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WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled:

"World social situation:

"(a) World social situation: reports of the Secretary-General;

"(b) Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights: report of the Secretary-General"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with items 89, 91, 95, 96, 97 and 98 at its 16th to 23rd, 30th, 37th, 55th and 56th meetings on 18, 21, 22, 24 and 28 October and 4, 11 and 27 November 1985. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/40/SR.16-23, 30, 37, 55 and 56).

3. The Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter V, section B (A/40/3); 1/

(b) Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights: report of the Secretary-General (A/40/513 and Corr.1);

(c) Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of human rights: study by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add.1 and 2);

(d) World social situation: report of the Secretary-General, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/54 (E/CN.5/1985/2/Rev.1);

(e) World social situation: note by the Secretary-General (A/40/643);

(f) Letter dated 28 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/342-E/1985/119);

(g) Letter dated 3 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, in connection with document A/40/342-E/1985/119 (A/40/458-E/1985/135);

(h) Letter dated 9 July 1985 from the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, concerning document A/40/342-E/1985/119 (A/40/489-E/1985/143);

(i) Letter dated 12 August 1985 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/544).

4. At the 16th meeting, on 18 October, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the General Analysis and Policies Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs made introductory statements.

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/40/3/Rev.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.13 and Rev.1

5. At the 30th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/40/L.13), entitled "Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of social development", sponsored by Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development based on the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly proclaimed on 11 December 1969,

"Recalling also its resolutions 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 and 40/___ of _____ 1985 on the implementation of the Declaration (on Social Progress and Development),

"Recalling further its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of ___ May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 35/56 of 5 December 1980 containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development,

"Noting its resolutions _____ on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

"Noting also resolutions _____ on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace adopted by the United Nations Conference for the International Youth Year,

"Taking note of its resolution 39/25 of 23 November 1984 on the question of aging,

"Referring to its resolution 39/26 of 23 November 1984 on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

"Recalling its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 in which, inter alia, it requested the United Nations Secretariat to prepare on a regular basis global economic and social surveys and projections,

"Taking into account its resolutions 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982 on the world social situation,

"Having regard to the Economic and Social Council resolutions 10 (II) of 21 June 1946 on the Social Commission, 830 J (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 on the strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field and 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, in which it adopted the present mandate and present designation of the Commission for Social Development,

"Having considered the 1985 report on the world social situation,

"Noting with deep concern that the economic and social situation in the world today is deteriorating rapidly,

"1. Notes also with great concern that neither the lofty ideals of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development have been implemented nor the objectives and overall development goals adopted and reaffirmed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade achieved yet;

"2. Reaffirms that the social aspects and goals of development are the integral aspects of the overall development process;

"3. Reaffirms the urgency of taking effective measures aimed at further promoting social progress and development;

"4. Emphasizes the importance of making the analyses and of exchanging information on fundamental problems of social development to formulate and implement an interrelated set of policy measures in the fields of employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aged, full participation of youth in the development process and the full integration and participation of women in development;

"5. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake measures aimed at improving social conditions and achieving the main objectives set forth in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

"6. Notes the role of the Commission for Social Development in the field of social development and humanitarian affairs;

"7. Invites the Economic and Social Council at its 1986 session to consider existing ways and means to strengthen further the role and improve the work of the Commission for Social Development."

6. At the 37th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/40/L.13/Rev.1), entitled "Improvement of the role of the United Nations in the field of social development", sponsored by Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic orally revised operative paragraph 7 by inserting the words "first regular" before "1986 session".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.13/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para 17, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.19

9. At the 30th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Yugoslavia introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/40/L.19), entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights", sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia as well as India, subsequently joined by Yemen, and orally corrected the beginning of operative paragraph 4 to read: "Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-fourth session. ..."

10. At the 37th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Yugoslavia orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, replaced "of" by "in" before the words "socio-economic development" and replaced "of respect for" by "in full realization of" before the words "all human rights";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, after the words "to consider at its forty-second", replaced "and the succeeding sessions" by "and, if desired by the Commission, at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions".

