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Agenda item 83

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Canada, Denmark, Netherlands and Norway: draft resolution

Operational activities for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system,

Recalling further its resolutions 33/201 of 20 January 1979, 38/171 of 19 December 1983 and 41/171 of 5 December 1986 concerning operational activities for development,

Recognizing that a real increase in the flow of concessional resources from developed countries, either through direct bilateral aid or through multilateral organizations, on a predictable, continuous and assured basis is important for the development of the developing countries,

Reaffirming that economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be a significant dimension of operational activities for development and that technical co-operation among developing countries as understood in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 1/ and endorsed by the General

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum).

Assembly in resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, is a critical instrument in this respect, and taking note of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its fifth session, 2/

Reaffirming also that the operational activities for development supported by the United Nations system are undertaken at the request of developing countries in accordance with their priorities for development,

Recalling its resolution 37/226 of 20 December 1982, in which, inter alia, it invited the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the President of the World Bank to examine the possibility of further co-operation between the two institutions,

Noting with concern the shortcomings reported by the Secretary-General 3/ in the discharge by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, through its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions, of the responsibilities envisaged for it as the forum for the consideration by the organizations of the United Nations system of central matters relating to operational activities for development, including their co-ordination,

Believing that coherence and co-ordination would be greatly enhanced if the resident co-ordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system were enabled to discharge their duties and responsibilities as defined in General Assembly resolution 32/197 and reiterated in resolution 41/171,

Considering it essential that developing countries participate in operational activities for development in accordance with their capacities, some countries possibly making the transition from beneficiaries of conventional technical assistance to agents of development in other developing countries,

Taking note of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and regional commissions, 4/

Also taking note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Field representation of organizations of the United Nations system: structure and co-ordination", 5/

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

3/ A/42/232-E/1987/68, para. 59.

4/ A/42/110 and A/42/305.

5/ A/42/424.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for undertaking, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 41/171 and with the support of extrabudgetary resources, case-studies on the functioning of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

2. Welcomes the report on the findings of the case-studies 6/ and expresses interest in its conclusions and recommendations;

3. Invites the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to discuss in detail the conclusions and recommendations of the report and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988;

4. Invites the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of a thorough review of the opinions expressed, to propose to the General Assembly at its forty-third session measures concerning the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the comments provided by some of the organizations of the United Nations system in response to elements of resolution 41/171; 7/

6. Affirms the importance of United Nations programmes of technical co-operation as instruments for fostering the development of human resources and institutional structures that enhance the capacities of countries to plan and implement development strategies, policies, programmes and projects in accordance with their own aspirations;

7. Considers it necessary to place priority emphasis on accelerating human resource and institutional development in the least developed and low-income countries with the greatest needs in those areas, through, inter alia, increased United Nations participation in African economic recovery and development programmes;

8. Recognizes the important role in the United Nations development system that should be played by the United Nations Development Programme in assisting Governments in defining their technical assistance needs, reaffirms the role of the United Nations Development Programme as the central funding agency for United Nations technical co-operation programmes, and urges Governments to take that role fully into account;

9. Requests the Director-General to review the implementation of the concept of central funding of technical assistance and to report on constraints in that respect to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

6/ A/42/326-E/1987/82/Add.1, annex.

7/ A/42/326-E/1987/82/Add.2, annex, and Add.4, annex.

