

# United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



SECOND COMMITTEE, 788th  
MEETING

Wednesday, 13 December 1961,  
at 3.25 p.m.

NEW YORK

## CONTENTS

### Agenda item 28:

*Economic development of under-developed countries (continued):*

(e) *Provision of food surpluses to food-deficient peoples through the United Nations system . . . . .* 403

### Agenda items 22 and 23:

*Assistance to Africa:*

(b) *Economic development of Africa;*

(c) *African educational development . . . . .* 405

*Assistance to newly independent States: report of the Economic and Social Council . . . . .*

**Chairman:** Mr. Blasco LANZA D'AJETA (Italy).

## AGENDA ITEM 28

### **Economic development of under-developed countries (continued):**

(e) **Provision of food surpluses to food-deficient peoples through the United Nations system (A/4820 and Corr.2, chapter II, section III; A/4907 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, E/3509, A/C.2/L.617/Add.2, A/C.2/L.617/Rev.3)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to continue its consideration of the nine-Power draft resolution on a world food programme (A/C.2/L.617/Rev.3).

2. Mr. REGO MONTEIRO (Brazil), speaking for the sponsors of the four-Power amendments (A/C.2/L.626/Rev.2), announced that the sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to incorporate the first and third amendments and to meet the purpose of the second amendment by altering operative paragraph 9 to read: "Further requests the Economic and Social Council, in co-operation with the Council of FAO, at its next regular session following...". The sponsors of the amendments understood the new wording to mean that a representative of FAO would be present at the meeting in question of the Economic and Social Council.

3. Mr. AIKEN (Canada) confirmed the acceptance of the four-Power amendments by the sponsors of the draft resolution. It was the sponsors' understanding that the bodies in question would together decide on the method of co-operation they would adopt.

4. Mr. GARDNER (United States of America) said that, in a spirit of co-operation, the sponsors had decided to accept the Greek representative's oral proposal for the deletion of the words "including

the Special Fund" in operative paragraph 5. It was the sponsors' understanding that paragraph 5, as amended, left it to the Secretary-General to consult, at his discretion, the various organs of the United Nations in fulfilling his relevant obligations.

5. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) withdrew his request for a separate vote on the phrase "including the Special Fund".

6. Mr. DIPP GOMEZ (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution because of its humanitarian purpose, on the understanding that the proposed programme would not interfere with the normal pattern of trade in food-stuffs or the agricultural development of recipient countries.

7. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that he would abstain in the vote for three reasons: because, as Hungary was not a member of FAO, his delegation had not had enough time to study the proposal, particularly its financial implications; because it considered that the draft did not contain adequate safeguards for the trade and agriculture of the under-developed countries; and because it considered that a preparatory committee should have been established, as had been done in the case of the Special Fund, before the programme was initiated.

8. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) stated that he would vote for the draft resolution on the understanding that the joint proposal by the United Nations and FAO referred to in the second preambular paragraph was in fact a proposal by the secretariats of the organizations referred to and not by the organizations themselves, and that operative paragraph 5 was consistent with paragraphs 9 and 12 of the resolution of the FAO Conference and in no way derogated from the authority assigned to the United Nations/FAO Inter-Governmental Committee. His delegation wished it to be understood also that, in voting for operative paragraph 16, it was assuming no obligation with respect to any future multilateral food programmes.

9. Mr. BERNARDO (Argentina) regarded the text before the Committee as a different version of the resolution approved by the FAO Council, which did not go beyond the framework laid down in that resolution. He interpreted operative paragraph 5 as implying no derogation from the authority of the Inter-Governmental Committee and as in no way authorizing any officials of the United Nations or FAO to assume any of the authority delegated to that body. His delegation still maintained that social and economic development projects should be assigned the same importance within the programme as emergency projects, in conformity with the principle reflected in the title of the draft resolution and in the resolution of the FAO Conference.

The Argentine vote in favour of operative paragraphs 16 and 17 in no way implied a commitment to any future multilateral food programme or prejudged the issues of whether any such programme should be initiated or the present programme amplified. With those reservations, he would vote for the draft resolution.

10. Mr. CRITCHLEY (Australia) said that he would vote for the draft resolution as it stood. He associated his delegation with the reservations expressed by the New Zealand and Argentine representatives, particularly with respect to operative paragraphs 5 and 16.

11. Mr. CHRISTIANSEN (Norway) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution, which it regarded as a praiseworthy effort to advance human welfare and economic and social development. He attached particular importance to the latter goal, and hoped that it would be given special attention in the programme to be carried out under the resolution. It was his understanding that the ocean freight services which the Secretary-General was authorized to accept as a contribution to the programme should not disturb normal shipping trade, just as due consideration was to be given, in carrying out the programme, to the normal pattern of trade in food-stuffs.

12. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia) supported the text before the Committee, which was in many respects better balanced than the original version. However, as little attention had been paid in the Committee to the social and economic development aspects of the programme, and as it was dangerous to believe that food surpluses could play a significant role in development unless accompanied by other forms of aid, particularly capital and technical aid, it was essential that the United Nations/FAO Inter-Governmental Committee should give very careful study to the use of food as an aid to long-term development. He also hoped that the Inter-Governmental Committee would be able to play the important executive and supervisory role assigned to it and that Africa would be adequately represented on the Committee.

13. Mr. VEJJAJIVA (Thailand) associated his delegation with the reservations expressed by the New Zealand and Argentine representatives, particularly with respect to operative paragraphs 5 and 16. He would vote for the draft resolution on the understanding that operative paragraph 5 was consistent with paragraphs 9 and 12 of the FAO resolution and in no way derogated from the authority assigned to the United Nations/FAO Inter-Governmental Committee. He delegation's vote in favour of operative paragraph 16 in no way implied a commitment to any future multilateral food programme.

14. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that, in requesting a separate vote on the words "including the Special Fund", it had been his intention to prevent, as a matter of principle, any involvement of the Special Fund with projects outside its terms of reference. That did not mean, however, that his delegation opposed the participation of the Special Fund, in a consultative capacity, in the proposed programme.

15. Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) announced that he would vote for the draft resolution because of its fundamentally humanitarian purposes, while sharing the

reservations expressed by the New Zealand and Argentine representatives.

16. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) supported the draft resolution, which was the logical conclusion of the elaborate preparatory work already carried out on the proposed programme. He considered the programme to be an experimental, multilateral undertaking distinct from any bilateral food programmes. It remained to be seen, after the experiment had run its course, whether the results achieved would justify establishing the programme on a less temporary basis. He associated himself with the reservations expressed by the New Zealand and Argentine representatives, particularly with regard to operative paragraph 16, and with the views expressed by the Norwegian representative regarding the use of ocean freight. Under the programme such freight should be used irrespective of the registration of the vessel concerned.

17. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) said that her Government sympathized with any attempt to relieve the problem of hunger, provided that the interests of the many States affected by any multilateral food programme were safeguarded. The draft resolution before the Committee contained such safeguards and her delegation would vote in favour of it. She attached particular importance both to the safeguarding of normal trade channels in implementing the programme and to the voluntary character of the programme. The United Kingdom was not normally a producer of food surpluses and would be unable to contribute to the programme in cash. It extended aid to the under-developed countries in accordance with its circumstances and had increased the volume of that aid steadily over the past five years, thus placing severe strain on its balance of payments.

18. Mr. GHAFAR (United Arab Republic) supported the draft resolution for humanitarian reasons. He associated himself with the hope expressed by the Afghan representative that the programme would in no way prejudice bilateral aid programmes.

19. Mr. MALHOTRA (Nepal) said that he too would vote for the draft resolution, which took into account the needs of both the food-importing and food-exporting countries. His country was normally a food-exporter but considered that the proposed programme would nevertheless be of benefit to it.

20. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of financial implications contained in document A/C.2/L.617/Add.2, and invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.617/Rev.3), as amended by the sponsors.

*At the request of the representative of Canada, a vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Turkey, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cameroun, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali,

Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 72 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

## AGENDA ITEMS 22 AND 23

### Assistance to Africa:

- (b) Economic development of Africa (A/4899, A/C.2/L.622/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2);
- (c) African educational development (A/4820 and Corr.2, chapter VIII, paragraph 648; A/4903 and Add.1, A/4928, A/C.2/L.619)

### Assistance to newly independent States: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4820 and Corr.2, chapter III, section V)

21. Alhaji NGILERUMA (Nigeria), introducing the draft resolution on the economic development of Africa (A/C.2/L.622/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2), said that one of the greatest tragedies of human history was the fact that although during the initial period of contact between the peoples of Africa and Europe there had been no great difference between the levels of their social achievement, after five hundred years of close association there were glaring disparities between those levels. Although the problems of the economic development of the underdeveloped areas should be tackled as a whole, regional initiatives and arrangements had proved their usefulness. As could be seen from the report on the international flow of long-term capital and official donations, 1951-1959 (A/4906), the flow of external assistance was unevenly distributed among the developing countries and an attempt to outline an international programme for Africa was therefore welcome.

