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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part IX)

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 77 (see A/46/645, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (g) was considered at the 51st and 58th meetings, on 26 November and 11 December 1991. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/46/SR.51 and 58).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.58

2. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.58) entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory", on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Tunisia and Yemen. Subsequently, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.58, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was circulated in document A/C.2/46/L.100.

4. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

5. The representative of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 6, the words "pending the exercise of their self-determination" were inserted before the words "to plan for"; and the words "during the transitional period between occupation and self-determination" were deleted from the end of the paragraph;

(b) In operative paragraph 7, the words "forty-seventh session" were replaced by the words "forty-eighth session".

6. Following a statement made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the European Community, the representative of Pakistan agreed that the first revision to operative paragraph 6 should read "pending the exercise of their right to self-determination".

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Israel and the United States of America (see A/C.2/46/SR.58).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.58, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 133 to 2, with 4 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows: 1/

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar,

1/ The delegations of Chile and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea subsequently indicated that, had they been present at the time of the voting, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belarus, Canada, Estonia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Canada and Hungary (also on behalf of Czechoslovakia and Poland) (see A/C.2/46/SR.58).

B. Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Human Settlements

1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

10. In paragraph 12 of resolution 13/1 entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", the Commission on Human Settlements recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

11. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

2. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

13. In paragraph 1 of resolution 13/2 entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements", the Commission on Human Settlements recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

14. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work
of its thirteenth session

16. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman and following statements by the representative of France and the Secretary of the Committee, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Commission for Human Settlements on the work of its thirteenth session (para. 18).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied
Palestinian territory

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, 2/ and the relevant recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 3/

Recalling also its resolution 44/174 of 19 December 1989,

Taking into account the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation, including its economic and social policies and practices,

Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, which have been declared illegal and a major obstacle to peace,

1. Takes note of the report annexed to the note by the Secretary-General; 4/

2. Calls for the immediate cessation of the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, particularly in the economic and social fields;

2/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7), chap. I.

3/ Ibid., chap. II.

4/ A/46/262-E/1991/95.

3. Expresses its alarm at the deterioration, as a result of the Israeli occupation, in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967;

4. Affirms that the Israeli occupation is contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic development of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory;

5. Rejects the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and, pending the exercise of their right to self-determination, to plan for concerted economic and social actions by the United Nations system;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the intergovernmental body for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 44/173 of 19 December 1989, in which it considered the First Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 43/181,

Recognizing that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 provides a framework for Governments to facilitate adequate shelter for all and that, through shelter and services, the Strategy also addresses the alleviation of poverty, the improvement of health, the participation of women, the improvement of the living environment of the people and the promotion of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the operational focus for promoting the objective of facilitating shelter for all is action at the national level within the framework of national shelter strategies which are integrated with macroeconomic policies for optimum utilization of natural and human resources and based on standards that are nationally appropriate and socially acceptable,

Emphasizing also that the adoption of enabling shelter strategies can mobilize resources on a sustainable basis and facilitate access to available resources by all population groups,

Noting that such mobilization of national resources through enabling shelter strategies could partially alleviate economic constraints that affect many countries,

Having considered the second report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 5/

Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments have initiated or reformulated national shelter strategies, based on the principles of enabling all actors in the shelter sector, and that many other Governments have initiated action on particular components of a national shelter strategy,

Noting also with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international levels for the implementation of the Strategy,

1. Commends Governments which are revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;
2. Urges those Governments which have not already initiated action towards formulation of a national shelter strategy based on the enabling principles or have taken only tentative steps so far to increase their efforts using the Guidelines for National Action contained in the Strategy involving governmental, private sector and non-governmental actors in the shelter sector, assuring the participation of men and women and paying special attention to gender issues in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national shelter strategies in order to achieve the objective of facilitating shelter for all by the year 2000;
3. Recommends that all Governments adopt a cost-effective system for monitoring progress of the national shelter strategy and adopt as far as is feasible guidelines prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);
4. Further urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies following, for instance, the synopsis of environmental check points, contained

in the report of the Executive Director on the significance of human settlements and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 to the concept of sustainable development; 6/

5. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

6. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, and particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide increased financial and other support to Governments for the implementation of the Strategy's Plan of Action;

7. Adopts the Plan of Action for 1992-1993 for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and urges all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling the recommendations of Habitat: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, which form the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 in which it set up the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in order to, inter alia, achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation that the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, in line with the objectives and the responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, have succeeded in placing human settlements higher on the agenda for national action and international cooperation and in promoting increased understanding on the links between people, settlements, environment and development,

Noting also that the successive work programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have addressed all the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and, in addition, have provided specific guidance in various fields of human settlements, such

as shelter, urban management, the role of women, training, community participation, finance, building materials, environment and sustainable development,

Noting in particular that, since the establishment of the Commission and of the Centre, Governments have achieved substantial advances in planning, development and management of human settlements, thus improving living conditions of a large number of the population,

Noting further that the bilateral and multilateral agencies and institutions have gradually increased their emphasis and level of technical and other assistance in the field of human settlements,

Noting also that non-governmental and community-based organizations and the private sector have increased their contributions towards improving living conditions and building new shelter and settlements,

Recognizing that programmes such as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless observed in 1987 and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, currently under implementation, provide the framework for focusing on the critical issue of shelter and services, and have succeeded in substantially increasing awareness and in placing the provision of shelter and services in the broader context of social and economic development,

Noting with concern that, in many developing countries the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living conditions of their population, both in the urban and rural areas,

Recognizing moreover that past experience as well as current trends and developments and projections in human settlements and related fields of poverty, population, environment and development make it clear that there is a need for an in-depth review and assessment of the strategies that have been put in place,

Convinced that proper planning, development and management of human settlements will lead to economic and social progress and thereby alleviate poverty and promote development which is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run,

Convinced that a world-wide conference with broad, multidisciplinary and high-level participation can provide a suitable forum for considering the current situation in the planning, development and management of human settlements within the context of the prevailing and expected social, economic and environmental contexts,

Considering that such a conference should, inter alia:

(a) Review trends in policies and programmes undertaken by countries and international organizations to implement the recommendations of Habitat:

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976;

(b) Conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and, if necessary, make recommendations which would ensure the realization of the objectives of the Strategy by the Year 2000;

(c) In the light of the experience gained review and determine the substantive role and contribution of the human settlements sector in the light of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(d) Review trends in economic and social development as they affect planning and development of human settlements and make recommendations for future action at national and international levels,

Bearing in mind its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 on the pattern of conferences,

1. Decides to consider at its forty-seventh session the question of convening, possibly in 1997, a United Nations conference on human settlements (Habitat II) with the view to taking a decision at that session on the objectives, content, scope, and timing of such a conference and the modalities and financial implications of holding the conference;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to prepare a report on (a) the objectives, content and scope of such a conference; and (b) preparations and other modalities for the conference; and to include a statement on the financial implications of the preparations for and convening of the conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

* * *

18. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work
of its thirteenth session

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its thirteenth session. 7/

7/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly,
Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/46/8 and Add.1).