10. Calls for a substantial increase in the flow of concessional resources from a broader range of countries in a position to provide such resources, for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

11. Takes notes with concern of the observation in the report of the Director-General 8/ that the United Nations Development Programme country programme and the country-programming process in their present form are not utilized as a frame of reference for the operational activities carried out and financed by the organizations of the United Nations system from their own resources or other sources;

12. Requests the Director-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in pursuit of improved coherence of action and the effective integration of programmes at the country level, jointly to examine the realistic scope for a common programming process and, in consultation with the executive heads of the other appropriate organizations of the United Nations development system, to identify those agencies and resources to which such an approach would be most applicable and set out the main elements of this process, its relationship to the United Nations Development Programme country-programming process and the manner of participation of specialized agencies, and requests the Director-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

13. Reaffirms the important role of the Economic and Social Council in overseeing and enhancing the co-ordination of the operational activities of the United Nations system and considers that the further strengthening of that function could usefully be discussed by the Special Commission of the Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields;

14. Welcomes as a potentially significant contribution towards improved coherence and co-ordination, the joint programming activities of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and requests the Director-General, together with the executive heads of the JCGP member organizations of the Group, namely the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Food Programme, to inform the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the nature and scope of the joint programming activities and to comment on the feasibility and scope of possible collaboration on substantive issues at headquarters; looks forward to receiving a report from the Director-General on the views of the members of the Group on the advantages and disadvantages of operating a unified field service for United Nations organizations; considers that that subject could usefully be discussed in detail by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme; and requests the Director-General, in close consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to comment on the scope for wider application of the approach of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy;

8/ A/42/326-E/1987/82/Add.1, annex, para. 21.

15. Requests the Secretary-General to take measures and to propose new legislation, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) in relation to the operational activities of the system, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

16. Strongly urges Governments, in accordance with their own needs, and organizations of the United Nations system to avail themselves of the services of the resident co-ordinators as envisaged in resolutions 32/197 and 41/171, and requests that Governments and organizations, in considering proposals for projects, solicit the views of the resident co-ordinator;

17. Requests the Director-General, in close collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to prepare for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination an inter-agency agreement setting out the modalities for enabling the resident co-ordinators to discharge their leadership role and functions, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

18. Also requests the Director-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to assess the resources required by resident co-ordinators to carry out their increasing responsibilities, especially with respect to activities not directly related to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

19. Stresses the urgent need to increase procurement from developing countries and from sources that are at present under-utilized, considers that the data base on which to assess procurement trends system-wide needs significant improvement, and requests the Director-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, to develop proposals for common practices within the United Nations system for the compilation and reporting of procurement information related to operational activities, including information on the sources of experts, training and equipment, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council, which could then, as appropriate, recommend to the governing bodies of the organizations of the system the adoption of common reporting practices;

20. Reiterates the importance attached to the integration of women in United Nations development programmes, as beneficiaries and as participants in the implementation of programmes, calls on the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify efforts to increase the participation of women as experts and consultants, invites the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to instruct their secretariats to intensify such efforts and requests the Director-General to report on steps taken by the organizations of the United Nations system engaged in operational activities to promote the participation of women in development;

21. Reiterates its request to governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to pay particular attention to the need to rationalize field representation and invites them to review, in consultation with the host

Governments concerned, the need for all existing field offices, to consider the feasibility of co-location with the UNDP field offices and to ensure that new field offices are established only if the necessary services cannot be provided in any other way, and requests the Secretary-General to report annually on developments in the field representation of the organizations of the United Nations system;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in the review by the member organizations of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the pattern of their field offices, and invites other organizations of the United Nations system to participate in this review;

23. Notes the growth of World Bank lending for technical assistance and the resulting need for close co-ordination between the Bank and the organizations of the United Nations system that provide grants for technical co-operation and therefore requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Governing Council on an appropriate framework for co-operation with the Bank, including the treatment of technical assistance needs in the context of consultative group meetings and round-table conferences;

24. Endorses the concept of sustainable development articulated by the World Commission on Environment and Development 9/ as a central element of the development policy of the operational activities of the United Nations system, and invites the governing bodies of the organizations of the system to review and consider internal policies, programmes and practices to enhance the ability of organizations to respond to the needs of developing countries in that respect;

25. Reaffirms the role envisaged in resolution 32/197 for the regional commissions in the operational activities of the United Nations system, both as participants in the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required and as executing agencies in the specified circumstances.

9/ A/42/427, annex.