



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 39

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Georg REISCH (Austria)

1. At its 1415th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1966, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 39 entitled "United Nations Development Decade: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 1095th-1097th and 1099th-1101st meetings, held between 8 and 13 December.
3. In considering this item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/6426), an interim report on the United Nations Development Decade prepared by the Secretary-General on behalf of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/4196 and Add.1-3), and the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session.^{1/}
4. The Committee also had before it two draft resolutions, the texts of which are reproduced in sections I and II below. The Secretary-General submitted a statement of the financial implications of the two draft resolutions (A/C.2/L.951).

I

5. At the 1095th meeting, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Greece, Indonesia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.931 and Corr.1), which read as follows:

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly. Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/6303), chapter II.

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter of the United Nations to promote economic and social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

"Endorsing the Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI) of 4 August 1966 which, inter alia, noted that progress in the achievement of the goals and objectives set for the United Nations Development Decade has been disappointingly slow,

"Considering that the next development decade will produce satisfactory results only if without delay the necessary action, both nationally and internationally, is systematically prepared and oriented towards longer term and increased efforts of Member States in the field of economic and social development and in particular development assistance,

"Noting that the United Nations family of organizations has already made encouraging progress in promulgating various principles, directives and guidelines for action in the field of development,

"Recognizing that the formulation of a consolidated statement of rights and duties of peoples and nations might sustain and enhance international development efforts and co-operation, and could help to enlist wider public support for strengthening development policies,

"Considering that the possibility and advisability of proclaiming such a charter of development underlying international co-operation in the interest of economic, social and cultural development deserve further consideration,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as the executive heads of the inter-governmental organizations related to the United Nations, as appropriate, to prepare a concise and systematic survey of the various principles, directives and guidelines for action in the field of development, as contained in resolutions, declarations and similar texts of the United Nations and related agencies and in other relevant sources;

"2. Further requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the discussions on the subject at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the preparatory work undertaken by him in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present resolution."

6. Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda and Turkey subsequently joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At the 1096th meeting, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 1, by inserting the words "the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut, after the words "the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization".

8. Morocco, at whose suggestion the above revision was made, then joined as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

9. At the 1099th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced amendments (A/C.2/L.938) to the draft resolution, as orally revised, proposing the following changes:

(a) In the third paragraph of the preamble, the words "the next Development Decade" would be replaced by the words "further development efforts";

(b) In the fifth paragraph of the preamble, the words "rights and duties of peoples and nations" would be replaced by the words "agreed principles, directives and guidelines";

(c) In the sixth paragraph of the preamble, the words "proclaiming such a charter of development" would be replaced by the words "publishing such a statement";

(d) In operative paragraph 2, the word "progress" and the words "on the preparatory work undertaken by him" would be deleted.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Algeria introduced amendments (A/C.2/L.942) to the draft resolution, as orally revised, proposing the following changes:

(a) In the first paragraph of the preamble, the words "Bearing in mind would be replaced by the word "Reaffirming";

(b) The following new paragraph would be inserted after the first paragraph of the preamble:

"Recalling the high hopes raised by the proclamation, at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, of the United Nations Development Decade, the first world-wide effort to give concrete form to that solemn undertaking,";

(c) The second paragraph of the preamble would be replaced by the following text:

"Endorsing Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI), dated 4 August 1966, in which the Council, noting that progress during the Decade had been disappointingly slow, recommended a survey of the preparations required in order to further and facilitate planning for concerted international action for the period after the United Nations Development Decade, having regard to the experience gained,";

(d) The following new paragraph would be inserted after the third paragraph of the preamble:

"Noting with satisfaction Economic and Social Council resolution 1148 (XLI), dated 4 August 1966, on economic planning and projections connected with the working programme of the Committee for Development Planning,";

(e) The following new paragraph would be inserted after the fourth paragraph of the preamble:

"Bearing in mind the fact that the second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will have to consider the adoption of measures to achieve fuller agreement on the principles governing international trade relations and on trading policies calculated to encourage development,";

(f) The following new paragraph would be inserted as operative paragraph 1:

"1. Decides to undertake the drafting of a consolidated statement of rights and duties of peoples and nations in order to sustain and intensify international co-operation and efforts with a view to development and to help to enlist wider public support for strengthening development policies,";

(g) Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 would be renumbered 2 and 3.

