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TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1986, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

Training and research

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research:

(i) Report of the Executive Director;

(ii) Report of the Secretary-General;

(b) United Nations University: report of the Council of the University;

(c) Unified approach to development analysis and planning: report of the Secretary-General;

(d) University for Peace.

At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to allocate the item to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered this item at its 13th, 15th to 17th, 20th, 27th and 28th meetings on 16-17, 20, 23 October, 4 and 12 November 1986. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/41/SR.13, 15-17). Attention is also drawn to the

general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, on 6 and 8 to 10 October (A/C.2/41/SR.3-9).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

A/41/461- Letter dated 11 July 1986 from the representatives of
E/1986/119 Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal
and Corr.1 Republic of, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Spain, the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United
States of America to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General transmitting the contributions to the
development activities of the United Nations system

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research

A/41/14 Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations
Institute for Training and Research 1/

A/41/521 Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations
Institute for Training and Research (General Assembly
resolution 40/214)

(b) United Nations University

A/41/3 Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1986,
chap III, sect. I 2/

A/41/31 Report of the Council of the United Nations University 3/

(c) Unified approach to development analysis and planning

A/41/3 Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. II

A/41/323- Report of the Secretary-General on a unified approach to
E/1986/77 development analysis and planning
and Add.1

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/41/14).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/41/3).

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 31 (A/41/31).

(d) University for Peace

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Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1986,
chap III, sect. D

4. At the 13th meeting, on 16 October, an introductory statement was made by the Rector of the United Nations University.
5. At the 15th meeting, on 17 October, an introductory statement was made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The representative of the Secretary-General on the Council of the University for Peace also made a statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.36

6. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it draft resolution (A/C.2/41/L.36), entitled "Restructuring plan for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research" submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Oscar de Rojas (Venezuela).
7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Budget Division made a statement on the programme budget implications relating to draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.36.
8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.36 (see para. 21, draft resolution 7).
9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Canada. The Executive Director of UNIFAR also made a statement.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.16

10. At the 20th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Bangladesh introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/41/L.16) entitled "United Nations University", on behalf of Austria, Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka and orally revised it by replacing the word "developed" in the last preambular paragraph by the word "attained" and deleting the word "Member" in operative paragraph 7. Subsequently, Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal and Poland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read, as orally revised, as follows:

United Nations University

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

"Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1985, 3/

"Noting with appreciation the contributions of all countries that have supported the University,

"Also noting with appreciation the continuing interest of the Government of Japan in, and its support for, the construction of a permanent headquarters building,

"Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Finland for the continued financial and other support it provides to the first research and training centre established by the University, the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER),

"Noting decision 5.2.4 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and twenty-fourth session,

"Noting with satisfaction that 1985 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the University and that during its first 10 years the University has attained a distinctive institutional identity within the United Nations system and the international academic and scientific community,

"1. Welcomes the progress achieved by the University in implementing programmes of research, advanced training and dissemination of knowledge, as well as in implementing the activities planned within the framework of the first medium-term perspective (1982-1987);

"2. Notes with appreciation the decision of the Council to undertake a comprehensive external evaluation of the work of the University during its first 10 years, in order to assess the extent to which the University has fulfilled the objectives of its Charter, with a view to making proposals to strengthen its future performance and thus contributing significantly to the planning of its future endeavours;

"3. Notes with satisfaction that the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) began operations in Helsinki in 1985 and that it has made considerable progress on the three research themes for its initial programme: 'Hunger and poverty: the poorest billion'; 'Money, finance and trade: reform for world development'; and 'Development and technological transformation: the management of change';

"4. Notes with satisfaction the progress being made towards the establishment of other training and research centres, particularly the proposed Institute for Natural Resources in Africa;

"5. Notes the continuing and intensified co-operative activities of the United Nations University with the United Nations, its bodies and the specialized agencies, on the one hand, and with the international academic and scientific community, on the other, which enhance the responsiveness of the University to global issues and problems and bring its work into closer relation with the concerns of the United Nations system and the world academic community in regard to global issues and problems;

"6. Recognizes that the University needs to build up its Endowment Fund and Operating Fund in order to increase its core income;

"7. Earnestly appeals to all States to take cognizance of the progress made by the United Nations University and the relevance of its work to the concerns of the United Nations and to contribute urgently and generously to its Endowment Fund and its subsidiary institutes and, additionally or alternatively, to make operating contributions to the University to enable it to fulfil its mandate efficiently, in accordance with its Charter and with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

11. At its 27th meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/41/L.16/Rev.1) submitted in the name of the sponsors listed in paragraph 10.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.16/Rev.1 (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

13. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Bolivia made a statement.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.17

14. At the 20th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced, also on behalf of Poland, draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.17 entitled "Unified approach to development analysis and planning", which reads as follows:

Unified approach to development analysis and planning

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and its resolution 38/179 of 19 December 1983, concerning a unified approach to the analysis and planning of development,

"Mindful of its resolution 40/178 of 17 December 1985 on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of international economic, scientific-technological and social co-operation, which stresses the willingness of Member States to strengthen the United Nations system as a framework for constructive dialogue and joint efforts in solving international economic problems, including those confronting the developing countries,

"Bearing in mind the conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions, concerning the United Nations special responsibility for carrying out research on global and sectoral issues, and their interrelationship, to assist Member States and the deliberations of the competent intergovernmental bodies,

"Believing that a unified approach to development analysis and planning is an effective tool for integrating the economic and social components in the formulation of policies and programmes at the national and international level for the benefit of social and economic progress and human well-being,

"Stressing that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the solution of other social problems on the basis of industrial, agricultural and rural development are among the essential objectives of the Third United Nations Development Decade,

"Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 4/ adopted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session,

"Reaffirming that each State has the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic and social system in accordance with the will of its people and without outside interference,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the unified approach to development analysis and planning; 5/

"2. Considers a unified approach to development analysis and planning at the national level covering all sectors of the national economy, public and private, as a means for the attainment of sustained social, economic and human development;

"3. Invites Governments to support the efforts of developing countries in strengthening their economic management by applying a unified approach to development analysis and planning of their economies, especially in regard to integrating the development of food production and agriculture with supporting industrialization, economic and social infrastructure and human resources development;

4/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

5/ A/41/323-E/1986/77 and Add.1.

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account a unified approach to development analysis and planning in his reports on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, bearing in mind its emphasis on the agricultural development of the continent;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the unified approach to development analysis and planning is applied in the United Nations economic and social studies, ongoing research, projections and reports, including the World Economic Survey, as well as in the appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to study the question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning in order to make available to all States the national and international experience gained in this field."

15. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/41/L.17/Rev.1), submitted in the name of the sponsors listed in paragraph 14.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.17/Rev.1 (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

17. Before the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Canada made a statement.

18. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Czechoslovakia (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Chile).

D. Draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.15

19. At the 20th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Costa Rica introduced draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.15 entitled "University for Peace". Subsequently Argentina joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At the 27th meeting, on 4 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.15 (see para. 21, draft resolution IV).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Restructuring plan for the United Nations Institute for
Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/214 of 17 December 1985, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare comprehensive specific plans for the future of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research based on the options of either closing down or restructuring the Institute, including a blueprint for a specific scheme for the long-term and stable funding of the Institute and specific suggestions for the improvement of administrative arrangements to ensure cost-effectiveness,

Recalling also its resolutions 37/142 of 17 December 1982 and 38/177 of 19 December 1983, in which it called upon the Secretary-General to submit a report on long-term financing arrangements for the Institute that would place its financing on a more predictable, assured and continuous basis,

Recalling further its resolution 39/177 of 17 December 1984, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive study on the Institute, its activities in training and research, its funding and its future role,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 6/ and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 1/

Recognizing the continuing importance and relevance of the mandate of the Institute, particularly at a time when improvement of the effectiveness of the United Nations is a major preoccupation of Member States,

Noting with regret that the 1985 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities was unable to provide the General Fund of the Institute with the level of resources required to maintain it as a viable entity during 1986,

Noting with concern the lack of a sufficiently broad base of donor countries supporting the Institute,

Noting further with regret that voluntary contributions to the Institute have so far been insufficient to guarantee the level of resources needed to maintain it as a viable entity and that it has not been possible to reach agreement on any of the three options for long-term financing arrangements for the Institute recommended by the Board of Trustees, namely, setting up a

6/ A/41/521.

reserve fund, adopting a replenishment system or establishing an endowment fund,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

2. Reaffirms the continuing relevance of the mandate of the Institute and takes note of the view of the Secretary-General that the mandate remains valid and useful;

3. Recommends that the Institute be restructured on the basis of the following parameters:

I. PROGRAMME

A. Training

1. Training shall be the main focus of the Institute's activities during the interim period, and that focus should be duly reflected in the budget allocations;

2. The core training programme financed from the General Fund shall concentrate on training for international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy at various levels and on training primarily of persons from developing countries;

3. Training programmes designed and conducted by the Institute for other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies shall not result in any financial obligations for the General Fund and shall be carried out on a fully reimbursable basis;

4. Training for economic and social development or any other training activities shall be funded from special purpose grants.

