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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

New international human order: moral aspects of development

Report of the Second Committee (Part XIII)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a general discussion on item 71 (see A/37/680, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-items (o) and (p) was considered at the 37th, 43rd, 44th, 46th and 48th meetings, on 16, 23 and 29 November and 2 and 13 December 1982. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.2/37/SR.37, 43-44, 46 and 48).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/37/L.78 and A/C.2/37/L.121

2. At the 43rd meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.78) entitled "Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries", which read as follows:

"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,

"Reaffirming that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, 1/ states, inter alia, that as essential priority within the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the least developed countries - the economically weakest and poorest countries with the most formidable structural problems - require a special programme of sufficient size and intensity consistent with their national plans and priorities to make a decisive break from their past and present situation and their bleak prospects,

"Recalling resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2/ which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979,

"Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries 3/ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

"Reaffirming also that the main objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action are to promote the structural changes necessary to overcome the extreme economic difficulties of the least developed countries, to provide fully adequate and internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport and communications, housing and education as well as job opportunities to all their citizens, to identify and support major investment opportunities and priorities, and to mitigate the adverse effects of natural disasters,

1/ Resolution 35/56.

2/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

"Stressing the immediate need for greatly expanded support measures, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources from all developed countries, developing countries in a position to do so, multilateral development and financial institutions and other sources, for the realization of the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

"Emphasizing the need for improvements in aid modalities and practices and their responsiveness to the requirements of the least developed countries,

"Expressing deepest concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries and their dismal development, even after adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

"Noting with concern that the resource flows to the least developed countries has declined, adversely affecting the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 4/

"1. Emphasizes that, in view of their desperate socio-economic plight, the least developed countries need the urgent and special attention and the large-scale support on a continuous basis of the international community to enable them to progress towards self-reliant development, consistent with the plans and programmes of each least developed country;

"2. Calls upon all Member States, as well as multilateral development and financial institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and all others concerned to take immediate, concrete and fully adequate measures and steps to accelerate implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;

"3. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement their commitments, as contained in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve, in that regard, a substantial increase of resources for the development of the least developed countries;

"4. Calls upon all Member States, as well as multilateral development and financial institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and all others concerned to give their full support to aid consultative groups or other arrangements to be established at the initiative of the least developed countries in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

"5. Recommends strongly that the first round of review meetings at the country level on implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Programme should be completed by 1983;

"6. Requests all donors and multilateral development, financial and technical assistance institutions to participate in these review meetings at an appropriately high level with a view to providing support to the implementation of the individual countries' plans and programmes;

"7. Calls upon donor countries and institutions to improve urgently the quality and effectiveness of official development assistance, as called for in paragraph 70 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

"8. Urges all developed countries and multilateral development and financial institutions to take immediate concrete measures and steps to help the least developed countries to overcome adverse effects of global recession;

"9. Urges all donor countries, particularly developed countries, to make adequate special allocations to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, as well as through other suitable channels for the least developed countries, and, for that purpose, invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue his efforts to mobilize additional resources for the activities under his administration;

"10. Decides that regular review and monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels should be undertaken as envisaged in the Programme to maintain the momentum of commitments made by the international community and to promote the implementation of the plans and programmes of the least developed countries with a view to achieving accelerated growth rates and structural transformation of their economies;

"11. Renews the invitation to the governing bodies of appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take the necessary and appropriate measures for effective implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action within their respective spheres of competence and mandate;

"12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to make arrangements, including the provision of substantive secretariat services for the round-table meetings for the least developed countries, where necessary, and specifically for the round-table meeting for least developed countries in the Asia and Pacific region, to be held from 9 to 18 May 1983 at the United Nations Office in Geneva;

"13. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Co-operation to continue, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and lead agencies for the aid consultative groups, to ensure at the Secretariat level the full mobilization and co-ordination of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a comprehensive report for the sixth session of the Conference on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action with specific recommendations for ensuring its full and expeditious implementation;

"15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, in the light of the outcome of the sixth session of the Conference and other developments, on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.121) submitted by Mr. George Papadatos, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.78.

4. At the same meeting, after a statement by the representative of Bangladesh (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.121 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.121, the sponsors withdrew draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.78.

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the United States of America and Bulgaria (also on behalf of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

7. At the 37th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Philippines introduced and orally revised a draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.40) entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development". The draft resolution, as revised, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind certain of the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, such as to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

/...

