

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.
GENERALE/1990/72
15 June 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UN LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

Second regular session of 1990
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the President of the Economic and Social Council
on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special
Committee on the Situation with regard to the
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the
Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

1. At its second regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1989/95 of 26 July 1989 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council.

2. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/85 of 11 December 1989, in paragraph 17 of which it requested the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the

* E/1990/92.

specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. Taking into account the above-mentioned resolutions and in light of the attainment of independence of Namibia, the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations should strengthen existing measures of support and formulate additional programmes of assistance to the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of their respective mandates. Most of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories are islands, small in size and population and geographically isolated. Their location makes them vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricane Hugo in the Caribbean and hurricane Ofa in the Pacific, which have recently devastated some of the islands. These characteristics, together with the low level of economic development, make these Territories dependent on external assistance. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional organizations, should be invited to examine and review conditions in each of the Territories, so as to take into account the pressing need for increased transfer of resources to the peoples concerned, and take appropriate measures within their respective spheres of competence in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social conditions of those Territories.

4. In accordance with the terms of Council resolution 1989/95, the President of the Council maintained close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee during the period under review and, on the basis of those contacts and in light of the related developments, submits to the Council the observations set out below with a view to facilitating Council consideration of the present item.

5. During the year, members of the Council and the Special Committee followed closely their respective work relating to the item. The President considers it both useful and essential that such contacts and co-operation continue to be maintained with a view to mobilizing the maximum possible assistance beneficial to the peoples of the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. According to the comprehensive information provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, as contained in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/45/309), during the period under review a number of specialized agencies and organizations have continued to extend assistance, in varying degrees in their respective spheres of competence, to the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, in response to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee. The report also indicates that an increasing number of those organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of assistance from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of assistance.

7. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. The Council President notes that the fourth cycle (1987-1991) indicative planning figures (IPFs) established for some of those Territories include the following:

Anguilla, \$US 1,066,000; Bermuda, \$694,000; British Virgin Islands, \$239,000; Cayman Islands, \$584,000; Montserrat, \$676,000; St. Helena, \$465,000; Tokelau, \$1,151,000; Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, \$2,912,000; and Turks and Caicos Islands, \$753,000. These projects cover assistance in the primary economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, industry, transportation, communication and power generation, as well as in the social and educational sectors, and are being executed by a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in close co-operation, where appropriate, with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In December 1989, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) embarked on advisory services for the establishment of fishing industries in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

8. In the aftermath of hurricane Hugo, which devastated five countries of the Caribbean region in September 1989, FAO dispatched a special mission to the area, where, according to its findings, the British Virgin Islands sustained damages amounting to \$1.3 million and Montserrat, \$5.8 million. Up to 32 and 35 per cent, respectively, of fisheries, the primary economic activity in the two Territories, were severely damaged. On the basis of the mission report, FAO provided emergency assistance to the British Virgin Islands amounting to \$599,250 and to Montserrat, \$4,559,850, over and above the existing allocations. UNDP also provided \$400,000 from the Special Programme Resources to assist members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, including the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

9. The Council President draws attention to the extremely fragile economies of these small island Territories and stresses the continuing critical needs of their people. While noting with appreciation the increased assistance being rendered to them, the President appeals to the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to focus their renewed attention on the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to expand and increase their assistance programmes to them. The Council President is particularly mindful of the pressing need for external assistance of a number of small dependent Territories for which no IPF had yet been established. The need for assistance to those Territories in ensuring the advancement of their inhabitants in political, economic, social and educational areas is extremely acute.

10. Renewed efforts must be made to secure an increased flow of funds required for the preparation of the programmes of assistance and, in particular, for the support of the major funding institutions within the United Nations system. Bearing in mind the need for maximum flexibility, those institutions should take steps to remove any existing constraints or difficulties so as to ensure the availability of the added resources required. The role of the executive heads of the institutions concerned is of special importance. In keeping with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 44/85 and paragraph 12 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/95, the executive heads should formulate concrete proposals for consideration by the respective governing and legislative organs. At the same time, the agencies and organizations that have in large measure depended on extrabudgetary sources for financing of assistance projects should continue to endeavour to find ways and means of including or increasing provision in their regular budgets for initiating and for expanding projects beneficial to the peoples concerned.

