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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part X)

Rapporteur: Mr. Jorge LAGO-SILVA (Cuba)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 84 (see A/40/989, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (i) was considered at the 24th and 43rd meetings, on 5 and 25 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/40/SR.24 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.23 and Rev.1 and L.71

2. At the 24th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Norway introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.23) entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development", on behalf of Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Jamaica, Kenya, the Netherlands, the Niger, Norway, Pakistan and Sweden, subsequently joined by the Gambia and Poland. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having noted with appreciation the world survey on the role of women in development, 1/

1/ See A/CONF.116/4.

"Recognizing that, although the survey was submitted to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, it has yet to receive the detailed attention it deserves,

"Noting with satisfaction the adoption, by consensus, by the World Conference of the forward-looking strategies of implementation for the advancement of women and concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period to the year 2000, 2/

"1. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session in 1986, to make specific action-oriented recommendations based on the world survey on the role of women in development as a part of the overall implementation of and follow-up to the forward-looking strategies; these recommendations should be for action at the national and international levels within an economic context and should address sectoral and cross-sectoral problems identified in the survey;

"2. Requests that those recommendations be made available to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986 as the basis for an in-depth discussion on the effective mobilization and integration of women in economic development, and be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-second session under the sub-item of its agenda entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in economic development";

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to take these recommendations into account when formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, 3/ and to invite the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to take into account the implications of the world survey when preparing their contributions to that plan;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare an up-dated survey on the role of women in development on a regular basis, focusing on selected emerging development issues that have an impact on women's role in the economy at the local, national, regional and international levels;

"5. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session in 1986, to recommend the periodicity of future updates of the survey, bearing in mind the need for effective co-ordination with the follow-up

2/ See A/CONF.116/12.

3/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46.

activities of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

"6. Also invites the Commission on the Status of Women to suggest terms of reference for the first update of the survey;

"7. Urges the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to the preparations of the next update of the survey;

"8. Recommends that the next update of the survey should include improved data and information, inter alia, on the economic role of women in the informal sector;

"9. Decides that the first update of the survey should be presented to the General Assembly in 1989, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the biennial programme of work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a progress report on the preparations for the first regular update of the survey, including preliminary views on its scope and content."

3. On 12 November, a revised draft resolution was circulated (A/C.2/40/L.23/Rev.1) on behalf of the sponsors listed in paragraph 2 above, subsequently joined by the Congo and Morocco. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having noted with appreciation the world survey on the role of women in development, 1/

"Recognizing that, although the survey was submitted to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for women: Equality, Development and Peace, it has yet to receive the detailed attention it deserves,

"Noting with satisfaction the adoption, by consensus, by the World Conference of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 4/ setting forth concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the period to the year 2000,

"1. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session, in 1986, to make specific action-oriented recommendations based on

4/ See A/CONF.116/28 and Corr.1-3, chap. I, sect. A.

the world survey on the role of women in development as a part of the overall implementation of and follow-up to the Forward-looking Strategies; these recommendations should be for action at the national and international levels within an economic context and should address sectoral and cross-sectoral problems identified in the survey;

"2. Requests that those recommendations should be made available to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986 as the basis for an in-depth discussion on the effective mobilization and integration of women in economic development, and be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session under a sub-item of its agenda entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in economic development";

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to take these recommendations into account when formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, 5/ and to invite the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, to take into account the implications of the world survey when preparing their contributions to that plan;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to update the survey on the role of women in development on a regular basis, focusing on selected emerging development issues that have an impact on women's role in the economy at the local, national, regional and international levels;

"5. Decides that the first update of the survey should be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989;

"6. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session, in 1986, to make a recommendation on the periodicity of updates of the survey after 1989, bearing in mind the need for effective co-ordination with the follow-up activities of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

"7. Also invites the Commission on the Status of Women to suggest terms of reference for the first update of the survey;

"8. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to the preparation of this update of the survey;

"9. Recommends that the next update of the survey should include improved data and information, inter alia, on the role of women in development in the informal sector of the economy;

5/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46.

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-second session, a progress report on the preparation of the first regular update of the survey, including preliminary views on its scope and content, so that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-second session, can take into account this report, together with the comments on the subject made by delegations in the General Assembly;

"11. Also requests the Secretary-General to utilize the inputs provided by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session and by the Economic and Social Council in 1988 for the preparation of the first update of the survey."

4. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.23/Rev.1 was circulated in document A/C.2/40/L.42.

5. At its 43rd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.71) entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development", submitted by Ms. Inga Eriksson (Sweden), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.23/Rev.1.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs made a statement in which he amended paragraph 8 of document A/C.2/40/L.42 to read:

"8. The modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1986-1987 would consist of one additional output under programme element 4.2. The output would consist of a progress report to the forty-second session of the General Assembly, in 1987, on the preparation for the first regular update of the survey, together with the comments on the subject made by delegations in the General Assembly during its forty-second session in 1987 on the report. The progress report to the General Assembly would constitute an interim report."

7. At that meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.71 (see para. 10, draft resolution).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.23/Rev.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

9. At its 43rd meeting, on 25 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the world survey on the role of women in development (A/40/703 and Corr.1) (see para. 11, draft decision).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

The General Assembly,

Having taken note with appreciation of the world survey on the role of women in development, 6/

Recognizing that, although the survey was submitted to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, it has yet to receive the detailed attention it deserves,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption by the Conference of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 7/ which constitute an important and positive contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade and provide a policy framework for the advancement of women to the year 2000,

1. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session to make specific action-oriented recommendations based on the world survey on the role of women in development as a part of the overall implementation of and follow-up to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which should be for action at the national and international levels, including co-operation among developing countries, within an economic context and should address sectoral and cross-sectoral problems identified in the survey, and requests that the report of the Commission on the Status of Women be made available, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986, to the General Assembly at its forty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in economic development";

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take these recommendations into account when formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development 8/ and to invite the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Training

6/ A/CONF.116/4.

7/ A/CONF.116/28 and Corr.1-4, chap. I, sect. A.

8/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46 of 31 May 1985.

and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, to take into account the implications of the world survey when preparing their contributions to that plan;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to update the survey on the role of women in development on a regular basis, focusing on selected emerging development issues that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. Decides that the first update of the survey should be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, in 1989;

5. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session to make a recommendation on future updates of the survey after 1989, bearing in mind the need for effective co-ordination with the follow-up activities of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;

6. Also invites the Commission on the Status of Women to suggest terms of reference for the first update of the survey, which should contain improved data and information on the role of women in development, including, inter alia, their role in the informal sector of the economy;

7. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to the preparation of the first update of the survey;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-second session, a progress report on the preparation of the first regular update of the survey, including preliminary views on its scope and content, so that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-second session, can take that report into account, together with the comments on the subject made by delegations in the General Assembly;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to utilize the input provided by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session and by the Economic and Social Council in 1988 for the preparation of the first update of the survey.

* * *

11. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

World survey on the role of women in development

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on the world survey on the role of women in development. 9/
