



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.2/42/SR.26  
9 November 1987  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.22

1. Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.22, entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people", on behalf of the sponsors. The draft, which was based on Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/77, adopted with only one dissenting vote and no abstentions, dealt in essence with mobilizing resources to implement the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people set out in the Secretary-General's report (A/42/289); the draft resolution stipulated that assistance to the occupied Palestinian territories must be disbursed solely for the benefit of the Palestinian people and in a manner that would not serve to prolong the Israeli occupation. As the draft resolution was of a humanitarian nature, he hoped that it would be supported by all countries.
2. Mr. HARAN (Israel) said that if any country was prepared to assist the Palestinian people, it was Israel. In fact, Israel had created an atmosphere which had led to a significant improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people. It was utterly false that the Israeli authorities had exploited the international community's assistance to their own benefit. Actually, Israel was co-operating fully with the United Nations, and particularly with UNDP, which had already sponsored an assistance programme for the Palestinian people. When UNDP had adopted that programme at the explicit request of certain Arab countries, Israel had not objected at all. On the contrary, it had tried to facilitate the programme's execution in so far as possible. Yet the UNDP Administrator had stated that only \$8 million was currently available to finance that programme, even though outstanding projects totalled \$56.7 million (DP/1987/23, para. 8). The Arab countries did have resources, however. According to the quarterly bulletin of the Bank of England, their free reserves amounted to more than \$US 400 billion. Logically, the draft resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people should have noted that contradiction and appealed to the Arab countries to increase their financial support.
3. Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen), speaking on a point of order, said that the representative of Israel appeared to be introducing a draft resolution which bore no relationship to the one currently before the Committee.
4. The CHAIRMAN recalled that delegations were entitled to express their views on draft resolutions during informal consultations and when the Committee considered them formally. In keeping with the Committee's practice, the representative of Democratic Yemen was simply introducing the draft resolution in the Committee.
5. Mr. HARAN (Israel) pointed out that, if a delegation made additional comments when introducing a draft resolution, it was logical that other countries should take the floor in order to express their own point of view, especially if elements had been omitted from the draft in question.

6. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Syrian Arab Republic had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.32

7. Mr. BEN MOUSSA (Morocco), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.32, entitled "International Decade for Natural Hazard Reduction", on behalf of his own country and Japan, said he was particularly appreciative of the fact that Japan had decided to join in sponsoring the draft resolution. It was indeed rare for a draft to be sponsored simultaneously by a developing country and a developed country. Like Japan and a number of developing countries, Morocco had occasionally suffered from the vagaries of nature. In introducing such a draft resolution, however, he was not seeking to promote any special interests. His delegation wished to support the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance the responsiveness of the United Nations system in emergencies and disasters, wherever they might occur. All countries not being equal in the face of misfortune, those at a disadvantage must be given special assistance. Scientific and technological advances now made it possible to reduce natural hazards. His delegation appealed once again to all countries to sponsor the draft resolution and participate in the consensus for its adoption.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.26

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.26.

9. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.26 was adopted without a vote.

Draft decision A/C.2/42/L.27

10. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision A/C.2/42/L.27.

11. Draft decision A/C.2/42/L.27 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.28

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.28.

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.28 was adopted without a vote.

Draft decision A/C.2/42/L.30

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Committee wished to adopt draft decision A/C.2/42/L.30.

15. Draft decision A/C.2/42/L.30 was adopted without a vote.

16. U MAUNG MAUNG GYI (Burma) thanked the Committee for having adopted the draft decision, which was of great importance for his country.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(c) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/42/L.29)

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.29

17. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.29, entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development", said that her delegation had placed particular emphasis on the institutional aspects of that problem. She hoped that the draft resolution would guide the substantive work of the Second Committee on questions relating to women and development and would encourage the participation of United Nations intergovernmental bodies that dealt with economic and development issues. She was open to any suggestions and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

(f) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.24

18. Mr. FALL (Senegal) introduced the draft resolution.

19. The CHAIRMAN announced that Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, the Sudan and Togo had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

(g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued) (A/C.2/42/L.23)

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.23

20. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) introduced the draft resolution, the text of which was virtually identical to that of General Assembly resolution 40/201.

