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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Rosemary SEMAFUMU (Uganda)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".
2. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to allocate to the Third Committee chapters of the Council's report 1/ that were considered under the relevant items of the agenda (see A/C.3/46/1).
3. The Third Committee considered item 12 at its 27th, 30th, 35th, 53rd and 55th meetings, on 31 October, 5 November, 8 November, 27 and 29 November 1991. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/46/SR.27, 30, 35, 53 and 55).
4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1991 (A/46/3 and Add.1);

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3/Rev.1).

(b) Letter dated 12 September 1991 from the representatives of Hungary and of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/467);

(c) Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/520);

(d) Letter dated 9 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/555).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft decision A/C.3/46/L.23

5. At the 30th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Sweden introduced draft decision A/C.3/46/L.23 entitled "Non-governmental organizations", sponsored by Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahariya, Nicaragua, Oman, the Philippines, the Sudan, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

6. At its 35th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.3/46/L.23 without a vote (see para. 13, draft decision I).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.62

8. At the 53rd meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Chile introduced draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.62 entitled "Social development" sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Samoa, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe; subsequently, India joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 55th meeting, on 29 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.62 without a vote (see para. 12).

10. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

11. On the recommendation of the Chairman, the Committee adopted a draft decision on the report of the Economic and Social Council (see para. 13, by draft decision II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

12. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991,

Taking note of the general debate during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly,

Mindful of paragraph 42 of the Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77, 2/ adopted on 30 September 1991 which states: "The Ministers reiterated the importance of social matters within the system of the United Nations. They stressed the need for a concerted effort by developing countries to coordinate and harmonize their positions in this area. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the possibility of convening a world summit for social development",

Taking into account the debate in the Third Committee on the item entitled "Social development" and the widespread support expressed for the world summit for social development and for the consultations under way,

Taking note of the statements delivered by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and Development and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, before the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session,

Recalling resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, which endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, 3/

2/ A/46/520, annex.

3/ E/CONF.80/10.

Recalling also resolution 44/65 of 8 December 1989, which reaffirmed the validity of the Guiding Principles as an appropriate framework for future action in the field of social welfare and development,

Mindful of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969,

Conscious of the increasing international awareness of economic and social factors as important components of peace and security,

1. Welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230, which requests the Secretary-General to carry out consultations with all Member States on the possibility of convening a world summit for social development and to report to the regular session of the Council of 1992;

2. Also welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative to carry out these consultations on his behalf, and invites the Special Representative to take due note in his report to the Secretary-General of the points of view expressed in the General Assembly and in the Third Committee on the world summit for social development;

3. Calls upon Governments to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative by participating actively in these consultations;

4. Requests the concerned organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assist the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in these consultations, as appropriate;

5. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council, after considering the report of the Secretary-General requested by Council decision 1991/230, to make an appropriate recommendation to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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13. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Non-governmental organizations

The General Assembly, taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1991/219 of 22 May 1991, requests the Economic and Social Council to review at its regular session of 1992, the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit.

DRAFT DECISION II

Report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of the relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council. 4/

4/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3/Rev.1).