11. The Council President welcomes the continued initiative exercised by UNDP in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, and in co-ordinating the activities of the agencies in extending effective assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories. The active participation of the representatives of the Governments of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories at the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations have invariably contributed to the positive consideration given by the organizations concerned to measures in support of colonial peoples. The President is convinced that this practice must be encouraged so that the Territories may draw the maximum possible benefits through active participation in the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. The close contacts have not only facilitated further increases in the volume and scope of assistance provided by the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system but also have enhanced the ability of agencies to respond more quickly and with greater flexibility to needs, as they are identified. In order to make maximum use of the available resources, the agencies and organizations should take further steps to strengthen the existing measures and explore additional ways and means of co-ordination, as they are essential to ensure the effectiveness of assistance projects and other activities of the various agencies.

12. In respect of Namibia, first and foremost, the President of the Council notes with deep satisfaction the historic accession to independence of Namibia and extends his heartfelt felicitations to the Government and people of Namibia for their accomplishments.

13. As regards assistance to Namibia from the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the President notes that all assistance projects that were in progress before 1 April 1989 have been completed or are in the process of being completed. He further notes that development assistance for the South West Africa People's Organization was transferred to technical assistance for Namibia in early 1989. Only two projects benefiting children are still in progress and will be continued until the end of 1990 in order to allow the authorities of an independent Namibia to arrange for the resettlement of the children.

14. During the period under review, the President notes that in 1988/89 some 1,700 Namibians benefited from the various training opportunities made available in 23 different countries, under the United Nations Fund for Namibia. The President notes with appreciation the entry into force, in September 1989, of the UNDP Trust Fund for Namibia with an initial contribution of \$1,733,682 for the purpose of providing a mechanism for bilateral, multilateral and private aid organizations to support technical and capital assistance projects in priority areas during Namibia's transition period and immediately after independence.

15. Following the establishment of the Trust Fund for Namibia, UNDP continued the orderly winding down of projects of which Namibians were the beneficiaries in order to complete the transfer of the unused balances to the UNDP resources available for funding of the technical assistance programme in Namibia. An allocation of \$10.6 million was also provided by UNDP for emergency assistance to

Namibia covering the next two years. The President also notes that an "Independence bonus" of over \$2 million will be available to Namibia, in accordance with the established procedure approved by the UNDP Governing Council. Likewise, the World Health Organization (WHO) has drawn up a provisional budget of \$26 million for assistance to Namibia for the first 18 to 24 months after independence, which provides for 30 international volunteers, and renovation and rehabilitation of health facilities, training and equipment. It is noted that the United Nations Children's Fund has organized immunization and related health activities, has enabled women farmers to resume food production activities with seeds and tools, has joined a team helping with curriculum development, sponsored jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Government of Sweden, and has supplied school materials.

16. Further, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) dispatched an exploratory mission to Namibia in September 1989 to assess the framework and identify priority areas for a comprehensive ILO technical co-operation programme to assist an independent Namibia. It also stationed, as from April 1990, a workers' education adviser at Windhoek to work closely with the National Union of Namibian Workers and its affiliated unions in order to identify both their short- and long-term education needs, as well as to prepare a detailed project proposal for long-term assistance. It is also noted that the International Monetary Fund dispatched in April/May 1989 a technical assistance mission to Windhoek to help with preparation for the establishment of a central bank and to give advice on related matters. The Fund is currently preparing a comprehensive technical assistance programme aimed at strengthening Namibia's capacity for economic management as well as manpower training.

17. The President of the Council notes with deep appreciation the conclusion of the pre-independence Namibian repatriation exercise, successfully carried out by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), entailing the return of a total of 43,387 Namibian refugees of whom 35,553 were from Angola, 3,841 from Zambia and 3,993 from 40 other countries.

