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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Euripides L. EVRIVIADES (Cyprus)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee considered agenda item 58 (b) entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" at its 65th, 66th and 67th meetings on 20 December 1978, and on 15 and 23 January 1979. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/33/SR.65-67).

2. At the 66th meeting, on 15 January 1979, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/33/410/Rev.1). For its consideration of the subitem, the Committee also had before it the relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/33/3/Add.1 (Part IV)).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

3. At its 65th meeting, on 20 December 1978, the Committee decided to recommend that the report of the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 should be submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (see para. 10 below, draft decision).

4. At the 66th meeting, on 15 January 1979, the representative of Tunisia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.103 entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", which read as follows:

"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, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Recalling also its resolutions 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 and 32/197 of 20 December 1977, by which it initiated the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system with a view to making it more fully capable of dealing with problems of development and international economic co-operation in a comprehensive and effective manner and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Recognizing that the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system is an integral part of the efforts required to ensure the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation,

"Considering that progress in the implementation of the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197 has been slow in a number of areas,

I

"1. Takes note of Economic and Social Council decisions 1978/71 of 4 August 1978 and 1978/94 (b) of 19 December 1978;

"2. Invites the Economic and Social Council to intensify its efforts to complete the implementation of the specific measures outlined in section II and section VII, paragraph 57, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 in time to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

II

"1. Takes note of the progress reports by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination outlining its response to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and, in particular, the progress it has made in streamlining its continuing subsidiary machinery; 1/

"2. Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to keep its ad hoc subsidiary machinery to the absolute minimum necessary to meet specific intergovernmental requirements and to support the work of its continuing machinery;

1/ E/1978/107 and E/1978/144.

"3. Further requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to give the highest priority in its work to substantive questions of central importance to the development of developing countries and to international economic co-operation, and to keep its functioning and reporting systems geared to the concerns, directives and programme of work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

"4. Welcomes in light of paragraph 64 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 the intention of the Secretary-General to designate, when he is unable to preside over ACC meetings, the Director-General to chair on his behalf those meetings or subject-oriented sessions devoted for instance to general development issues or other questions in respect of which the United Nations has a specific leadership function.

III

"1. Takes note of the relevant sections of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session; 2/

"2. Requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to continue pursuing the implementation of the recommendations addressed to it in section VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with the necessary technical and substantive services in order that the Committee may be able to fulfil its increased responsibilities under General Assembly resolution 32/197, and requests him to ensure the timely submission of the necessary documents to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

IV

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197 that are addressed to him, 3/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, 4/ expresses deep regret at the late submission of the latter report to the General Assembly, and urges avoidance of such late submission in the future;

"2. Takes note of Economic and Social Council decisions 1978/70 of 4 August 1978 and 1978/94 (c) and (d) of 19 December 1978;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38).

3/ E/1978/118.

4/ A/33/410/Rev.1.

"3. Reaffirms the authority and responsibility of the Secretary-General under the relevant articles of the Charter in respect of the United Nations, including its organs and services;

"4. Decides that:

"(a) The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should be fully and effectively utilized as the executive official in charge of the responsibilities outlined in subparagraphs 64 (a) and 64 (b) of the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

"(b) Resources should be provided to enable the Director-General, inter alia, to exercise effective leadership to the various components of the United Nations system envisaged in subparagraph 64 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

"(c) The Director-General should have full and effective authority over all the organizational entities of the United Nations Secretariat in the economic and social sectors, without prejudice to their respective spheres of competence or terms of reference as contained in their relevant legislative mandates, to permit him to undertake the efficient management of all activities as envisaged in subparagraph 64 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and to carry out, inter alia, the specific tasks assigned to him by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and to, inter alia, establish the guidelines for all activities undertaken by those entities.

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake urgently all necessary steps to implement the above decision, including the consequent adjustments to the responsibilities and functions of the relevant organizational entities within the United Nations Secretariat;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue actively, in accordance with paragraphs 62 and 63 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the process of rationalizing and streamlining the capabilities of the concerned entities on the basis of their substantive, practical and methodological relationships, including the redeployment of functions and staff resources, particularly to the regional commissions;

"7. Also requests the Secretary-General, in pursuing his requests for additional resources for those entities, to give priority to those relating to programme planning, co-ordination and evaluation as well as to intersectoral analyses and synthesis of development issues;

"8. Further requests the Secretary-General, taking fully into account the views expressed in the Economic and Social Council during 1978 as requested in subparagraph (b) of Economic and Social Council decision 1978/70, to rename the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in accordance with the functions outlined in section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

V

"1. Takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978;

"2. Notes the progress made in the implementation of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning structures for regional and interregional co-operation;

"3. Decides to designate, in accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the regional commissions as executing agencies in their own right, for intersectoral subregional, regional and interregional projects and for other subregional, regional and interregional projects which do not fall within the purview of the sectoral responsibilities of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in this regard;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed expeditiously with the development and application of the measures contemplated in paragraph 62 of document A/33/410, in particular, those related to the decentralization to the regional commissions of appropriate research and analysis activities and technical co-operation projects coming within the scope of paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197; strengthening co-operation arrangements with the Commissions in regard to programme planning as well as research and analysis; the involvement of the executive secretaries in the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; and enabling the regional commissions effectively to exercise their responsibilities for co-ordination at the regional level, as envisaged in paragraph 20 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, and to undertake measures to enhance interregional co-operation;

VI

"1. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to take further action to give full effect to the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197 within their respective spheres of competence, availing themselves as appropriate of the assistance of the Secretary-General;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, after appropriate consultations and, as relevant, with the co-operation of the executive heads of the agencies concerned, to prepare periodic consolidated reports, for submission to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, synthesizing information on actions taken by the various organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and the present resolution."

