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ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE
PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION



Text submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I*

International Development Strategy for the Third
United Nations Development Decade

CONTENTS

Section

- I. Preamble
- II. Goals and objectives
- III. Policy measures
- IV. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the new
International Development Strategy

I. PREAMBLE

1. In launching the Third United Nations Development Decade for the 1980s, Governments rededicate themselves to the fundamental objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They reaffirm solemnly their determination to establish a new international economic order. To this end, they recall the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International

* The remainder of the text will be submitted as addenda to the present document.

Economic Order 1/ of the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 2/ and the resolution on development and international economic co-operation 3/ adopted by the Assembly at its seventh special session, which laid down the foundations for the establishment of the new international economic order.

2. The adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade 4/ was an important step in the promotion of international economic co-operation for development. However, the limitations of a strategy when, conceived within the framework of the existing system of international economic relations, soon became obvious. Inequities and imbalances in these relations are widening the gap between developed and developing countries, constitute a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries and adversely affect international relations and the promotion of world peace and security. Mid-way through the Decade, the world community called for a fundamental restructuring of international economic relations and embarked upon its quest for a new international economic order.

3. The goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade remain largely unfulfilled. In addition, the present negative trends in the world economy have adversely affected the situation of developing countries and, as a result, have impaired their growth prospects. Developing countries have been hit particularly hard by the continuing economic crisis due to the greater vulnerability of their economies to external factors. The present difficult international economic environment has particularly aggravated the special problems facing the least developed countries and other developing countries, particularly those in the special categories, where development needs and problems are greatest, and the poorest sections of the population. The stark reality confronting mankind today is that close to 850 million people in the developing world are living at the margin of existence - enduring hunger, sickness, homelessness and absence of meaningful employment.

4. The international economy remains in a state of structural disequilibrium. It is characterized by a slower growth rate accompanied by a continuing trend of high inflation and unemployment, prolonged monetary instability, intensified protectionist pressures, structural problems and maladjustment and uncertain long-term growth prospects. In an interdependent world economy, these problems cannot be solved without resolving the particular problems facing the developing countries. Furthermore, accelerated development of developing countries is of vital importance for the steady growth of the world economy and essential for world peace and stability.

1/ General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974.

2/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.

3/ General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975.

4/ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.

5. The current difficulties should not deter the world community from the imperative to restructure international economic relations. The challenge of development calls for a new era of effective and meaningful international co-operation for development responsive to the needs and problems of the developing countries.

6. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade is an integral part of the continuing efforts of the international community to accelerate the development of developing countries and to establish a new international economic order and is directed towards the achievement of its objectives. These call, in particular, for equitable, full and effective participation by developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions in the field of development and international economic co-operation with a view to bringing about far-reaching changes in the structure of the present international economic system on a just and equitable basis and the full permanent sovereignty of every State over its resources and economic activities.

7. The new International Development Strategy aims at the promotion of the economic and social development of the developing countries with a view to reducing significantly the current disparities between the developed and developing countries, as well as the early eradication of poverty and dependency, which, in turn, would contribute to the solution of international economic problems and sustained global economic development, and would also be supported by such development on the basis of justice, equality and mutual benefit. The International Development Strategy is a vast undertaking involving the entire international community for the promotion of international development co-operation.

8. The development process must promote human dignity. The ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom. In this context, a substantial improvement in the status of women will take place during the Decade. In this perspective, economic growth, productive employment and social equity are fundamental and indivisible elements of development. The International Development Strategy should, therefore, fully reflect the need for the adoption of adequate and appropriate policies, to be defined by each country within the framework of its development plans and priorities, for movement towards the realization of this ultimate goal of development. The pace of development in the developing countries as a whole should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve these objectives.

9. The primary responsibility for the development of developing countries rests upon themselves. Effective action by the international community, however, is indispensable for the creation of an environment that is fully supportive of the national and collective efforts of the developing countries for the realization of their development goals. For their part, the developing countries will continue to place increasing emphasis on collective self-reliance among themselves as a means of accelerating their development and contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order.

10. The most pressing problems and deteriorating situation of the least developed countries require particular attention, and special and effective measures will be taken for the elimination of the basic constraints facing these countries and to ensure their accelerated development. Likewise, specific measures and actions will be taken to meet the special and pressing problems of the land-locked, island and most seriously affected developing countries.

11. Specific regional problems of developing countries, where they exist and are included in regional development strategies, such as the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, ^{5/} will also be taken into account through effective and adequate measures within the framework of the general policy measures adopted in favour of all developing countries.

12. Urgent action should be taken by all the members of the international community to end without delay colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, interference in internal affairs, apartheid, racial discrimination, hegemony, expansionism and all forms of foreign aggression and occupation, which constitute major obstacles to the economic emancipation and development of the developing countries.

13. Full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of every country, abstention from the threat or use of force against any State, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and the settlement by peaceful means of disputes among States are of the utmost importance for the success of the International Development Strategy. There should be concrete progress towards the goals of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, including the urgent implementation of measures of disarmament, which would release substantial additional resources which could be utilized for social and economic development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

14. It is essential to mobilize public opinion in all countries and particularly in the developed countries, in order to obtain their full commitment to the goals and objectives and to the implementation of the present Strategy. Recognizing the important role of legislative bodies in contributing to realistic preparation and effective implementation of national economic and social development plans, the support of members of legislative bodies will be essential for the implementation of the International Development Strategy.

15. Governments designate the 1980s as the Third United Nations Development Decade and pledge themselves, individually and collectively, to fulfil their commitment to establish a new international economic order based on justice and equity. They subscribe to the goals and objectives of the Strategy and firmly resolve to translate them into reality by adopting a coherent set of interrelated concrete and effective policy measures in all sectors of development. These goals and objectives and policy measures are set out in the paragraphs below.

^{5/} See A/S-11/14, annex I.