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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)

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 (g) was considered at the 22nd, 24th, 29th, 30th, 43rd and 47th meetings, on 1, 5, 8, 11 and 25 November, and on 4 December. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/40/SR.22, 24, 29, 30, 43 and 47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.13

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Democratic Yemen introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.13) entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories", sponsored by Bangladesh, Democratic Yemen, Madagascar, Morocco and Tunisia.

3. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.13 was circulated in document A/C.2/40/L.26.

4. At the 30th meeting, on 11 November, Ms. Inga Eriksson (Sweden), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, read out the following revisions, as agreed upon in informal consultations, to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution:

(a) In subparagraph (a), the word "five-day", before the word "seminar", was deleted;

(b) In subparagraph (c), the word "twenty", before the word "experts" was deleted.

5. The representative of Luxembourg made a statement, on behalf of the States members of the European Community, in which he proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, which would include at the end of operative paragraph 6 (a) the words ", including a comprehensive general housing programme, as recommended in resolution 8/3 of 10 May 1985 of the Commission on Human Settlements;".

6. The amendment proposed by the representative of Luxembourg, on behalf of the States members of the European Community, was accepted by the representative of Democratic Yemen, on behalf of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. Statements before the vote were made by the representatives of Israel and Iraq.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.13, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 133 to 2, (see para. 17, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

9. Statements after the vote were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet

Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), the United States of America, Luxembourg (on behalf of the States members of the European Community) and Australia. The observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization also made a statement.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.24, L.25 and L.43

10. At the 24th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Jamaica introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.24) entitled "Human settlements", sponsored by Colombia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Zambia, subsequently joined by the Gambia, India and Panama. The draft resolution read as follows:

"A

"Report of the Commission on Human Settlements

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling 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, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Recalling also its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements and 34/116 of 14 December 1979 on the strengthening of human settlements activities,

"Conscious of the very substantial gap between the resources available through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the needs of developing countries requesting assistance from the Centre,

"Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session, 1/

"1. Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session;

"2. Takes note with appreciation of the progress which the Commission and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), have continued to make in providing guidance and assistance to

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1).

Governments in their efforts to provide adequate shelter and services to their people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged;

"3. Calls upon all Governments to accord the requisite priority in their development and development assistance programmes to human settlements activities as a proved means of promoting economic and social development, as well as to the fair distribution of the benefits of such development to all segments of the population;

"4. Calls upon multilateral financial institutions to adopt a more flexible strategy in lending for human settlements projects and to utilize existing regional and national financial institutions as the structures through which current and additional resources for housing and human settlements development are channelled;

"5. Commends those Governments and others that have made voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, particularly those that have done so on a regular basis, and appeals to those that have not contributed to do so at the earliest opportunity.

"B

"Biennial cycle of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it provided for the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and specified the duration of the term of office of members of the Commission,

"Recalling also its decision 38/429 of 19 December 1983 on the rationalization of the work of the Second Committee and its resolution 39/170 B of 17 December 1984, in which it required the Commission to consider adopting a biennial cycle of sessions,

"Noting with satisfaction Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/1 of 10 May 1985 on a biennial cycle of sessions for the Commission, 2/

"Having considered the recommendation of the Commission that the duration of the term of office of the members of the Commission should be changed from three to four years in recognition of the change to a biennial cycle of sessions,

"1. Welcomes the decision of the Commission that, beginning in 1987, its sessions will, on an experimental basis, be held only in odd-numbered years; 3/

2/ Ibid., annex I, resolution 8/1, para. 5.

3/ Ibid., resolution 8/1, para. 1.

"2. Endorses the decision of the Commission to hold a special session of shorter duration in 1988 devoted exclusively to ensuring effective follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless 4/ which, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, will be observed in 1987;

"3. Decides that, beginning with the terms of office commencing on 1 January 1987, membership in the Commission on Human Settlements will be for a term of four years instead of three.

"C

"World Habitat Day

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, which marked the formal beginning of the concerted efforts of the international community to promote human settlements development on a sustained and institutionalized basis,

"Noting with satisfaction the actions taken by Governments and by the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the Conference,

"Also noting with satisfaction the accomplishments in this context of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

"Convinced of the need to provide an annual occasion for the international community to focus its attention on the plight of the millions of people throughout the world who do not have adequate shelter,

"Decides, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary in 1986 of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to designate the first Monday of October of every year as 'World Habitat Day'.

11. At the 29th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.25) entitled "Co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system", sponsored by Jamaica, Kenya, the Netherlands and Sri Lanka, subsequently joined by the Gambia. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 39/170 B of 17 December 1984, in which it welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to review in the near future the existing arrangements regarding the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the work of the Administrative

4/ Ibid., resolution 8/1, para. 2.

Committee on Co-ordination in the light of the Centre's mandate and responsibilities and the relevant General Assembly resolutions and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fortieth session on the implementation of its resolutions on this question, taking into account the pertinent comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-fourth session, 5/

"Noting the view of the Commission on Human Settlements, expressed in its resolution 8/13 of 8 May 1985, that only full and equal membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination will enable the Centre to discharge properly its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 6/

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 39/170, 7/

"1. Welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance and optimize the existing arrangements for co-ordination in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system;

"2. Concurs with the view expressed in resolution 8/13 of the Commission on Human Settlements that only full and equal membership in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination will enable the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to discharge properly its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the foregoing, to hold further consultations with the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, bearing in mind the requirements of General Assembly resolutions 35/77 C of 5 December 1980 and 37/223 C of 20 December 1982, as well as considerations regarding the follow-up of the cross-organizational programme analysis in human settlements by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the results of those consultations."