B. Research

1. Ongoing research projects shall continue until completed;

2. In future priority shall be given to requests made by the Secretary-General for research and study to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations; to this end, the Secretary-General is requested to make full use of the available expertise and facilities of the Institute;

3. Other research activities related to the mandate of the Institute, including new projects approved by the Board of Trustees, will be carried out according to the availability of resources;

4. Research and study falling within the mandate of the Institute may be financed from special purpose grants on a full-cost basis;
5. Research-cum-training in negotiating techniques, international law and economic and social development shall be funded from special purpose grants.

C. Projects financed from special purpose grants

1. Special purpose grants shall be welcome as long as they are made for activities that relate directly to the mandate of the Institute and do not overlap with work carried out elsewhere in the United Nations system;
2. Special purpose grants shall cover, in addition to full costs, project support costs of at least 13 per cent;
3. The Executive Director of the Institute shall make available to all States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations a complete list of training and research programmes that, for lack of financial resources, cannot be financed from the General Fund; donors may make special purpose grants for the execution of such programmes.

II. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

In the light of the restructured programme set out above, the Secretary-General is requested to review the management, staff and administrative and financial arrangements of the Institute to ensure that the restructured programme is carried out in a cost-effective manner.

A. Budget

The budget estimates for 1987 as set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General 6/ and in the proposed allocations for 1987 prepared by the Institute are unbalanced, and administrative staff costs are disproportionate to programme delivery costs.

1. No salaries for posts or parts thereof shall be charged to the training or research programme allocations except for those of the Professional and General Service staff assigned to the two branches responsible for those programmes;
2. Allocations for programme and general operational costs shall correspond to the priority given to activities;
3. General operational costs shall be reduced to a minimum, particularly in the sections related to staff travel, fund-raising, furniture and equipment, communications and miscellaneous expenses;

4. Staff costs shall be reduced in relation to operational costs so that their ratio is equivalent to that of similar organizations of the United Nations system;
5. The Institute shall rely entirely on voluntary contributions;
6. The Institute shall consider ways of increasing its income, inter alia, rental income, through more efficient use of its premises.

B. Staff

The Secretary-General is requested to review the composition and grading of the staff, including the post of Executive Director, taking into account the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and paying due regard to a wide a geographical basis as possible, with a view to:

1. Diversifying the composition of the Professional staff to avoid limiting it to senior posts, and utilizing the experience and expertise of lower-level Professionals available in UNITAR; in this regard, non-programme functions, such as external relations and administration and finance, of the restructured Institute can be undertaken by lower-level Professionals;
2. Distributing Professional and General Service staff among the various branches of the Institute in proportion to the work-load of and tasks entrusted to the branches in the restructured programme and at a level that would enable the Institute to carry out a meaningful programme;
3. Giving priority, in the recruitment of personnel for the execution of projects financed from special purpose grants, to Professional and General Service staff of the Institute who may not be retained as members of the core staff paid from the General Fund, and considering those persons for employment with other organizations of the United Nations system, which may draw on their skills, as appropriate;
4. Keeping a roster of consultants and experts and rotating staff whose services may be needed by the Institute for the execution of projects and programmes, at no cost or through financing from special purpose grants.

C. Board of Trustees

The Secretary-General is requested to ensure full compliance with the decision of the Board that no financial costs shall be charged to the budget of the Institute for the functioning of the Board, and that the selection of members of the Board of Trustees shall include government representatives who are knowledgeable about the work of the Institute and the United Nations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out, in close consultation, as appropriate, with all States, the restructuring of the Institute as from 1 January 1987 in accordance with the recommendations set out above and with sufficient capacity to ensure the continuation of the Institute as a viable and autonomous entity, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and to include a comprehensive assessment of the experience with the interim solution in 1987 to enable the Assembly to evaluate the situation and reach a decision on the future of the Institute;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General, in case the necessary financing is not ensured by the implementation of the interim solution as defined above, to take steps with a view to phasing out, as appropriate, the activities of the Institute in the most cost-effective manner possible, and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a detailed proposal on the reallocation of the appropriate and essential activities of the Institute to other entities of the United Nations system;

6. Urges all States that have not yet contributed to the Institute to do so, calls upon all States to increase their contributions to the Institute at and following the 1986 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, in order to enable the Institute to implement the restructuring plan and continue to fulfil its important mandate, and appeals to those donors that do not intend to pledge contributions to reconsider contributing to the Institute at a level commensurate with their capacity;

