/educational institutions, including the data base for technical co-operation among developing countries (INRES), so as to facilitate the assumption by Governments of the responsibility for executing programmes and projects;

"(d) The need to take concrete action to strengthen national units in charge of technical assistance and training institutions to enable Governments, inter alia, to design, manage, monitor and evaluate programmes and projects)

"(e) The need for United Nations Development Programme field offices to be country specific and flexible in order to provide transitional assistance to Governments that wish to undertake national execution but that have not yet built up the required national management capacities;

"(f) The importance of giving sufficient financial incentives, including incentives for technical support, through, inter alia, the agency support cost arrangements, to assist developing countries to move towards national execution;

" 7. Reiterates that the recipient Governments have the sole responsibility for the co-ordination and programming of external assistance and the principal responsibility for its design and management and that the exercise of those responsibilities is crucial to the optimal use of external assistance and to the strengthening and utilisation of national capacity;

"8. Emphasizes that, to enable Governments to design, co-ordinate and effectively programme United Nations assistance on the basis of their multisectoral, sectoral and subsectoral strategies, the following measures need to be undertaken:

"(a) Urgent implementation of paragraph 17 (c) of its resolution 44/211, which concerns the harmonisation of the programming cycles of all United

Nations funding agencies and their adaptation to the planning periods of recipient Governments;

"(b) Integration of non-emergency food aid from the World Food Programme with funds provided by the organisations of the United Nations by ensuring that the World Food Programme Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations approves resources on the basis of a programme rather than a project-by-project approach;

"(c) Reliance on national institutions and capacities for data collection, analysis and formulation and assessment of national programmes, with the United Nations development system providing technical advice, where necessary, including high-quality data/information on development experience within the context of technical co-operation among developing countries;

"(d) Provision of resources by the United Nations funding agencies, including the trust fund resources of the specialised agencies and the funds administered by the United Nations Development Programme on the basis of the strategies of the recipient Government, which would serve as frames of reference for the programming of resources from the United Nations development system in an integrated manner;

"(e) Co-ordinated review of rules, procedures and formats governing the appraisal, formulation, approval, procurement, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects, with a view to promoting a programme approach and facilitating national execution;

"(f) Uniform and appropriate decentralisation of authority to the country level;

"(g) Assisting recipient countries in building and strengthening the capacities of units in charge of technical assistance to enable Governments to exercise fully their responsibility for managing and programming United Nations development system resources;

"9. Takes note of the agreement in principle of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy to harmonise its programming cycles with national planning and budget cycles, and calls upon the Group to intensify its efforts in this direction;

"10. Requests the Director-General in co-operation with the executive heads of the organisations of the United Nations development system, through their respective governing bodies, to institute greater country focus in their activities, which would improve efficiency and effectiveness and facilitate the maximum utilization and strengthening of national execution) this would require a redefinition of the roles, composition and range of skills available at their headquarters and in country offices, involving, inter alia, a better balance between technical expertise and administrative support staff at the

country level, according to the specific needs of each recipient country, with agency headquarters providing support to the country offices through selective intervention;

"11. Takes note of the action taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Governing Councils of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund in 1990 on decentralisation in the context of the implementation of its resolution 44/211, and requests the governing bodies of the United Nations development system and the executive heads of the organizations concerned to delegate full authority to country offices, in keeping with the requirements of financial accountability, to make decisions in the following vital areas:

"(a) Procurement, awarding of fellowships and hiring of experts;

"(b) Negotiating details of project agreements;

"(c) Reviewing disbursements on a regular basis;

"(d) Reallocating funds between programmes and projects within the limits set by the country programme;

"(e) Authorizing reimbursements of eligible expenses incurred by recipients;

"(f) Making changes in the scope and design of individual projects, as required;

"12. Also requests the governing bodies of the United Nations development system and the executive heads of the organizations concerned to develop criteria for the programme audit function to ensure greater impact and the long-term sustainability of programmes;

"13. Notes with appreciation the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on successor arrangements for agency support costs, 10/ and calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in co-operation with the executive heads of the organisations of the United Nations system to make concrete proposals to enable the Governing Council to take a decision on outstanding issue6 in 1991;

"14. Stresses the need, in the implementation of operational activities, to increase substantially the procurement of equipment and services, hiring of experts and utilisation of the training facilities available in developing countries in order to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among them;

"10/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I, decision 90/26.

"15. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the *Office* of the Director-General, taking into account the need for equitable geographical distribution, to ensure adequate system-wide follow-up, monitoring and co-ordination of the implementation process on the basis of a consistent set of agreed guidelines;

"16. Requests the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations funding agencies, to continue to show maximum flexibility to recipient countries facing financial difficulties in meeting their counterpart financial contributions for ongoing projects;

"17. Takes note of the three-year schedule for the implementation of the provisions of its resolution 44/211, and requests the Director-General to continue to ensure implementation of the provisions of that resolution and of the present resolution, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council."