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.19, as corrected and orally revised, without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.12 and Rev.1

12. At the 30th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Yugoslavia introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/40/L.12) entitled "World social situation" on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77. Operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution read as follows:

"3. Notes with deep concern the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation of the world, particularly in the developing countries whose position has been further worsened by sharp exchange-rate fluctuations, high real rates of interest, the severe fall in commodity prices, the serious deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries, increased protectionist pressures, the reverse transfer of resources from developing countries, crushing debt burdens, the restrictive adjustment process demanded by financial and development institutions, the decline in official development assistance in real terms and severe resource inadequacy experienced by multilateral development and financial institutions;"

13. At the 55th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Yugoslavia introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/40/L.12/Rev.1) entitled "World social situation" on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77. Operative paragraph 3 of the revised draft resolution read as follows:

"3. Expresses deep concern at the economic crisis and decline that developing countries have had to face as a result of deep recession in the global economy which has severely strained international economic relations and weakened many facets of multilateral economic co-operation;"

14. At the 56th meeting, on 27 November, after an exchange of views, the representative of Yugoslavia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution further by replacing operative paragraph 3 in the revised text with operative paragraph 3 of document A/C.3/40/L.12 (see para. 12 above).

15. At the same meeting, the representative of the Office of Financial Services stated that the draft resolution had no financial implications for the biennium 1986-1987.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.12/Rev.1, as further orally revised, by 120 to 1, with 23 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

17. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Improvement of the role of the United Nations in the field of social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development based on the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly proclaimed on 11 December 1969, 2/

Recalling further its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Noting its resolutions _____ on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

2/ See resolution 2542 (XXIV), annex.

Noting also resolution 40/14 of 25 November 1985 on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace adopted by the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, 3/

Taking note of its resolution 39/25 of 23 November 1984 on the question of aging,

Referring to its resolution 39/26 of 23 November 1984 on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 in which it, inter alia, requested the United Nations Secretariat to prepare, on a regular basis, global economic and social surveys and projections,

Taking into account its resolutions 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982 on the world social situation,

Having regard to Economic and Social Council resolutions 10 (II) of 21 June 1946 establishing a permanent Social Commission, 830 J (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 on the strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field and 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966 in which it adopted the present mandate and present designation of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/36 of 29 May 1985 entitled "Progress of work of the Commission for Social Development",

Taking into account the discussion of the Economic and Social Council, during its first regular session of 1985, on the work of the Commission,

Having considered the 1985 Report on the World Social Situation, 4/

Noting with concern that, although recovery and growth are under way in some States, the recession that has afflicted the world economy in recent years has had a deep negative impact on the economies of many countries,

1. Notes with concern that the ideals of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development have not been implemented nor have the objectives and overall development goals adopted and reaffirmed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade been achieved yet;

2. Reaffirms that socio-economic aspects and goals of development are integral aspects of the overall development process;

3/ See resolution 39/22, para. 2.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.2.

3. Reaffirms the urgency of taking effective measures aimed at further promoting social progress and development;
4. Emphasizes the importance of making analyses of, and exchanging information on, fundamental problems of socio-economic development in order to formulate and implement policy measures in the fields of employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aged, full participation of youth in the development process and the full integration and participation of women in development;
5. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake measures aimed at improving social conditions and achieving the main objectives set forth in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;
6. Notes the role of the Commission for Social Development in the field of social development and humanitarian affairs;
7. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its first regular session of 1986, existing ways and means of improving the work of the Commission.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/152 of 17 December 1979, 37/55 of 3 December 1982 and 38/24 of 22 November 1983,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/31 of 27 May 1983 and decision 1984/131 of 24 May 1984, as well as of resolution 1985/44 of the Commission on Human Rights, adopted on 14 March 1985,

Reaffirming that popular participation in all sectors of public life, including the participation of workers in management and workers' self-management where they exist, constitutes an important factor in socio-economic development and in the full realization of all human rights and the dignity of the human person,

1. Takes note of the study by the Secretary-General; 5/

5/ E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add.1 and 2.