11. The representative of the United Arab Republic, on behalf of India, Pakistan, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, proposed an oral amendment to the draft resolution, whereby the following new paragraph would be inserted after operative paragraph 1:

"2. Emphasizes that the preparation of this survey in no way detracts from the urgency of the need for the Governments of States members of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to exert maximum efforts, with a view to reaching at the earliest possible moment, the broadest measure of agreement on the principles governing international trade and trade policies conducive to development,".

12. At the 1099th meeting, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the sponsors, presented a revision of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.931/Rev.1). The revision incorporated the first amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (see paragraph 9 (a) above) and the first, second, third and fifth amendments submitted by Algeria (see paragraph 10 (a), (b), (c) and (e) above) and the amendment submitted by India, Pakistan, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (see para. 11 above). The changes were as follows:

(a) In the first paragraph of the preamble, the words "Bearing in mind" were replaced by the word "Reaffirming";

(b) The following new paragraph was inserted after the first paragraph of the preamble:

"Recalling the high hopes raised by the proclamation, at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, of the United Nations Development Decade, the first world-wide effort to give concrete form to that solemn undertaking,";

(c) In the third paragraph (now the fourth) of the preamble, the words "the next development decade" were replaced by the words "further development efforts";

(d) The following two new paragraphs were inserted, the second at the suggestion of Romania, after the fourth paragraph (now the fifth) of the preamble:

"Bearing in mind the fact that the second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will have to consider steps to achieve a great measure of agreement on principles governing international trade relations and trade policies conducive to development,

"Bearing in mind also its resolution 1942 (XVIII) concerning the necessity of drafting a declaration on international economic co-operation,";

(e) In the last paragraph of the preamble, the words "proclaiming such a charter" were changed to read "proclaiming a charter";

(f) A new paragraph was inserted as operative paragraph 2, and the following paragraph renumbered accordingly. The new paragraph read as follows:

"2. Emphasizes that the preparation of this survey in no way prejudices the call addressed by it, in resolution 2085 (XX), to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to exert maximum efforts through the Conference, which attached great importance to principles governing international trade relations and trade policies conducive to development, with a view to reaching, at the earliest possible moment, the broadest measure of agreement on principles and policies (annex A.I.1, A.I.2 and A.I.3 of the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development);".

13. Trinidad and Tobago joined as a co-sponsor of the revised draft resolution.

14. The representative of Algeria withdrew his remaining two amendments (see sub-paragraphs 10 (d) and (f) above).

15. At the 1101st meeting, the Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.931/Rev.1), and the amendments thereto, as follows:

(a) The second amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (see paragraph 9 (b) above) was rejected by 48 votes to 16, with 14 abstentions;

(b) The third amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (see paragraph 9 (c) above) was rejected by 53 votes to 6, with 22 abstentions;

(c) The fourth amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (see paragraph 9 (d) above) was rejected by 52 votes to 9, with 16 abstentions;

(d) The draft resolution (A/C.2/L.931/Rev.1) as a whole was adopted by 75 votes to none, with 7 abstentions (see paragraph 22 below, draft resolution A).

II

16. At the 1099th meeting, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Jordan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.940), which reads as follows:

"Recalling its resolutions 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 and 2084 (XX) of 20 December 1964 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1089 (XXXIX) of 20 July 1965 and 1152 (XLI) of 4 August 1966 on the United Nations Development Decade,

"Recognizing the positive influence of the United Nations Development Decade as an organizing principle not only for the developmental activities of the United Nations family of organizations but also for national Governments for their separate and independent actions,

"Noting with concern that the prospects for attaining the objectives adopted for the Development Decade have dimmed with the passage of time,

"Realizing that one of the reasons for the slow progress in achieving the modest targets set for the Development Decade has been the absence of an over-all framework of guidelines for both national and multilateral action,

"Considering that it is necessary to look ahead to the next decade during which concerted international action will be taken for the accelerated social and economic development of the developing countries in the light of the experience gained during the present decade,

"Recognizing that the provision of an international framework for the next decade within which national programmes and plans can be adjusted to each other is a task which the organizations within the United Nations system are eminently well placed to carry out,