22. The preamble of the draft resolution contained four important ideas which were generally accepted but which needed restatement, since international action was not yet adequate. The situation in Africa was dangerous and unsatisfactory not only for Africa but for the international community as a whole; revolutionary change was therefore imperative, involving the diversification and establishment of economic structures and acceptance of the limitations of time. Although the primary responsibility for ensuring the acceptance of the change, accelerating its tempo and generating most of the necessary finance and resources lay with the African countries, international sources had a role to play. The export earnings of the African countries should also be improved. In that connexion, the volume and value of African exports should be expanded. African States, which were exporters of primary commodities, shared in the huge loss resulting from unequal terms of trade. Operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1527 (XV), to which reference was made in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, mem-

tioned the need for "effective financial and technical assistance". Capital investment was urgently needed to supplement technical assistance and pre-investment activities. Africa appreciated the present flow of assistance, but it was inadequate. It was regrettable that, although there had been some progress, little co-ordinated effort had been made to provide the various types of assistance mentioned in resolution 1527 (XV). Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution recommended the implementation in Africa of the proposal made in the draft resolution on planning for economic development previously adopted by the Committee (A/C.2/L.584).

23. An African programming institution would do more than collect and transmit information, and it should also make advisory services available to Governments upon request. The African institute of economic development and planning, mentioned in operative paragraph 3, would be a pillar of intra-African co-operation. Sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of operative paragraph 4 looked to the future and were positive in approach. There should be a continuing review of the effects of arrangements for association with European economic groupings, as had been recommended in resolution 31 (III) of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/3452/Rev.1, part III). As stated in that resolution, the economic development of Africa and its economic relations with other countries should be based on African continental and regional realities with a view to establishing regional markets capable of supporting African industrialization. The World Economic Survey, 1960 (E/3501/Rev.1) had emphasized the importance of domestic savings in promoting economic development, and the first part of sub-paragraph (c) therefore recommended a study of the measures required in that connexion.

24. Although previous resolutions had recommended the establishment of one development bank for Africa, operative paragraph 5 urged the importance of establishing regional economic development banks for Africa. That wording did not prejudice the issue. The number of banks would depend on the results of the consultations with African Governments and appropriate institutions. If several banks were established, their policies would have to be harmonized and the ultimate objective should be a sufficiently high degree of economic co-operation and regional regrouping to justify the existence of one institution with sub-regional branches as necessary. The draft resolution did not urge the General Assembly to decide on the creation of a bank for African development. Considerable difficulties beset even the establishment of a single United Nations capital development fund. What was important was regional initiative. Operative paragraph 6 emphasized the need to apply to ECA the accepted principle concerning decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions. The Commission should be increasingly associated with efforts to promote the economic development of the territories of Africa, where there were similar problems and a need for the co-ordination of efforts.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.619 dealt with African educational development, without which all other efforts towards development would be meaningless. The indigenous peoples were no longer only the ignorant spectators of transformations initiated and executed on their own soil by foreigners. One of the tasks during the United Nations Development Dec-

ade should be to ensure that local resources were used primarily for the benefit of local inhabitants.

26. The two draft resolutions, which should be studied jointly, were not intended to absolve the African countries from their primary responsibility. They were intended to create a suitable international atmosphere and thus stimulate the disinterested foreign assistance which was so necessary to Africa.

27. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) recalled the achievements of the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa held at Addis Ababa from 15 to 25 May 1961. As described in its Final Report,<sup>1/</sup> the Conference had not only considered education as an end in itself but had also laid particular stress on education as an essential factor in economic development. The Conference had adopted a series of recommendations which formed part of the Outline of a Plan for African Educational Development.<sup>2/</sup> The Outline began with an assessment of African educational needs. Out of a school-age population of 23 million in tropical Africa nearly 13 million did not go to school at all. The African illiteracy figure of 85 per cent was twice the world average. In Africa as a whole, only 16 per cent of the school-age children were actually enrolled. In the majority of countries the proportion of children outside school exceeded 80 per cent. Only 0.02 per cent of university age youth were enrolled in higher institutions—an alarming proportion. The material needs were enormous. There was an acute shortage of classrooms and equipment. The Ethiopian Government estimated that, in the next fifteen years, some 82,000 additional primary-school and some 18,000 additional secondary-school classrooms would be needed. The shortage of teachers was critical. In Ethiopia alone, to achieve the goal of universal elementary education, 20,000 new teachers would be necessary. After taking stock of the educational needs of the continent, the Addis Ababa Conference had established certain priorities, which were discussed in chapter III of the Outline. The main emphasis had been laid on secondary education, curriculum reform and teacher-training. The Conference had also drawn up a short-term plan for 1961-1966 and a long-term plan for 1961-1980, as indicated in chapter IV of the Outline.