21. The CHAIRMAN announced that Tunisia had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

22. Mr. HARAN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Pakistan, in introducing draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.23, had claimed that the Secretary-General's report (A/42/183) had noted a deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. However, the report, which was in fact nothing more than a covering note, said no such thing, any more than did the report of a seminar on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, to which the note referred. That was no doubt the reason why the representative of Pakistan had felt compelled to provide statistics, taken from who knew where, indicating that the territories had supposedly lost 90 per cent of their water resources. That allegation was groundless; in fact, figures showed that, since 1967, agricultural production in the territories had tripled.

(Mr. Haran, Israel)

23. The draft resolution represented a new attempt to inundate the Committee with reports, since it called for a study in addition to those requested by the Commission on Human Settlements, UNCTAD and the UNEP Governing Council. While reports were of course preferable to shooting, he did not think that the role of the United Nations was to draft a report the minute a problem arose.
24. Mr. UMER (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the arguments once more advanced by the representative of Israel were pure fabrication and accordingly did not merit consideration. He would therefore confine his intervention to three points. First, the representative of Israel had tried to shelter behind the statistics compiled and published by his own Government. The voting on resolution 40/201, adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 1985, clearly demonstrated the international community's disbelief in such statistics, because 153 Member States had voted for that resolution which enunciated the principles and values referred to in draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.23. Second, occupation meant the abolition of political, economic and social rights. If the living conditions of the Palestinian people were as good as the representative of Israel claimed, why was it continuing to fight for its freedom? The answer was clear: to free itself from the yoke of the occupying Power. The representative of Israel had also referred to the Secretary-General's report, quoting it entirely out of context. The draft resolution merely thanked the Secretary-General for his report. Lastly, Israel objected to the various studies proposed concerning the needs of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, but the General Assembly, like UNCTAD and the Governing Council of UNEP, was perfectly entitled to carry out such studies and could not be prevented from doing so.
25. Mr. HARAN (Israel) replied that, contrary to the assertion of the representative of Pakistan, the figures supplied by his delegation were not fabricated but were all, without exception, taken from official United Nations statistics, whereas nobody knew where the statistics mentioned by the representative of Pakistan came from. The representative of a military dictatorship was hardly in a position to pronounce on the living conditions of the Palestinians: the World Bank Atlas showed that, after many years of dictatorship, less than 32 per cent of the population of Pakistan had any schooling. If such was the case in the territories administered by Israel, it would have failed miserably.
26. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said he was amused by the reference to military dictatorship made by the representative of Israel, who should update his information. Pakistan was a democratic country, and its Government had come to power following free elections on the basis of universal suffrage, held more than two years before. It was even more ironic that the representative of a country which had violated all known rules of decency and all international laws should be talking of a military dictatorship and that a State that had openly defied world opinion and had ignored the will of the international community should have the gall to talk about dictatorship and democracy.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.25

27. Mr. HERNANDEZ ALCERRO (Honduras) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.12

28. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bahrain, Brazil, France, Italy, Kuwait, Madagascar, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

29. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) proposed that paragraph 4 of the draft resolution should be amended as follows: in the second line of the English text, the word "nominate" should be replaced by "appoint" and, in the fourteenth line of the English text, the word "therein" should be replaced by "in Lebanon".

30. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.12, as orally amended.

31. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.12, as orally amended, was adopted without objection.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.15

32. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) proposed the following amendments to the draft resolution: the words "continue to" should be inserted between "To" and "assess" in paragraph 5 (b), and the words "the Secretary-General" should be replaced by "the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme" in the first line of paragraph 6.

33. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cameroon and Japan had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

34. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would consider draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.15, as orally amended, adopted.

35. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.15, as orally amended, was adopted without objection.

36. Mr. TOROU (Chad) thanked the Committee for adopting the draft resolution; it was of great importance to his country which, after many reverses, was on the way to recovery.

Draft resolution A.C.2/42/L.16

37. The CHAIRMAN announced that Austria, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, China, the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Italy, Ghana, Iceland, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the German Democratic

(The Chairman)

Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sweden had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) announced that further consultations on the draft resolution would be needed.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that consideration of the draft resolution would be postponed until a later date.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.17

40. The CHAIRMAN announced that Ethiopia had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

41. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.17.

42. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.17 was adopted without objection.