18. As regards further assistance to the newly independent Republic of Namibia, the President notes the appeal made by its Prime Minister to the international community at the donors' consultation meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 April 1990. In this connection, the President welcomes the Namibia Donors' Pledging Conference for Namibia to be held at United Nations Headquarters on 21 and 22 June 1990, and earnestly hopes that the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations as well as the international community as a whole will take that opportunity to generously respond to the Prime Minister's appeal.

19. Subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its forty-fifth session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council, the President of the Council shall continue to maintain close contact with the Chairmen of the two Special Committees on matters raised in the present report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

20. The President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid held consultations regarding the recent developments in South Africa and actions taken by the international community during the last 12 months.

21. The Chairman reviewed the decisions taken by the General Assembly during its forty-fourth session. In resolution 44/27 A, the Assembly called for assistance to the struggling people of South Africa, their national liberation movements and South African refugees, particularly women and children. In resolution 44/27 C, the Assembly urged the Security Council to consider the application of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa as long as it continued to disregard the demands of the majority of the people of South Africa and of the international community to eradicate apartheid. In resolution 44/27 D, the Assembly urged all States that had not yet done so, pending the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, to adopt legislative and/or comparable measures to impose effective sanctions against South Africa in a number of areas and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on measures to monitor sanctions undertaken by the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental agencies. In resolution 44/27 E, the Assembly called upon all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to induce banks and other financial institutions to deny and/or restrict bank loans and trade credits, and to impose stricter conditions on trade financing. In resolution 44/27 G, the Assembly authorized the Special Committee, acting as a focal point for the international action against apartheid, to continue to monitor closely the situation in South Africa and to mobilize international action against apartheid. In resolution 44/27 H, the Assembly urged the Security Council to impose a mandatory embargo on oil and petroleum products as well as the supply of equipment and technology and also requested all States concerned to adopt effective measures to ensure the complete cessation of the supply of oil and petroleum products to South Africa. In resolution 44/27 I, the Assembly urged the Security Council to consider immediate steps to ensure the full implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa. In resolution 44/27 K, the Assembly, by consensus, called for concerted international action for the elimination of apartheid by demanding that the South African authorities release all political prisoners, immediately lift the state of emergency, abrogate discriminatory laws and initiate a political dialogue with genuine leaders of the majority of the population of South Africa with a view to establishing a representative government.

22. The Chairman of the Special Committee reviewed with the President of the Council the elements of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, 1/ which was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly during its sixteenth special session, held in December 1989. The Declaration, which called for the establishment of a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa through genuine negotiations, outlined fundamental principles that would be of importance to a new constitutional order to be determined by the people of South Africa, the process of negotiations leading towards the desired objectives, the steps the Government of South Africa should take to create the necessary climate for such negotiations as well as the

responsibility of the international community in support of this process and objective. In this context all Member States pledged, inter alia, that they would use concerted and effective measures, including the full observance by all countries of the mandatory arms embargo, aimed at applying pressure to ensure a speedy end to apartheid, and that they would not relax existing measures aimed at encouraging the South African régime to eradicate apartheid until there was clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes, bearing in mind the objectives of the Declaration.

23. The Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Economic and Social Council that action so far taken by the South African authorities represented a step in the right direction. However, they should be followed by others, inter alia, the release of all political prisoners, the lifting of the state of emergency and the abrogation of all security laws designed to circumscribe political activities in South Africa in order to create the necessary climate conducive to negotiations.

24. Considering the progress that had been made in the matter of the independence of Namibia and a number of significant developments in South Africa, the Chairman of the Special Committee and the President of the Council discussed forward-looking strategies to be pursued in cases of profound and irreversible changes in South Africa and the total dismantling of the system of apartheid. The international community must be able to properly respond to a post-apartheid era and should provide assistance to liberation movements, including possible compensation to the black majority. However, the Chairman emphasized that at the moment there should be no relaxation of sanctions and that the measures so far adopted by the South African authorities were far from being considered sufficient for reconsideration of the present sanctions.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-16/4), annex.