28. Most African Governments were continuing to devote between 17 and 20 per cent of their national budgets to the development of education. But obviously outside assistance was needed if the African countries were to achieve the goals they had set themselves. The cost of the short-term plan was estimated at about \$4,150 million, of which some \$2,840 million was expected to come from the African States themselves. It was hoped that the deficit of \$1,310 million would be made up by outside aid.

29. In introducing the draft resolution on African educational development (A/C.2/L.619), he wished to make it clear that the sponsors did not intend to open a discussion on African educational problems which had already been thrashed out at Addis Ababa; it was for the Second Committee to relate

them to its own field of competence, namely, economic development. The preamble referred to the pertinent General Assembly resolutions, recognized the importance of planning and co-ordination, and welcomed the decisions of the Conference of African States. Operative paragraph 1 reaffirmed the primary responsibilities of the African Governments for the development of education in their territories. Operative paragraph 2 was an indication of the magnitude of the needs rather than a target for external assistance. In the remainder of the operative part contributions were invited, the Assembly was called upon to endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 837 (XXXII), the co-operation of the appropriate bodies was solicited and, as already decided at Addis Ababa, UNESCO and ECA were asked to convene another African educational conference in 1963.

30. Mr. KLUTZNICK (United States of America) said that for the emerging African States as well as for the industrialized countries educational advancement was essential to economic development. An ambitious expansion in education, as suggested in draft resolution A/C.2/L.619, was a primary means of promoting economic development in many African countries. There were already a number of remarkable educational establishments in Africa but no more than a minute fraction of the African people attained university standards. In most of the continent not more than 2 per cent of the children attended secondary schools. Africa was placing the major emphasis on education quite simply because it wanted to master its own fate. Those nations which, like the United States, whole-heartedly concurred in that aim must inevitably support the efforts which the African nations were themselves making to secure educational progress.

31. The United Nations and the specialized agencies were admirably equipped to help the people of Africa in developing their skills. The Special Fund was increasing its educational and training activities, while the United States, as part of the programme for the United Nations Development Decade, had pledged \$60 million to the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, subject only to the stipulation that that contribution should not exceed 40 per cent of the total. Africa's share of the resources available under the Expanded Programme had increased from 8-9 per cent in 1956 to 29 per cent in 1961-1962. At the last session of the General Conference of UNESCO the United States had joined with other countries in extending that agency's programme of work in Africa. There, too, the United States was prepared to accelerate the pace provided there was agreement to do so.

32. For all those reasons, his delegation enthusiastically supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.619. It would merely suggest that in operative paragraph 5 the word "invokes" might be changed to "invites".

33. The twenty-five-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.622/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2) was constructive and realistic. The sponsors had rightly stressed economic planning and projections among the problems most relevant to African development. With reference to the second preambular paragraph, his delegation believed that the prosperity of the African peoples was more likely to be advanced by economic interdependence and co-operation rather

<sup>1/</sup> Transmitted to members of the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session by a note of the Secretary-General (E/3498/Add.2).

<sup>2/</sup> Transmitted to members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/4903).

than by economic "independence", a term which smacked of autarky. He therefore suggested that the word "viability" be substituted for it. In view of the importance of agricultural development as a part of economic diversification, the words "and the development of highly developed agriculture" might be added after the word "industrialization" in the fourth preambular paragraph. A similar addition had been made to the draft resolution on the United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/L.599) following a suggestion by the Soviet Union representative which the United States had whole-heartedly endorsed. The present wording of the seventh preambular paragraph might be construed as giving preference to African exporters of primary commodities over Latin American or Asian exporters. He therefore suggested that the paragraph should conclude with the words "...African States and problems created for African exporters of primary commodities by adverse terms of trade and by excessive fluctuations of prices of these commodities".

34. With reference to operative paragraph 4 (a), his delegation believed that the decision to convene a meeting of African countries should be made by ECA. He therefore suggested that that body be

requested to consider the measures outlined in paragraph 4. In the same paragraph the words "mutually satisfactory" might replace the word "common", since the solutions in question might not necessarily be common to all products and all countries. The idea of using development banks to promote economic and social progress, as advocated in operative paragraph 5, was one which the United States endorsed. It was gratifying that the idea would be considered in consultation with IBRD. The study called for by ECA in its resolution 27 (III) had not yet been submitted. Consequently, his delegation would suggest that, in operative paragraph 5, the words "in accordance with the recommendations" should be replaced by the words "taking into account the study called for". It might also be preferable to delete the word "regional" in the two places where it occurred in operative paragraph 5.

35. Apart from those drafting changes, his delegation had no hesitation in giving its enthusiastic support to the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.