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5. At its 67th meeting, on 23 January, the Chairman of the Committee introduced draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.104, entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", submitted on the basis of informal consultations on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/33/L.103.
6. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.104 (see para. 9 below).
7. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.103 was subsequently withdrawn by its sponsors as a result of the adoption by the Committee of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.104.
8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors
of the United Nations system

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, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which it initiated the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system with a view to making it more fully capable of dealing with problems of development and international economic co-operation in a comprehensive and effective manner and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling also its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, by which it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System,

Recognizing that the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system is an integral part of the efforts required to ensure the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation,

/...

Noting that, within the framework of the objectives outlined in paragraph 60 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the United Nations Secretariat should ensure maximum cost-effectiveness in the utilization of the administrative mechanism and resources,

Considering that progress in the implementation of the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197 has been slow in certain areas.

I

1. Takes note of Economic and Social Council decisions 1978/71 of 4 August 1978 and 1978/97 of 19 December 1978;

2. Invites the Economic and Social Council to intensify its efforts to complete the implementation of the specific measures outlined in section II and section VII, paragraph 57, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 in time to report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

II

1. Takes note of the progress reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination outlining its response to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and, in particular, the progress it has made in streamlining its continuing subsidiary machinery; 5/

2. Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to keep its ad hoc subsidiary machinery to the absolute minimum necessary to meet specific intergovernmental requirements and to support the work of its continuing machinery;

3. Further requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to give the highest priority in its work to substantive questions of central importance to the development of developing countries and to international economic co-operation, and to keep its functioning and reporting systems geared to the concerns, directives and programmes of work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

4. Welcomes, in light of paragraph 64 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the intention of the Secretary-General to designate, when he is unable to preside over meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to chair, on his behalf, those meetings or subject-oriented sessions devoted, for instance, to general development issues or other questions in respect of which the United Nations has a specific leadership function;

5/ E/1978/107 and E/1978/144.

III

1. Takes note of the relevant sections of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its eighteenth session; 6/

2. Requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to continue pursuing the implementation of the recommendations addressed to it in section VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with the necessary technical and substantive services in order that the Committee may be able to fulfil its increased responsibilities under General Assembly resolution 32/197, and requests him to ensure the timely submission of the necessary documents to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

IV

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197 that are addressed to him 7/ and of the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, 8/ regrets the late submission of the latter report to the General Assembly and urges avoidance of such late submission in the future;

2. Takes note of Economic and Social Council decisions 1978/70 of 4 August 1978 and 1978/94 of 19 December 1978;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the effort made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation with a view to exercising his functions as outlined in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 32/197;

4. Reaffirms the authority and responsibility of the Secretary-General under the relevant Articles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. Affirms that, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 32/197:

(a) The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should be fully and effectively utilized as the official in charge of executing the functions outlined in paragraph 64 (a) and (b) of the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

(b) The necessary resources should be provided to enable the Director-General, inter alia to discharge effectively the functions envisaged in paragraphs 64 (a) and (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197;

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38).

7/ E/1978/118.

8/ A/33/410/Rev.1.

(c) The Director-General, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should have fully and effectively authority over all services and organs within the United Nations at the level of the secretariats in the economic and social sectors, without prejudice to their respective spheres of competence or the terms of reference as contained in their relevant legislative mandates, in discharging the functions envisaged in paragraph 64 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, and in carrying out, inter alia, the specific tasks assigned to him by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and, inter alia, in establishing the policy-related guidelines for all activities undertaken by those services and organs in order to ensure their coherence, co-ordination and efficient management;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake urgently all necessary steps to implement the above provisions, taking fully into account the views expressed by Member States in the Economic and Social Council during 1978, including the appropriate adjustment in the functioning and the administrative arrangements and a possible renaming, of the relevant organizational entities;

7. Urges the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to offer their full and effective co-operation and assistance to the Director-General in discharging the functions as defined in paragraph 64 (a) of the annex to resolution 32/197;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to pursue actively, in accordance with paragraphs 62 and 63 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the process of rationalizing and streamlining the capabilities of the concerned entities, including, if necessary, the transfer of elements of their functions and the redeployment of staff resources, particularly to the regional commissions;

V

1. Takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978;

2. Notes the progress made in the implementation of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning structures for regional and interregional co-operation;

3. Decides that the regional commissions shall have the status of executing agencies, in their own right, in respect of the categories of projects described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in this regard;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed expeditiously with the development and application of the measures contemplated in paragraph 93 of his report, 9/ in particular, those related to the decentralization to the regional commissions of appropriate research and analysis activities and technical co-operation projects coming within the scope of paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the strengthening of co-operation arrangements with the regional commissions in regard to programme planning as well as research and

analysis, and the involvement of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions in the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and those that might enable the regional commissions effectively to exercise their responsibilities for co-ordination at the regional level, as envisaged in paragraph 20 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, and to undertake measures to enhance interregional co-operation;

VI

1. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to take further action to give full effect to the recommendations annexed to General Assembly resolution 32/197 within their respective spheres of competence, availing themselves as appropriate of the assistance of the Secretary-General;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, after appropriate consultations and, as relevant, with the co-operation of the executive heads of the agencies concerned, to prepare a consolidated report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, synthesizing information on actions taken by the various organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and the present resolution.

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

Report of the Economic and Social Council on the
implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197

The General Assembly decides that the report of the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 should be submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.
