



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/8218  
9 December 1970

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fifth session  
Agenda item 44

QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Leandro I. VERCELES (Philippines)

1. The General Assembly, at its 1343rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 44, entitled "Question of the establishment of an international university: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Second Committee considered this item at its 1359th to 1361st meetings, on 3 and 4 December. At the 1359th meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement on this question made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs. An account of the discussions of the Committee on this subject is contained in the relevant summary records.<sup>1/</sup>
3. When considering the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/8067), and a report of the Secretary-General (A/8182).
4. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Colombia, India, Japan and Singapore, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1139), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling paragraphs 196 and 197 of the Introduction to the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization submitted to its twenty-fourth session, 2/

1/ A/C.2/SR.1359-1361.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 A (A/7601/Add.1).

"Recalling its resolution 2573 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1542 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970,

"Believing that the establishment of an international university, truly international in character, could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Charter,

"Believing further that the studies on the establishment of an international university must be undertaken in closest co-operation among the United Nations organizations concerned,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the establishment of an international university (A/8182), the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (16 C/72) presented to the General Conference at its sixteenth session, and resolution 1.241 of the UNESCO General Conference, and the report of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR;

"2. Invites UNESCO to undertake, in co-operation with the United Nations organizations concerned and the university community throughout the world, studies of the educational, financial and organizational aspects of an international university as recommended in resolution 1.241 of the UNESCO General Conference; and requests the Secretary-General to co-operate fully in this task;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and studies, paying particular attention to the problems involved in the establishment of an international university which are primarily of concern to the United Nations, taking into account (a) the UNESCO studies, (b) the comments and observations including suggested optional models of an international university, made at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and (c) the preliminary views and proposals of Governments submitted under paragraph 4;

"4. Invites Governments of Member States to submit to the Secretary-General, by the end of May 1971, their preliminary views and proposals on an international university, including their possible contribution to such university, should it be established;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a panel of experts, for the purpose of assisting him in his further consultations and studies concerning the establishment of an international university, consisting of (a) ten experts nominated by the Governments of States Members of the United Nations to be designated by the President of the General Assembly, and (b) five experts designated by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNITAR;

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"6. Takes note of the fact that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO are arranging to conduct the relevant studies in such a manner as to be complementary to each other;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the studies undertaken under this resolution, together with any recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, so that the General Assembly may take decisions on the question of the establishment of an international university at the earliest possible date."

5. Afghanistan, Algeria, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement on the financial implications of the draft resolution.<sup>3/</sup>

7. At the 1360th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced amendments (A/C.2/L.1140) to the draft resolution, which called for:

(a) The deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph;

(b) The deletion, in operative paragraph 2, of the words "and requests the Secretary-General to co-operate fully in this task";

(c) The rewording of paragraph 3 to read as follows:

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to co-operate fully with UNESCO in this task, and in particular to continue such studies and consultations as may prove necessary on those problems involved which are of primary concern to the United Nations;".

(d) The replacement of paragraph 4 by the following text:

"4. Invites the Secretary-General, in the light of the studies mentioned in operative paragraphs 2 and 3 above, to seek the preliminary views and proposals of the Governments of Member States on an international university including their possible contribution to such a university, should it be established;".

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<sup>3/</sup> See A/C.2/SR.1359.

- (e) The deletion of paragraphs 5 and 6;
- (f) The replacement of paragraph 7 by the following text:

"7. Invites UNESCO in close consultation with the Secretary-General, to submit a progress report on the studies undertaken, together with any recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twenty-sixth session."

8. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands, also on behalf of the delegation of France, introduced further amendments (A/C.2/L.1141) to the draft resolution, which called for:

- (a) The replacement of the fourth preambular paragraph by the following text:

"Believing that an agreement on the establishment of a university, truly international in character, could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Charter,".

- (b) The deletion of the words "and requests the Secretary-General to co-operate fully in this task," in paragraph 2;

- (c) The rewording of paragraph 3 to read as follows:

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to co-operate fully in the task set out in the previous paragraph, and, with regard to the problems which are primarily of concern to the United Nations, to continue his consultations and studies, on the basis of (a) the UNESCO studies (b) the comments and observations including suggested optional models of an international university, made at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and (c) the preliminary views and proposals of Governments submitted under paragraph 4;".

- (d) The replacement of paragraph 5 by the following text:

"5. Authorizes the Secretary-General to establish in due course a panel of experts, for the purpose of assisting him in his further consultations and studies concerning the establishment of an international university, consisting of (a) ten experts nominated by the Governments of States Members of the United Nations to be designated by the President of the General Assembly, and (b) five experts designated by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNITAR;".

- (e) The replacement of paragraph 7 by the following text:

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report on the studies undertaken under this resolution through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session."

9. Iran joined in sponsoring the amendments submitted by France and the Netherlands (A/C.2/L.1141).
10. At the 1361st meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Japan, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution who were now joined by Austria and Libya, orally revised the draft resolution.
11. At the same meeting, the Netherlands and France, as well as the United Kingdom, withdrew their amendments (A/C.2/L.1140 and A/C.2/L.1141).
12. The Committee voted on the draft resolution and the oral revisions thereto as follows:
- (a) It adopted the fourth preambular paragraph, on which a separate vote had been requested by the United Kingdom, by 70 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions;
  - (b) It retained, by 53 votes to 4, with 32 abstentions, the words "by the end of May 1971" in paragraph 4, on which a separate vote had been requested by the United Kingdom;
  - (c) It adopted paragraph 5, on which a separate vote had been requested by the United Kingdom, by 73 votes to 10, with 7 abstentions;
  - (d) The draft resolution, as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 81 votes to none, with 10 abstentions (see paragraph 13 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

International university

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraphs 196 and 197 of the introduction to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization submitted to its twenty-fourth session,<sup>4/</sup>

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<sup>4/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 A (A/7601/Add.1).

Recalling its resolution 2573 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969,  
Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1542 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970,  
Believing that the establishment of an international university, truly international in character, could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

Believing further that the studies on the establishment of an international university must be undertaken in closest co-operation among the United Nations organizations concerned,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the establishment of an international university,<sup>5/</sup> the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization<sup>6/</sup> presented to the General Conference at its sixteenth session, General Conference resolution 1.241, and the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

2. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to undertake, in co-operation with the United Nations organizations concerned and the university community throughout the world, studies of the educational, financial and organizational aspects of an international university, as recommended in General Conference resolution 1.241;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and studies, in close co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, relating to the problems which are primarily of concern to the United Nations in the context of the establishment of an international university, taking into account:

(a) The studies carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(b) The comments and observations, including suggested optional models of an international university, made at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

(c) The preliminary views and proposals of Governments to be submitted under paragraph 4 below;

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<sup>5/</sup> A/8182.

<sup>6/</sup> 16 C/72.

4. Invites Governments of Member States to submit to the Secretary-General, by the end of May 1971, their preliminary views and proposals on an international university, including their possible contribution to such a university, should it be established;

5. Authorizes the Secretary-General to establish in due course a panel of experts, for the purpose of assisting him in his further consultations and studies concerning the establishment of an international university, consisting of:

(a) Ten experts nominated by the Governments of Member States to be designated by the President of the General Assembly;

(b) Five experts to be designated by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

6. Takes note of the fact that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are arranging to conduct the relevant studies in such a manner as to be complementary to each other;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the studies undertaken in pursuance of the present resolution, together with any recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, so that the Assembly may take decisions on the question of the establishment of an international university at the earliest possible date.

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