12. At the 43rd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.43) entitled "Human settlements", submitted by Mr. Soemadi Brotodiningrat, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.24 and A/C.2/40/L.25.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), chap. V, sect. A.

6/ Ibid., Fortieth session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1), annex I.

7/ A/40/689.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.43 (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.43, draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.24 and A/C.2/40/L.25 were withdrawn by their sponsors.

15. Statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Norway (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Canada and Sri Lanka.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.78

16. At the 47th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/40/L.78) entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme", submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Omér Birido (Sudan), on the basis of informal consultations. For action on draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.78, see document A/40/989/Add.6 on sub-item 84 (f), entitled "Environment", (paras. 18-20).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, 8/ and the relevant recommendations for national action 9/ adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 39/169 of 17 December 1984,

Taking note of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/3 of 10 May 1985, 10/

8/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

9/ Ibid., chap. II.

10/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1), annex I.

/...

Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

Recognizing the need to identify priority development projects needed for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories,

1. Takes note with concern of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories; 11/
2. Takes note also of the statement made on 25 October 1985 by the Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization; 12/
3. Rejects the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements, and other plans and actions creating conditions leading to the displacement and exodus of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories;
4. Expresses its alarm at the deterioration, as a result of the Israeli occupation, in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;
5. Affirms that the Israeli occupation is contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic development of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;
6. Requests the Secretary-General:
 - (a) To organize, by April 1987, a seminar on priority development projects needed for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including a comprehensive general housing programme, as recommended in resolution 8/3 of 10 May 1985 of the Commission on Human Settlements;
 - (b) To make the necessary preparations for the seminar, providing for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization;
 - (c) To invite experts to present papers to the seminar;
 - (d) To invite also relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

11/ A/40/373-E/1985/99.

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Second Committee, 14th meeting.

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the preparations for the seminar;

(f) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the seminar.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Human settlements

A

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling 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, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements and 34/116 of 14 December 1979 on the strengthening of human settlements activities,

Conscious of the very substantial gap between the resources available through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the needs of developing countries requesting assistance from the Centre,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session, 13/

1. Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its eighth session;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the progress which the Commission and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), have continued to make in providing guidance and assistance to Governments in their efforts to provide adequate shelter and services to their people, particularly the poor and disadvantaged;

13/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/40/8 and Corr.1).

3. Calls upon all Governments to accord the requisite priority in their development and development assistance programmes to human settlements activities as a proved means of promoting economic and social development, as well as to the fair distribution of the benefits of such development to all segments of the population;

4. Takes note of resolution 8/12 of 8 May 1985 of the Commission on Human Settlements 14/ and, in that context, urges the international community, including multilateral institutions and agencies, to consider, as appropriate, more flexible strategies in lending for human settlements projects and programmes;

5. Commends those Governments and others that have made voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, particularly those that have done so on a regular basis, and appeals to those that have not contributed to do so at the earliest opportunity;

6. Decides, in accordance with resolution 8/4 of 8 May 1985 of the Commission on Human Settlements, 14/ to designate the first Monday of October of every year as "World HABITAT Day".

B

Biennial cycle of sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it provided for the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements and specified the duration of the term of office of members of the Commission,

Recalling also its decision 38/429 of 19 December 1983 on the rationalization of the work of the Second Committee and its resolution 39/170 B of 17 December 1984, in which it required the Commission to consider adopting a biennial cycle of sessions,

Noting with satisfaction Commission on Human Settlements resolution 8/1 on a biennial cycle of sessions for the Commission, 15/

Having considered the recommendation of the Commission that the duration of the term of office of the members of the Commission should be changed from three to four years in recognition of the change to a biennial cycle of sessions,

14/ Ibid., annex I, sect. I, A.

15/ Ibid., annex I, resolution 8/1, para. 5.

1. Welcomes the decision of the Commission that, beginning in 1987, its sessions will, on an experimental basis, be held only in odd-numbered years; 16/

2. Endorses the decision of the Commission to hold a special session of shorter duration in 1988 devoted exclusively to ensuring effective follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless 17/ which, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982, will be observed in 1987;

3. Decides that, beginning with the terms of office commencing on 1 January 1987, membership in the Commission on Human Settlements will be for a term of four years instead of three.

C

Co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the
United Nations system

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the consideration of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system, 18/

Taking note of the view expressed in resolution 8/13 of 8 May 1985 of the Commission on Human Settlements on co-ordination, 14/

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subsidiary machinery relevant to its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and taking into account General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 35/77 C of 5 December 1980 and 37/223 C of 20 December 1982, and to keep the matter under review for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1987 on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into consideration the follow-up of the cross-organizational programme analysis in human settlements by the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination.

16/ Ibid., para. 1.

17/ Ibid., para. 2.

18/ A/40/689.