



## General Assembly

Distr.  
LIMITED

A/C.2/42/L.59  
17 November 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-second session  
SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 83

### OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

#### Guatemala: \* draft resolution

#### Operational activities for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and 41/171 of 5 December 1986 on operational activities for development,

Reaffirming the central role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as forums for the policy guidance and co-ordination of all aspects of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and the need to strengthen the capacity of both organs to fulfil their mandated tasks in those fields,

Reaffirming also that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

---

\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

Emphasizing in this regard that the United Nations system should continue to fully implement the consensus of 1970, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970,

Emphasizing also the need to keep under periodic review the structures and modus operandi of the organizations of the United Nations system in relation to their operational activities so as to ensure efficient functioning and responsiveness to the needs and priorities of the developing countries,

Stressing the urgent need to strengthen multilateral co-operation for development through, inter alia, increased voluntary contributions to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Emphasizing the need for a significant, continuous and real increase in official development assistance,

Deeply concerned that the targets for official development assistance, as spelt out in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade 1/ have not been met and that the growth target for contributions to United Nations development programmes has not been reached,

Expressing concern that the proportion of grant assistance has been falling steadily in relation to total official development assistance,

Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of developing countries to determine the allocation of resources on the basis of their national development plans, priorities and objectives,

Reaffirming that economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be a significant dimension of operational activities for development and taking note in that respect of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its fifth session, 2/

Recognizing that the particular role of the resident co-ordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be determined by recipient Governments on the basis of their priorities, objectives and needs,

Mindful of the special needs of the least developed countries,

Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development in order to overcome their economic difficulties,

---

1/ Resolution 35/56, annex.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39 and Corr.1).

Mindful of the fact that the share of developing countries in procurement of equipment and services is falling,

Expressing concern that the complex procedures of the United Nations system in the field of operational activities for development add an administrative burden on Governments and serve to limit their effective participation in United Nations operational activities, and recognizing in that regard the urgent need for harmonized, flexible and simplified procedures from the United Nations system for programmes and project formulation, implementation, evaluation and backstopping, with the objective of adapting them to the needs and practices of recipient countries,

Expressing concern also at delays in the delivery of project inputs by United Nations agencies,

Aware that a substantial part of world resources, material as well as human, continues to be diverted to armaments, with a detrimental effect on international security and on bilateral and multilateral co-operation, including the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on operational activities for development, including the findings of the case studies on the functioning of operational activities carried out in accordance with paragraph 22 of the annex to Assembly resolution 41/171; 3/

2. Reaffirms that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme, are designed to respond to the needs and priorities of the developing countries as established by them, and cannot therefore be subject to considerations other than those needs and priorities, nor limited a priori to certain sectors of activities;

3. Requests the Director-General to continue to carry out the tasks entrusted to him in resolution 41/171;

4. Requests the United Nations funding agencies to ensure that grant assistance be channelled through United Nations agencies or Governments acting as executing agencies, avoiding conversion of grants into loans and without imposition of conditionality;

5. Emphasizes that a substantial and real increase in the flow of concessional resources, particularly grants from major developed countries on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, is important for the development process of the developing countries;

6. Considers that the process of assessing the functioning of operational activities for development should take into account the following factors:

---

3/ A/42/326-E/1987/82 and Add.1 and 2, annex.

(a) Developing countries have the primary responsibility for co-ordinating operational activities for development at the national level and, in that respect, the main role of the United Nations system in the field should be to reinforce and strengthen the capability of developing countries to co-ordinate international co-operation and assistance in accordance with their priorities and needs;

(b) The programming procedures for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular, those of the United Nations Development Programme, should be made more flexible in order to adapt them to the practices and objectives of developing countries and to permit those countries, when they decide to do so, to allocate external assistance and co-operation in the context of a sectoral approach, rather than on a project-by-project basis;

(c) The United Nations system needs to develop and strengthen its capacity at the field level for sector analysis and the definition of an overall programme;

(d) In order to facilitate the task of developing countries in co-ordinating their operational activities programmes in an integrated manner, all multilateral and bilateral donors must ensure that their rules and procedures for disbursement of funds are harmonized and simplified to respond to the fullest extent possible to conditions in developing countries;

(e) In order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations system in the field on the basis of the needs, priorities and objectives of developing countries, the resident co-ordinator should receive the necessary support for his activities from the United Nations system;

(f) There is a need to enhance the advisory capacity of the resident co-ordinator and the field offices of the United Nations system, in consultation with the recipient Governments concerned, through, inter alia, increased co-ordination and technical backstopping among the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system;

7. Requests the Director-General in close consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988 detailed information and recommendations on the rationalization of the field offices of the United Nations system and the system of resident co-ordinators;

8. Also requests the Director-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system and taking into account the present resolution, to indicate, in his annual report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, measures taken to ensure a greater decentralization of activities at the field level;

9. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to examine in detail measures that can be taken to ensure further flexibility, simplification and harmonization of procedures for programme and project formulation, implementation and evaluation, so as to adapt them to the needs and priorities of developing countries, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988;

10. Also requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to address the issue of the quality of expertise provided by the system and the timely delivery of project inputs;

11. Requests all organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide adequate financial support for the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Unit of the United Nations Development Programme, so as to enable it to provide more comprehensive information on the procurement activities of the United Nations system;

12. Requests the Director-General, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme and other appropriate executing agencies of the United Nations system, to design innovative, practical and effective measures to increase substantially procurement from developing countries, giving priority to locally and regionally available equipment and services, in operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and present them to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, and requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify its efforts in this regard;

13. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to offer, upon request, the use of its field offices for its own as well as for agency administrative backstopping to Governments that opt for government execution of projects, but do not consider themselves in a position to fully execute projects themselves; and, in this context, requests the Programme to apply flexibility in the criteria for the use of government execution and to review its reporting procedures with a view to simplifying them;

14. Requests United Nations funding agencies, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to follow strict procedures, focusing on proven technical expertise and guaranteed technical backstopping, when selecting executing agencies to be proposed to recipient countries;

15. Invites the governing bodies of appropriate funding agencies of the United Nations system to review the procedure with regard to the 13 per cent support costs reimbursed to United Nations agencies for project execution, with a view to achieving healthy competition among agencies, decreasing project costs and guaranteeing technical backstopping, and to present the results of that review to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council;

16. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to provide information to all field offices on programmes involving technical co-operation among developing countries offered by various developing countries;

17. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.