43. Mr. FAIZ (Maldives), briefly describing the dangers for his country of a rise in the sea level, expressed his gratitude to the Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.18

44. The CHAIRMAN announced that Italy, Japan, Panama and the United States of America had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

45. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.18.

46. Draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.18 was adopted without objection.

47. Mr. MEZA (El Salvador) expressed his gratitude to the Committee.

48. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) welcomed the adoption of draft resolutions on assistance to Lebanon, Chad, the Maldives and El Salvador, because his country took an active part in improving the situation in those countries.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

(a) Scheduling of agenda item 84 (Training and research)

49. The CHAIRMAN read out a proposal of the Bureau that the general debate on item 84 (Training and research) should be postponed from 4 November to 17 November, because the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring plan for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) had not been issued on time.

50. Mr. MULLER (Australia) said that that report should be distributed sufficiently in advance so that delegations could give it careful study and consult their capitals.

51. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) said that he was deeply concerned at the delay in preparing the report and wondered whether the Committee would not have to postpone once again its decision on the future of UNITAR to a future session - whereas it had been established precisely to consider questions of that kind - and whether it would have sufficient time for an in-depth study of the restructuring plan for UNITAR.

52. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) regretted that the Secretary-General's report on the restructuring plan for UNITAR had not yet been issued, despite the fact that the special session of the UNITAR Board of Trustees had ended on 27 October.

53. Mr. PAULSEN (Norway) said that he was extremely surprised to learn that there had been yet another delay in issuing the Secretary-General's report; in the circumstances, the remissness of the Secretariat left much to be desired.

54. Mr. BAKER (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the Secretariat would endeavour to distribute the report as soon as possible.

55. The CHAIRMAN said that he would convey the Committee's deep displeasure to the Secretary-General and to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Delegations would have sufficient time to study the report, and the Committee would hold an additional meeting if necessary.

56. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the Bureau's proposal.

57. It was so decided.

(b) Reporting procedure of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development

58. Mrs. MORENO (Mexico) agreed with the Chairman of the Group of 77 that the vast majority of Member States were opposed to the proposal on the reporting procedure of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, introduced by the representative of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation at the Committee's 22nd meeting on 23 October 1987. The proposal left much to be desired and was contrary to the resolutions, adopted both by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its ninth session and the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its thirteenth session, confirming the autonomy of those two bodies. The adoption and implementation of that proposal could threaten the balance which had been achieved with difficulty in the United Nations and prevent the Organization from acting in certain sensitive sectors. To subscribe to the proposal would be to prejudge the results of the work of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields.



(Mrs. Moreno, Mexico)

59. The conclusions of recently published studies by allegedly private entities whose ideology did not permit them to support international co-operation, such as the Heritage Foundation, only increased the anxiety of a number of delegations. She regretted that that Foundation had vehemently attacked the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and had called for its elimination. It was essential that the delicate balance which had been achieved in the Organization should not be changed before the Special Commission had submitted its conclusions.
60. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Tunisia) said that the Special Commission must examine any possible change in the structure, functions and methods of work of intergovernmental bodies.
61. Mr. BROWN (Canada) shared the concerns of the representative of Mexico. It was the duty of the Special Commission to examine the work of intergovernmental organizations.
62. Mr. MORENO-FERNANDEZ (Cuba) said that his delegation fully shared the views of the representative of Mexico. Any measure adopted before the Special Commission submitted its conclusions would be provisional and should therefore be avoided. Moreover, it was distressing that the reports of the Heritage Foundation tended to become the official position of certain delegations.
63. Mr. DAWSON (United States of America) said that his delegation had participated actively in the work of the Special Commission and considered that it was the responsibility of the Special Commission to study the operation of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the Centre on Transnational Corporations. The Heritage Foundation was a private body which enjoyed full freedom of expression and whose views were not necessarily those of the United States Government.
64. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) requested more information on the practical implications of the proposal. In any case, the Secretariat should adhere strictly to the resolutions which had been adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.
65. The CHAIRMAN said that any efforts to restructure the intergovernmental mechanism of the United Nations should be made after the report of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council had been submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

Press releases in French

66. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Tunisia) requested that press releases in French should be reinstated as a matter of urgency.
67. Mr. OULD EL GAOUTHE (Mauritania) protested against the discontinuance of press releases in French, which hindered the work of often very small French-speaking delegations, and requested that French press releases should be reinstated as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.