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MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1983

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part I)

Rapporteur: Mr. Carl C. PEDERSEN (Canada)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled: "Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.
2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th and 16th meetings, on 24 and 25 September and 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10 and 14 October 1980.
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983; 1/
 - (b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twentieth session; 2/
 - (c) Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1978-1979 (A/C.5/35/1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2);
 - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on identification of output in the programme budget of the United Nations (A/C.5/35/2);
 - (e) Report of the Secretary-General on model medium-term plans (A/C.5/35/3 and Corr.1);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/35/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38).

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on a draft calendar for the preparation of the proposed medium-term plan 1984-1989 (A/C.5/35/4 and Corr.1);

(g) The relevant portions of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/35/7);

(h) The relevant portions of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/35/3/Add.28 and 36).

4. The comments and observations made in the course of the discussion of the item and the replies to queries raised are reflected in the summary records of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/35/SR.3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 16).

5. At the 13th meeting, the representative of India introduced the following draft decision (A/C.5/35/L.7) on behalf of Canada, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia, and announced that Barbados, Burundi, Sweden and Trinidad and Tobago had joined as co-sponsors:

"The General Assembly

"1. Takes note of the relative real growth rates for major programmes proposed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its report 3/ and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council; 4/

"2. Decides to endorse the other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, taking into account the reservations and comments made thereon in the framing and consideration of the report, except for:

"(a) The recommendation in paragraph 321 that the phrase 'of an unforeseeable nature' in resolution 31/93 be deleted;

"(b) Paragraph 365 (b) (ii) of the report; 5/

"3. Endorses those revisions to the medium-term plan of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the period 1980-1983 agreed to by the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget;

3/ A/35/38.

4/ Economic and Social Council decision 1980/179.

5/ A/35/38.

"4. Believes that revisions to the medium-term plan should include changes recommended by intergovernmental bodies as a result of their reviews of the response of the system to existing mandates;

"5. Requests, to this end, that intergovernmental bodies establish lines of communication with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in order to convey their views and concerns on programmes within their areas of competence;

"6. Considers that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should not continue to set relative real growth rates, and requests the Committee, at its twenty-first session, to determine new criteria and methods to be employed in setting programme priorities;

"7. Requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in setting programme priorities, to take into account the views on subprogramme priorities of the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies in the fields of their competence;

"8. Reiterates that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should analyse the proposed programme budget in order to assess whether programme priorities have been respected;

"9. Emphasizes the importance of the satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 339 of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination report, 6/ so that it is able to give the proposed programme budget its considered attention;

"10. Reaffirms its belief that the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, after the necessary preparations envisaged in Economic and Social Council decision 1980/185, should afford the specialized agencies the opportunity to discuss problems of mutual interest with the intergovernmental body designated by the General Assembly, with a view to improving the efficiency of the system;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General and the heads of all specialized agencies to ensure their personal participation in those meetings, in order that they may serve the purpose envisaged for them by the General Assembly;

"12. Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the measures it has taken to implement paragraph 56, section VII, of the annex to resolution 32/197."

6. At the 16th meeting, the representative of India, on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Uganda, introduced a revised

6/ Ibid.

draft decision (A/C.5/35/L.7/Rev.1) which incorporated the following changes to draft decision A/C.5/35/L.7:

(a) Paragraph 2 was revised to read as follows:

"2. Decides to endorse the other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, taking into account the reservations and comments made thereon in the framing and consideration of the report in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly, except for:

(a) The recommendation in paragraph 321 that the phrase "of an unforeseeable nature" in resolution 31/93 be deleted;

(b) The recommendation in paragraph 364 (b), on Human Settlements;

(c) Paragraph 365 (b) (ii) of the report;"

(b) The words "and as a result of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/225" were added at the end of paragraph 4;

(c) Paragraph 5 was revised to read as follows:

"5. Requests intergovernmental bodies regularly to review programmes within their areas of competence in order to convey in time their views and concerns on such programmes to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;"

(d) Paragraph 9 was revised to read as follows:

"9. Emphasizes the importance of the satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 339 and 340 of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination report, 4/ so that the budget proposals are ready by the end of April 1981, and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination is able to give the proposed programme budget its considered attention;"

(e) The words "in its resolution 31/93 and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2008/60" were added between the words "General Assembly" and "with a view to" in paragraph 10.

The representative of India also stated that the words "agreed to" in paragraph 3 of the revised draft decision should be replaced by "accepted".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/35/L.71/Rev.1, as orally revised, without objection (see para. 8).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Medium-term plan for the period 1981-1983

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the relative real growth rates for major programmes proposed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its report 7/ and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council; 8/

2. Decides to endorse the other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, taking into account the reservations and comments made thereon in the framing and consideration of the report in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, except for:

(a) The recommendation in paragraph 321 that the phrase "of an unforeseeable nature" in resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 be deleted;

(b) The recommendation in paragraph 364 (b), on Human Settlements;

(c) Paragraph 365 (b) (ii) of the report; 9/

3. Endorses those revisions to the medium-term plan of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the period 1980-1983 accepted by the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget;

4. Believes that revisions to the medium-term plan should include changes recommended by intergovernmental bodies as a result of their reviews of the response of the system to existing mandates, and as a result of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/225 of 20 December 1979;

5. Requests intergovernmental bodies regularly to review programmes within their areas of competence in order to convey in time their views and concerns on such programmes to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

6. Considers that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should not continue to set relative real growth rates, and requests the Committee, at its twenty-first session, to determine new criteria and methods to be employed in setting programme priorities;

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38).

8/ Economic and Social Council decision 1980/179.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38).

7. Invites the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in setting programme priorities, to take into account the views on subprogramme priorities of the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies in the fields of their competence;

8. Reiterates that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should analyse the proposed programme budget in order to assess whether programme priorities have been respected;

9. Emphasizes the importance of the satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 339 and 340 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, 10/ so that the budget proposals are ready by the end of April 1981, and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination is able to give the proposed programme budget its considered attention;

10. Reaffirms its belief that the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, after the necessary preparations envisaged in Economic and Social Council decision 1980/185 of 25 July 1980, should afford the specialized agencies the opportunity to discuss problems of mutual interest with the intergovernmental body designated by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/93 and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, with a view to improving the efficiency of the system;

11. Requests the Secretary-General and the heads of all specialized agencies to ensure their personal participation in those meetings, in order that they may serve the purpose envisaged for them by the General Assembly;

12. Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the measures it has taken to implement section VII, paragraph 56, of the annex to resolution 32/197.

10/ Ibid.