"Recognizing the need to delineate guidelines and general objectives for the next Development Decade and to define in more precise quantitative terms the goals or targets for the development of human and natural resources,

"Recognizing further that greater substance can be given to these goals and targets by defining the requirements that have to be met for their realization with due regard to the principle that the choice of appropriate policies is a matter for decision by the national Governments,

"Recognizing also that the formulation of such a framework of specific and realistic goals can provide a world perspective within which individual countries can plan their development and enable appropriate international action to be taken in support of the efforts at the national and regional levels,

"Bearing in mind the important role that international trade should play in furthering the economic development of the developing countries during the next decade,

"1. Takes note of the interim report prepared by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Development Decade (E/4196 and Add.3);

"2. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI) of 4 August 1966;

"3. Calls upon all concerned to exert maximum efforts for the realization of the modest targets of the present Development Decade;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General in responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI) to elaborate and submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a preliminary framework of international development strategy for the 1970's within which initial efforts could be consecrated on the elaboration of specific goals and targets for individual sectors and components."

17. Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia, Burundi, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Ecuador, Greece, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Upper Volta and the United Republic of Tanzania joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

18. At the 1100th meeting, the Committee had before it a revision of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.940/Rev.1) which contained the following changes:

(a) The third paragraph of the preamble was revised to read:

"Noting with concern that the progress made so far does not offer sufficient assurance that the modest targets of the Development Decade will be attained by the end of the decade,";

(b) In the fourth paragraph of the preamble, the words "the absence of an over-all framework of guidelines for both national and multilateral action" was changed to read "the absence of a framework of international development strategy,";

(c) In the fifth paragraph of the preamble, the words "during which concerted international action" were changed to read "so that concerted international action";

(d) The following new paragraph was inserted after the fifth paragraph of the preamble:

"Recognizing the need for the further mobilization by the developing countries of their domestic resources for development purposes,";

(e) In the sixth paragraph (now the seventh) of the preamble, the word "Development" was deleted, and the words "goals or targets" were changed to read "goals and targets";

(f) The first part of the eighth paragraph (now the ninth) of the preamble was revised to read "Recognizing also that the formulation of specific and realistic goals and targets can provide...";

(g) Operative paragraph 4 was revised to read:

"4. Requests the Secretary-General in responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI) to elaborate and submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, through the forty-third and forty-fifth sessions of the Economic and Social Council, a preliminary framework of international development strategy for the 1970's within which initial efforts could be concentrated on the elaboration of specific goals and targets for individual sectors and components."

19. Ghana and Poland joined as co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

20. At the 1101st meeting, the representative of Malta introduced amendments (A/C.2/L.945) to the revised draft resolution, proposing the following changes:

(a) The seventh paragraph of the preamble would be reworded to read:

"Recognizing the need to delineate objectives for the next decade in more precise terms,";

(b) The eighth paragraph of the preamble would be deleted;

(c) In the ninth paragraph of the preamble, the word "consistent" would be inserted before the words "specific and realistic goals", and the words "targets can provide" would be replaced by the words "targets might provide";

(d) Operative paragraph 4 would be replaced by the following text:

"Requests the Secretary-General, in responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI), to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-third session a detailed report on the problems connected with the formulation of consistent, specific and realistic short- and long-term goals and targets in the economic, social and technical assistance fields, which could provide a useful framework for international development action in the next decade.".

21. The Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.940/Rev.1), and the amendments thereto, as follows:

(a) The first amendment submitted by Malta (see paragraph 20 (a) above) was rejected by 56 votes to 3, with 21 abstentions;

(b) The second amendment submitted by Malta (see paragraph 20 (b) above) was rejected by 69 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions;

(c) The third amendment submitted by Malta (see paragraph 20 (c) above) was rejected by 59 votes to 4, with 15 abstentions;

(d) The fourth amendment submitted by Malta (see paragraph 20 (d) above) was rejected by 70 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions;

(e) The draft resolution (A/C.2/L.940/Rev.1) as a whole was adopted by 82 votes to none, with 1 abstention (see paragraph 22 below, draft resolution B).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

22. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions.