23. At the 55th meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Bolivia made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, in which he proposed that the Committee should decide to transmit draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75 to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-sixth session.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 28, draft decision I),

25. After the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Morocco and Egypt (see A/C.2/45/SR.55).

26. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the reports under item 84 on which no draft proposals had been submitted (see para. 28, draft decision II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

27. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on future administrative arrangements^{4/} for the Conference, 4/

Taking note also of its resolution 44/208 of 22 December 1989 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/80 of 27 July 1990,

1. Decides that the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities should remain the principal opportunity for Member States and others to pledge their contributions to United Nations development activities, that it should continue to be convened early in November and that its basic format should remain unchanged

2. Decides further:

(a) That the Conference should be limited to two working sessions;

(b) That the Conference should continue to be opened by the Secretary-General;

(c) That greater use should be made of written pledges, delegations being given an opportunity to make pledges in writing before the Conference takes place and to have them circulated during the Conference;

(d) That, as a general rule, statements by participants in the Conference should be limited to five minutes each;

(e) That a speakers' list should be established for Member States and others wishing to speak, the only other statements will be an opening and closing statement by the President of the Conference, should he or she wish, and short closing statements by executive heads of the United Nations programmes and funds or their representatives;

(f) That delegations which are not in a position to make a definitive pledge should make known their pledges as soon as possible;

(g) That the adoption and signing of the Final Act of the Conference should be replaced by the adoption of a procedural report of the Conference

3. Urges Member States to consider increasing their financial contributions to United Nations development activities.

4/ A/45/281-E/1990/66 and Corr.1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Population and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/210 of 22 December 1989, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to **examine**, in particular, the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations, **5/** to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council,

Noting decision 90/35 of 23 June 1990 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Population Fund, **6/**

Also noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/82 of 27 July 1990,

Noting that the report of the United Nations Population Fund entitled **The State of World Population, 1990** stressed that population growth and distribution are closely linked with environmental and development issues,

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, **7/** which were affirmed and expanded at the International Conference on Population, **8/**

Recognizing that socio-economic development is conducive to the success of population policies,

Reaffirming also that assistance to developing countries in the area of population should be substantially increased during the 1990s and that developing countries should also intensify their efforts to allocate adequate resources to population programmes,

5/ A/C.2/44/6, annex.

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990. Supplement NO. (E/1990/29), annex I.

7/ See Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

8/ See Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, B-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

1. **Emphasizes** the national sovereignty of all countries to formulate, adopt and implement their population policies, mindful of their cultures, values and traditions, as well as of their social, economic and political conditions, and also consistent with human rights and with the responsibilities of individuals, couples and families;

2. **Takes note** of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration and on efforts to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, 2/ which outlines the unmet and expanding resource needs for population activities;

3. **Encourages** the Fund to sustain the momentum generated by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1989, through continued follow-up to the recommendations contained in the Amsterdam Declaration; 5/

4. **Stresses** the need to take into account all economic and social factors in integrating demographic objectives in population strategies and in the formulation of development strategies in general;

5. **Emphasizes** the importance of mobilising and increasing the resources required for population activities and, in this context:

(a) **Urges** all Governments, each according to its capacity, concerned international and regional organisations, including the World Bank, and non-governmental organisations to make every effort to mobilise the resources required for population activities, which are estimated at \$9 billion per year by the year 2000, taking into account the potential for user contributions, where feasible and advisable;

(b) **Notes** the crucial importance of resource investments in health and education, especially for women, for the success of population programmes, and urges Governments of developing countries to strengthen, according to their economic and social capacities and conditions, their political and financial commitments to investments in the social sector, and also urges Governments of developed countries, as well as concerned international, regional and non-governmental organisations, to strengthen their financial and technical support, in the areas of health and education, to respond positively to requests for population assistance and to increase significantly the proportion of their development assistance destined for population activities;

(c) **Stresses** the desirability of concentrating Fund resources, in accordance with the criteria established by the United Nations Population Fund, on countries most in need of assistance in the population field in view of their population problems, taking into account the special needs of the low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

2/ See A/45/529.