2. Invites Governments, the concerned specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations system and the relevant non-governmental organizations to transmit to the Secretary-General their comments on the study;

3. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to consider, at its forty-second and, if desired by the Commission, at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, the question of popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in the full realization of all human rights and to inform the General Assembly and its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, of the results of that consideration;

4. Decides to continue consideration of this question at its forty-fourth session, in the context of the item relating to the world social situation, under the sub-item entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

World social situation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982 on the world social situation,

Recalling also its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and 36/194 of 17 December 1981, in which it endorsed the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 6/

Recalling further its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/14 of 25 November 1985 on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace and 40/17 of 25 November 1985 on channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations,

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

Recognizing that social progress and development are founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person,

Bearing in mind that the ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and the fair distribution of the benefits therefrom, and that the pace of development in the developing countries as a whole should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve this goal,

Mindful that the existing inequalities and imbalances in the international economic system are widening the gap between developed and developing countries and thereby constitute a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries and adversely affect international relations and the promotion of world peace and security,

Conscious that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has a primary role in ensuring the social progress and well-being of its people,

Reaffirming that economic growth must go hand in hand with qualitative and structural changes, the reduction of social and economic disparities and the adoption of measures to ensure the effective participation of all peoples in the preparation and execution of their national policies for economic and social development,

Convinced of the urgent necessity rapidly to eradicate colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination, apartheid, terrorism in all its forms, aggression, foreign occupation and alien domination and all forms of inequality, exploitation and subjugation of peoples, which constitute major obstacles to economic and social progress as well as to the promotion of world peace and security,

Reaffirming the existence of the interrelationship of peace, disarmament and development and therefore the imperative need to halt the arms race, thereby releasing valuable resources that could be used for the development of the developing countries and could contribute to the well-being and prosperity of all,

Reaffirming also that the primary responsibility for their development rests with the developing countries themselves and that the commitment from other countries to support these efforts is of vital importance for achievement of this aim,

Having considered the 1985 Report on the World Social Situation, 7/

1. Takes note of the 1985 Report on the World Social Situation;

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.2.

2. Takes note also of the conclusions of the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-ninth session; 8/

3. Notes with deep concern the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation of the world, in particular in the developing countries, whose position has been further worsened by sharp fluctuations in exchange rates, high real rates of interest, the severe fall in commodity prices, serious deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries, increased protectionist pressures, the reverse transfer of resources from developing countries, crushing debt burdens, the restrictive adjustment process demanded by financial and development institutions, the decline in official development assistance in real terms and the severe inadequacy of resources experienced by multilateral development and financial institutions;

4. Notes further with deep concern that the economic and social situation in Africa continues to be critical and that it has been exacerbated by the world recession and by famine, drought and desertification;

5. Calls for full implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/29 on the critical economic situation in Africa;

6. Notes with great concern the slow progress in the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and in the attainment of the objectives and overall development goals adopted and reaffirmed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

7. Reaffirms that the social aspects and goals of development are an integral part of overall development and that it is the sovereign right of each country freely to determine and implement appropriate policies for social development within the framework of its development plans and priorities;

8. Emphasizes the importance, for the achievement of social progress, of the establishment of the new international economic order;

9. Reaffirms the urgent need to implement the socio-economic development objectives contained in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as well as the need to implement the socio-economic objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;

10. Emphasizes again that the rapid socio-economic progress of developing countries requires substantially enhanced multilateral and bilateral financial support and advanced technological assistance to national development efforts, rendered within the framework of the development plans of developing countries;

11. Calls upon all Member States to promote economic development and social progress by the formulation and implementation of an interrelated set of policy measures to achieve the goals and objectives established within the framework of national plans and priorities in the fields of employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aging, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development;

12. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mobilize the necessary resources to undertake measures aimed at improving social conditions and achieving the main objectives set forth in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;

13. Also calls upon Member States to make all efforts to promote the accelerated and complete elimination of such fundamental elements that hinder economic and social progress and development as colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination, apartheid, terrorism in all its forms, aggression, foreign occupation, alien domination and all forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples, and also to undertake effective measures to lessen international tensions and to halt the arms race and redistribute released resources in order to promote social and economic development;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and to submit the next full report on the world social situation to the General Assembly in 1989, for consideration at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the next report on the world social situation, to take into account the observations made by Member States on the 1985 report as well as the conclusions of the Commission on Social Development contained in the report on its twenty-ninth session;

16. Further requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for wide dissemination of the reports on the world social situation;

17. Invites the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of future reports by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence;

18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "World social situation".