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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Algeria, China, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia,
Saudi Arabia: draft resolution

United Nations Development Programme
Human Development Report

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, on new dimensions in technical cooperation, 44/211 of 22 December 1989 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Reaffirming also that neutrality is a fundamental characteristic of the operational activities for the development of the United Nations system,

Mindful of the commitment to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the importance of economic and social development to human well-being,

Affirming that economic growth is a means to development, together with enlarging peoples' choices and opportunities fostering equity, fair income distribution and the development of human resources, and increasing productivity,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in

extending economic and technical assistance to the developing countries in carrying out their development activities in accordance with the mandate given to the organization,

Welcoming the 1990 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report which emphasized the importance of peoples' participation in development and contained a broader concept of analysing development progress than the single criterion of per capita income,

Recalling United Nations Development Programme Governing Council decision 91/6 of 25 June 1991 on human development,

Recognizing that the incorporation of a human freedom index in the 1991 Human Development Report raises the question of mandate and causes serious divisions among member States,

1. Underlines that, while studies on various matters relating to human rights are an important undertaking for the United Nations system, such studies should be dealt with by the competent and relevant United Nations bodies, with proper mandates - namely, the Commission on Human Rights and Centre for Human Rights;

2. Emphasizes that attempts to utilize other United Nations bodies for their deliberations, measurements and conclusions on issues relating to human/political freedoms threaten to cause those bodies to deviate from their natures, purposes and principles;

3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to focus on assisting Governments in carrying out their development programmes and projects and to suspend the incorporation of a human freedom index and issues relating to human/political freedoms in the work of programme-sponsored reports and studies, including the Human Development Report, in the absence of a clear and proper mandate given by the General Assembly.