United Nations Development Decade

A

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter of the United Nations to promote economic and social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling the high hopes raised by the proclamation, at its sixteenth session, of the United Nations Development Decade, the first world-wide effort to give concrete form to that solemn undertaking,

Endorsing Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI), of 4 August 1966, in which the Council, noting that progress during the United Nations Development Decade had been disappointingly low, recommended a survey of the preparations required in order to further and facilitate planning for converted international action for the period after the Decade, having regard to the experience gained,

Considering that further development efforts will produce satisfactory results only if, without delay, the necessary action, both national and international, is systematically prepared and oriented towards longer-term and increased efforts of Member States in the field of economic and social development and in particular development assistance,

Noting that the United Nations family of organizations has already made encouraging progress in promulgating various principles, directives and guidelines for action in the field of development,

Bearing in mind the fact that the second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will have to consider steps to achieve a great measure of agreement on principles governing international trade relations and trade policies conducive to development,

Bearing in mind also its resolution 1942 (XVIII) concerning the necessity of drafting a declaration on international economic co-operation,

Recognizing that the formulation of a consolidated statement of the rights and duties of peoples and nations might sustain and enhance international development efforts and co-operation, and could help to enlist wider public support for strengthening development policies,

Considering that the possibility and advisability of proclaiming a charter of development underlying international co-operation in the interest of economic, social and cultural development deserve further consideration,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut, as well as the executive heads of the inter-governmental organizations related to the United Nations, as appropriate, to prepare a concise and systematic survey of the various principles, directives and guidelines for action in the field of development, as contained in resolutions, declarations and similar texts of the United Nations and related agencies and in other relevant sources;

2. Emphasizes that the preparation of this survey in no way prejudices the call addressed by it, in resolution 2085 (XX), to the Governments of States members of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to exert maximum efforts through the Conference, which attached great importance to principles governing international trade relations and trade policies conducive to development, with a view to reaching, at the earliest possible moment, the broadest measure of agreement on principles and policies;^{2/}

3. Further requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the discussions on the subject at the twenty-first session, to submit to the Assembly at its twenty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the preparatory work undertaken by him in accordance with paragraph 1 above.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 and 2084 (XX) of 20 December 1965, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1089 (XXXIX) of 20 July 1965 and 1152 (XLI) of 4 August 1966 on the United Nations Development Decade,

^{2/} Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, vol. I, Final Act and Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. 64.II.B.11), annexes A.I.1-3.

Recognizing the positive influence of the United Nations Development Decade as an organizing principle not only for the developmental activities of the United Nations family of organizations but also for national Governments for their separate and independent actions,

Noting with concern that the progress made so far does not offer sufficient assurance that the modest targets of the United Nations Development Decade will be attained by the end of the decade,

Realizing that one of the reasons for the slow progress in achieving the modest targets set for the United Nations Development Decade has been the absence of a framework of international development strategy,

Considering that it is necessary to look ahead to the next decade so that concerted international action will be taken for the accelerated social and economic development of the developing countries in the light of the experience gained during the present decade,

Recognizing the need for the further mobilization by the developing countries of their domestic resources for development purposes,

Recognizing the need to delineate guidelines and general objectives for the next decade and to define in more precise quantitative terms the goals and targets for the development of human and natural resources,

Recognizing further that greater substance can be given to these goals and targets by defining the requirements that have to be met for their realization with due regard to the principle that the choice of appropriate policies is a matter for decision by the national Governments,

Recognizing also that the formulation of specific and realistic goals and targets can provide a world perspective within which individual countries can plan their development and enable appropriate international action to be taken in support of the efforts at the national and regional levels,

Bearing in mind the important role that international trade should play in furthering the economic development of the developing countries during the next decade,

1. Takes note of the interim report prepared by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Development Decade;^{3/}

^{3/} E/4196 and Add.3.

2. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI) of

4 August 1966;

3. Calls upon all concerned to exert maximum efforts for the realization of the modest targets of the present United Nations Development Decade;

4. Requests the Secretary-General in responding to Economic and Social Council resolution 1152 (XLI) to elaborate and submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, through the Council at its forty-third and forty-fifth sessions, a preliminary framework of international development strategy for the 1970's within which initial efforts could be concentrated on the elaboration of specific goals and targets for individual sectors and components.