6. **Encourages** the Fund, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, to strengthen and utilise national capacities through national execution, to enhance accountability, to adopt a programme-oriented approach and decentralize capacity and authority to the field level and to support co-ordination of the United Nations system at the country level through the resident co-ordinators, and, in this context, encourages the Fund to increase the utilisation of available national expertise in the formulation and implementation of population assistance activities;

7. **Further encourages** the Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation and other relevant United Nations organisations and specialized agencies to strengthen their co-operation in the field of maternal and child health care and family planning, each within its own mandate;

8. **Emphasizes** the importance of addressing the relationship between demographic pressures and unsustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation during the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, taking into account the subsequent decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989;

9. **Reaffirms** the importance attached to the role of population policies in relation to development, as emphasised, *inter alia*, in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, ^{10/} the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; ^{11/}

10. **Welcomes** the willingness of the nineteen members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as expressed in the December 1989 policy statement by Committee aid ministers and heads of aid agencies for their aid policies for the 1990s, and reiterated at Committee meetings on population and development matters held in April and June 1990, to assist developing countries to establish, fund and implement effective population strategies and programmes as a matter of priority;

11. **Stresses** the primary role of Governments in the formulation, implementation and co-ordination of population policies and programmes at the national level and the role of the United Nations Population Fund, upon request, in supporting the development of national capacities in that respect;

^{10/} Resolution S-18/3, annex.

^{11/} Resolution 45/___.

12. Stresses also the need for co-ordination at the regional and interregional levels to focus on issues related to the attainment of specific population goals and objectives;

13. Recommends that the Fund continue to focus attention on the importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes, in particular those oriented towards the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries, and on the need to find and mobilize adequate resources to address these issues, and in this context, urges the Fund to continue to undertake activities aimed at building up better awareness of population issues, including, inter alia, their relation to environment and development issues and World Population Dayr

14. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to give specific information, in the section on policy and programme co-ordination of the annual report, on the co-operation of the Fund with other relevant United Nations organisations and specialized agencies.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

World Summit for Children

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption by the World Summit for Children, on 30 September 1990, of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for its implementation, 12/

1. Urges all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals and objectives endorsed in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action as an integral part of their national plans and international co-operations

2. Urges especially the donor countries to assist developing countries in achieving the goals set out in the Declaration and the Plan of Action by increasing their contributions to development co-operation targeted for the special needs of children;

3. Also urges all relevant organs, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals, strategies and recommendations of the Declaration and the Plan of Action in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their competence, to address the special needs of children in the light of the Declaration and the Plan of Action;

4. Calls upon the United Nations system to ensure appropriate dissemination of the Declaration and the Plan of Action;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to ensure the implementation and monitoring by the relevant organs, organisations and bodies of the United Nations system of the provisions of the present resolution]

6. Takes note of the provisions in the Plan of Action for appropriate mechanisms in the United Nations system to monitor its implementation

7. Decides to consider at its forty-seventh session the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and its Plan of Action, in particular the response of the United Nations system;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1992, at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Governance of the World Food Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 44/414 of 22 November 1969,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/79 of 27 July 1990 on the governance of the World Food Programme, which is a joint programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Considering that a careful review of the present arrangements governing the World Food Programme is needed,

Considering that intergovernmental oversight of the World Food Programme, through the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which reports to the General Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council and Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, together with clear lines of responsibility and accountability, are required for effective governance and should contribute to the enhancement of effectiveness and efficiency of the secretariat in carrying out the mandate of the Programme,

1. Recognizes the need for improved governance arrangements for the World Food Programme consistent with its programme requirements, its accountability to Member States and its characteristics as an entity of the United Nations system;

2. **Welcomes** the decision taken by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its twenty-ninth session **13/** to establish a Sub-Committee on Governance and Relationships between the United ^{Nations}, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and urges the Committee to complete its review **expeditiously**;

3. **Urges** the Committee in conducting its review, to take *into* account the need for enhanced governance arrangements and improved **efficiency** and effectiveness of the World Food Programme and enhanced accountability to Member States?

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General, taking into account the *foregoing*, to continue to participate fully in the review of governance arrangements of the World Food Programme and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the participation of the United Nations in, the review of the governance arrangements for the World Food Programme.

* * *

28. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions;

DRAFT DECISION I

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly decides to transmit to its forty-sixth session for consideration the draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system". **14/**

DRAFT DECISION II

Documents relating to operational activities for development

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following documenter

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation *on* operational activities for development; **15/**

13/ See E/1990/101, annex.

14/ See A/C.2/45/L.75.

15/ A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5.

(b) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical co-operation projects"^{16/} and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination thereon; ^{16/}

(c) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of rural development activities of the United Nations system in three African least developed countries" and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination thereon) ^{17/}

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of the regional project RLA/79/031: Programme on joint studies on Latin American economic integration", and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon; ^{18/}

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, ^{19/}

^{16/} A/44/646 and A/45/640.

^{17/} A/45/76-E/1990/12 and Add.1.

^{18/} A/45/77-E/1990/10 and Add.1.

^{19/} A/45/347.