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HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. E. GUNAWARDANA (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 1843rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 48 entitled "Housing, building and planning: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Committee had before it a report by the Secretary-General (A/8037) on problems and priorities in human settlements.

II. PROCEEDINGS IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE

A. Draft resolution and amendments

3. At the 1820th meeting of the Third Committee, on 11 December, the representative of Pakistan made an introductory statement stressing the importance of the subject and introduced, on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Libya, Norway, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia, a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1836/Rev.1) entitled "Housing, building and planning". Subsequently the delegations of Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Mali and Niger joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2036 (XX) and 2598 (XXIV),

"Mindful of the dedication of the Governments on the threshold of the 1970s to create conditions of social justice, stability and well-being for all and to ensure a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity through economic and social progress and development,

"Further recalling paragraph 71 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade 1/ relating to the policy measures in the housing sector,

"Considering that a greater effort needs to be made to provide effective international assistance for the improvement of the situation with regard to housing and human settlements in most developing countries,

"Bearing in mind that the United Nations International Seminar on Improvement of Slums and Uncontrolled Settlements held in Medellin, Colombia, in February-March 1970, has identified the problem of human settlements as one which requires national and international solutions through the adoption of a global strategy,

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/3037 on the problems and priorities in human settlements,

"1. Recommends that Member States, with assistance, upon request, of the United Nations bodies concerned and in the context of their over-all economic and social development planning, formulate definite and long-term housing, building and planning policies and programmes for the improvement of human settlements devoting particular attention to:

(a) Comprehensive measures to solve the problems of rapid urbanization, housing and uncontrolled human settlements, thereby achieving more national urban growth patterns;

(b) Steps for a rapid and significant improvement of housing, community facilities and environmental sanitation in rural areas;

(c) Application of comprehensive planning approaches to integrate the physical, economic, social and administrative aspects for improvement of human settlements in both rural and urban areas;

(d) Evolution and application of regional planning for balanced rural and urban development, especially in developing countries;

1/ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.

(e) Development of building industry and building technology, including research and training;

(f) Review, if necessary, of the legislative framework governing and tenure, transfer of land and buildings in urban and rural areas; and the planning of over-all patterns of land use and appropriate infrastructural facilities;

"2. Further recommends that Member States and the United Nations organizations concerned undertake the following measures for the amelioration of the conditions in the field of housing and human settlements:

(a) The elaboration by each country of its national policies and programmes for development of housing and human settlements network during the 1970s, fully integrated into national development plans, including, if necessary, the elaboration of legal, institutional and physical arrangements relating to urban and rural land use;

(b) The establishment of national and regional centres for studies in planning, designing, social and administrative aspects and experiments in low-cost housing techniques and activities, including increasing use and application of indigenous and, as appropriate, new building materials and local skills;

(c) The development of national institutions for training in regional and physical planning, housing and building;

(d) The acceleration of domestic savings through the establishment of appropriate financial practices and specialized institutions, including co-operatives, for financing the housing and construction sector;

(e) Measures for environmental improvement, particularly those that shape the future structure of human settlements;

(f) Expansion of low-cost housing, through both public and private programmes and on a self-help basis, including co-operatives; and the advancement of pilot and demonstration projects on such housing;

"3. Invites developed countries and the international organizations concerned, especially the financial institutions, to provide during the 1970s, increased assistance - technical as well as financial - to developing countries for the purposes enumerated in paragraph 2 of this resolution in accordance with the priorities they have determined for their development;

"4. Further invites the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to consider additional innovative approaches for the improvement of housing and human settlements;

"5. Recommends that, in the elaboration of the work programmes in the field of housing, building and planning within the United Nations and its specialized agencies, particular attention be paid to programmes and projects of interest to developing countries;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General also to make available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment his report contained in document A/8037;

"7. Considers that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should play a major role in the formulation and co-ordination of the United Nations programmes and projects relating to the problems of housing and human settlements as well as a catalytic role in their implementation and, as such, it should be strengthened as a matter of high priority both by a greater allocation of resources and by additional personnel;

"8. Further considers that it is desirable to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of housing, building and planning;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, as soon as possible, an analytical review and progress report on the implementation of this resolution, taking full advantage of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment."

4. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of his delegation and those of Australia, Japan and the United States of America introduced amendments (A/C.3/L.1848) to the draft resolution which called for:

(a) The replacement of the word "and", between "Member States" and "the United Nations organizations concerned", by the words "with the assistance, upon request, of" in paragraph 2;

(b) The insertion, between the words "the following measures" and "for the amelioration of", of the words "where appropriate" in paragraph 2;

(c) The replacement, in the third line, of the word "increased" by the word "appropriate" in operative paragraph 3;

(d) The deletion of the words "as well as a catalytic role" to the end of operative paragraph 7.

B. Voting

5. At the 1820th meeting, on 11 December 1970, the Committee voted on the draft resolution (see paragraph 3 above) and the four-Power amendments thereto:

(a) It rejected, by 56 votes to 21, with 4 abstentions, the first part of the amendment to paragraph 2 (see paragraph 4 above);

(b) It rejected, by 60 votes to 11, with 13 abstentions, the second part of the amendment to paragraph 2;

(c) It rejected, by 58 votes to 8, with 14 abstentions, the amendment to paragraph 3;

(d) It rejected, by 60 votes to 21, with 2 abstentions, the amendment to paragraph 7;

(e) It adopted, by 79 votes to none, with 9 abstentions, the draft resolution as a whole (see paragraph 6 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

6. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Housing, building and planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2036 (XX) of 7 December 1965 and 2598 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Mindful of the dedication of the Governments, on the threshold of the 1970s, to create conditions of social justice, stability and well-being for all and to ensure a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity through economic and social progress and development,

Further recalling paragraph 71 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade^{2/} relating to the policy measures in the housing sector,

Considering that a greater effort needs to be made to provide effective international assistance for the improvement of the situation with regard to housing and human settlements in most developing countries,

^{2/} Ibid.

7. Considers that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning should play a major role in the formulation and co-ordination of the United Nations programmes and projects relating to the problems of housing and human settlements as well as a catalytic role in their implementation and that, as such, it should be strengthened as a matter of high priority both by a greater allocation of resources and by additional personnel;

8. Further considers that it is desirable to strengthen regional co-operation in the field of housing, building and planning;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit as soon as possible to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, an analytical review and progress report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking full advantage of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.
