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QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk FARHANG (Afghanistan)

1. The General Assembly at its 2037th meeting, on 23 September 1972, allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 48 entitled "Question of the establishment of an international university".
2. The Second Committee considered this item at its 1502nd to 1504th meetings, on 29 and 30 November 1972. An account of the discussions of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records.^{1/}
3. At its 1502nd meeting, on 29 November, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also made a statement. The Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research made a statement at the 1503rd meeting.
4. When considering the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/8898), a report of the Secretary-General on the question of the establishment of an international university (A/8510 and Add.1/Rev.1) and the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of its resumed fifty-third session.^{2/}

^{1/} See A/C.2/SR.1502-1504.

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3A (A/8703/Add.1), part I.

5. At the 1503rd meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Austria, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malta, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1268). At the same meeting, Tunisia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. A statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was circulated to the Committee in document A/C.2/L.1278.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America introduced oral amendments to the draft resolution which called for:

(a) The deletion of the last paragraph of the preamble which read as follows:

"Noting with satisfaction that the studies and reports already completed provide a sufficient basis for a decision regarding the establishment of an international university,";

(b) The insertion of the words "for the University" after the words "voluntary contributions" in operative paragraph 2 (g);

(c) The replacement of the word "including" by the word "particularly" in the sixth line of operative paragraph 2 (g).

8. At the 1504th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, accepted the amendments proposed by the representative of the United States of America (see para. 8 above).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by 86 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions (see para. 10 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

Establishment of the United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2822 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1731 (LIII) of 15 September 1972,

Taking note also of resolution 1.322 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 17 November 1972 at its seventeenth session, 1/

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General, 2/

Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other interested agencies of the United Nations system have fully co-operated with the United Nations in preparing reports and studies on the subject of the establishment of an international university,

Conscious of the particular responsibilities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the development and implementation of this project,

1. Decides to establish an international university under the auspices of the United Nations to be known as the United Nations University;

2. Decides that the United Nations University should be guided, inter alia, by the following objectives and principles:

(a) The concept of the University should be that of a system of academic institutions, and not of an intergovernmental organization;

(b) Close co-ordination should be maintained between the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other organizations of the United Nations system and those of the University;

(c) Binding guarantees, under law, of academic freedom and autonomy should be written into the charter of the University;

(d) Selection procedures should be established, so as to ensure the highest intellectual and moral quality of the personnel of the University;

(e) The structure of the University should consist of a programming and co-ordinating central organ and a decentralized system of affiliated institutions, integrated into the world university community, devoted to action-oriented research into the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations and its agencies, and to the post-graduate training of young scholars and research workers for the benefit of the world community.

1/ See A/8898.

2/ A/8510 and Add.1/Rev.1, E/5155 and Add.1.

(f) The programmes of research of the institutions of the University should include, among other matters, co-existence between peoples of differing cultures, tongues and social systems, peaceful relations between States and the maintenance of peace and security, human rights, economic and social change and development, the environment and the proper use of resources, basic scientific research and the application of the results of science and technology in the interests of development;

(g) Capital costs and recurrent costs should be met from voluntary contributions for the University made by:

- (i) Governments directly or through United Nations specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- (ii) Non-governmental sources including foundations, universities and individuals;

The University should be also authorized to receive assistance for its projects, particularly fellowships, from the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental organizations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, acting in close co-operation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to establish a Founding Committee of the United Nations University to define further the objectives and principles of the University and to draft its charter, consisting of not more than 20 experts chosen with due regard to geographical distribution and major academic, educational and cultural trends in the world, taking into account their fields of study as well as the need to include outstanding young scholars, half of whom are to be designated by the Secretary-General and the other half by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with the specialized agencies and programmes concerned, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to commence efforts for raising the necessary funds in order to permit the launching of the United Nations University at the earliest possible date and to make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the location of the programming and co-ordination centre and the other institutions, 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, taking into account the views expressed thereon by the Founding Committee and the offers of facilities and other types of contribution;

5. Invites the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session such comments and observations on the draft charter as it may consider appropriate;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the draft charter of the United Nations University as well as a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session through the Economic and Social Council.