7. Appeals to all States to provide appropriate special purpose grants to enable the Institute to implement the training and research programmes that cannot be financed from its General Fund, and calls upon intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Institute.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1985, 3/

Noting with appreciation the contributions of all countries that have supported the University,

Also noting with appreciation the continuing interest of the Government of Japan in, and its support for, the construction of a permanent headquarters building,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Finland for the continued financial and other support it provides to the first research and training centre established by the University, the World Institute for Development Economics Research,

Noting decision 5.2.4 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and twenty-fourth session,

Noting with satisfaction that 1985 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the University and that during its first 10 years the University has developed a distinctive institutional identity within the United Nations system and the international academic and scientific community,

1. Welcomes the progress achieved by the University in implementing programmes of research, advanced training and dissemination of knowledge, as well as in implementing the activities planned within the framework of the first medium-term perspective (1982-1987);
2. Notes with appreciation the decision of the Council to undertake a comprehensive external evaluation of the work of the University during its first 10 years, in order to assess the extent to which the University has fulfilled the objectives of its Charter, with a view to making proposals to strengthen its future performance and thus contributing significantly to the planning of its future endeavours;
3. Notes with satisfaction that the World Institute for Development Economics Research began operations at Helsinki in 1985 and that it has made considerable progress on the three research themes for its initial programme: "Hunger and poverty: the poorest billion"; "Money, finance and trade: reform for world development"; and "Development and technological transformation: the management of change";
4. Also notes with satisfaction the progress being made towards the establishment by the United Nations University of other research and training centres, particularly the proposed Institute for Natural Resources in Africa;
5. Requests the United Nations University when drawing up its report to the General Assembly to take into account the comments made by Governments in the General Assembly on the manner in which the activities of the University are presented, in particular by strengthening the analytical content of the report;
6. Notes the continuing and intensified co-operative activities of the United Nations University with the United Nations, its bodies and the specialized agencies, on the one hand, and with the international academic and scientific community, including national research centres, on the other, which enhance the responsiveness of the University to global issues and problems and bring its work into closer relation with the concerns of the United Nations system and the world academic community with regard to global issues and problems;

7. Recognizes that the University needs to intensify its fund-raising efforts to build up its Endowment Fund and Operating Fund in order to increase its core income;

8. Earnestly appeals to all States to take cognizance of the progress made by the United Nations University and the relevance of its work to the concerns of the United Nations, to contribute urgently and generously to its Endowment Fund and its subsidiary institutes and, additionally or alternatively, to make operating contributions to the University to enable it to fulfil its mandate efficiently, in accordance with its Charter and with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Unified approach to development analysis and planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling also its resolution 38/179 of 19 December 1983 on a unified approach to development analysis and planning,

Mindful of its resolution 40/178 of 17 December 1985 on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of international economic, scientific-technological and social co-operation, in which it stressed, inter alia, the willingness of Member States to strengthen the United Nations system as a framework for constructive dialogue and joint efforts in solving international economic problems, including those confronting the developing countries,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/51 of 22 July 1986, in which the Council endorsed the conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session, concerning the United Nations special responsibility for carrying out research on global and sectoral issues, and their interrelationship, in order to assist Member States and the deliberations of the competent intergovernmental bodies,

Believing in the usefulness of integrating economic and social components in the formulation of policies and programmes at the national and international levels for the benefit of social and economic progress and human well-being,

Stressing that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the solution of other economic and social problems on the basis of industrial, agricultural and rural development are among the objectives of the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session, 4/

Reaffirming that each State has the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic and social system in accordance with the will of its people and without outside interference,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on a unified approach to development analysis and planning, in particular the observations and conclusions contained therein; 5/

2. Considers that an integrated approach to development analysis and planning, which takes into account differing economic, social and political features of national economies, is one of the tools for the attainment of sustained social, economic and human development;

3. Invites States to support the efforts of developing countries, if they so request, to strengthen their management capacity to apply a unified approach to development analysis and comprehensive macro-economic strategies and planning, especially with regard to integrating food and agricultural production in all sectors and supporting industrialization, economic and social infrastructure and human resources development;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account a unified approach to development analysis and planning when preparing economic and social studies, ongoing research, projections and reports, including the World Economic Survey and the Report on the World Social Situation, as well as the appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to make available to States the experience gained in the use of a unified approach to development analysis and planning, taking into account the fact that new ideas relating to the promotion of social and economic development are emerging.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/109 of 18 December 1978, 34/111 of 14 December 1979 and 35/55 of 5 December 1980,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/2 of 24 May 1985 and 1986/6 of 21 May 1986,

Decides to endorse resolution 1986/6 adopted by the Economic and Social Council.