"Recalling that, as set forth in Article 55 of the Charter, the United Nations shall promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

"Noting that the United Nations has not fully and effectively achieved its objectives, as embodied in the Charter, in the field of economic and social development,

"Recalling also the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 5/ the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 6/ the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 7/ and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 8/

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization 9/ in which it is stated, inter alia, that it has unquestionably been more difficult for the United Nations to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends, one being the solution of a whole spectrum of issues related to social and economic development,

"Stressing that the primary responsibility for the development of developing countries rests with them but that it will not be possible for them to meet desired development goals unless a just and equitable international economic order is established and economic and social disparities are reduced, particularly under the present conditions which are characterized by deep recession, uncontrolled inflation, deterioration of world trade and protectionism,

"Conscious that all countries have a vital role in and will benefit from the establishment of a New International Economic Order, the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the launching of the global negotiations, in order to achieve the economic stability and well-being of all countries which are prerequisites for the preservation of a world order in which all States have a vital stake,

5/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966.

6/ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974.

7/ Resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974.

8/ Resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980.

9/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/37/1).

"Recognizing that the failure of development has been due, in large measure, to the lack of political will, co-operation and understanding and a full appreciation of the reality of interdependence and common interest among States,

"Believing that all countries and peoples have to draw from the moral well-springs of equity, justice, mutual understanding and co-operation in the resolution of the economic and social ills that afflict mankind today,

"Recognizing that it is in the interests of all States members of the international community that the developing countries are able to achieve their development goals and that the developed countries have a moral responsibility to assist in facilitating this process,

"Realizing the need to promote the simultaneous attainment of economic and social goals and to create a condition of global growth and prosperity based on a new international human order which emphasizes the moral and humanistic approach to development,

"1. Appeals again to the international community, particularly the developed countries, to contribute substantially to global economic and social development, especially the development of developing countries;

"2. Decides that, in view of the lack of political will, co-operation and understanding and a full appreciation of the reality of interdependence and common interest among all States in the solution of the world's economic and social problems, there is an urgent need to draw on the basic moral principles of equity, justice, and co-operation which dictate that developed countries and other countries in a position to do so have a moral obligation and responsibility to assist the developing countries in the context of a new international human order based on a moral and humanistic approach to development;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a draft declaration on a new international human order: moral aspects of development with the assistance of a small intergovernmental group of experts to be selected on the basis of equitable geographical representation and to be financed from voluntary contributions;

"4. Takes note of the offer of the Government of the Philippines to contribute to the cost of this undertaking;

"5. Requests Governments to submit their comments on the question of a declaration of a new international human order: moral aspects of development on or before 30 June 1983, taking into account the discussions of the General Assembly on this matter;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on this question which will contain the draft declaration and the comments of Governments, as called for in paragraphs 3 and 5, to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session."

8. At the 44th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.90) entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development".

9. At the 46th meeting, on 2 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.90 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

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,

Reaffirming that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, 10/ stated, inter alia, that, as an essential priority within the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the least developed countries - the economically weakest and poorest countries with the most formidable structural problems - require a special programme of sufficient size and intensity consistent with their national plans and priorities to make a decisive break from their past and present situation and their bleak prospects, 11/

10/ Resolution 35/56.

11/ Ibid., annex, para. 136.

Recalling resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 12/ which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979,

Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries 13/ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming also that the main objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action are to transform the economies of the least developed countries towards self-sustaining development, to promote the structural changes necessary to overcome the extreme economic difficulties of the least developed countries, to provide fully adequate and internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport and communications, housing and education as well as job opportunities to all their citizens, to identify and support major investment opportunities and priorities, and to mitigate the adverse effects of natural disasters,

Stressing the immediate need for greatly expanded support measures, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources from all developed countries, developing countries in a position to do so, multilateral development and financial institutions and other sources, for the realization of the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Emphasizing the need for improvements in aid modalities and practices and their responsiveness to the requirements of the least developed countries,

Expressing deepest concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries and their dismal development, even after adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Noting with concern that the present external resource flows to the least developed countries are not in line with the substantial increases envisaged in the Substantial New Programme of Action, thus contributing to the slow implementation of the Programme,

Noting with appreciation the progress made by some of the donor countries towards the implementation of their commitments, as contained in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

12/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

13/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 14/

1. Emphasizes that, in view of their desperate socio-economic plight, the least developed countries need the urgent and special attention and the large-scale support on a continuous basis of the international community to enable them to progress towards self-reliant development, consistent with the plans and programmes of each least developed country;
2. Calls upon all Member States, as well as multilateral development and financial institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and all others concerned to take immediate, concrete and fully adequate measures and steps to accelerate the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;
3. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement their commitments, as contained in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve, in that regard, a substantial increase in resources for the development of the least developed countries;
4. Reaffirms that the least developed countries have primary responsibility for their overall development and that, although international support measures are vitally important, the domestic policies that those countries pursue will be of critical importance for the success of their development efforts;
5. Calls upon all Member States, as well as multilateral development and financial institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and all others concerned to consider favourably giving their full support to aid consultative groups or other arrangements to be established at the initiative of the least developed countries in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;
6. Recommends strongly that the first round of review meetings at the country level on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Programme should be completed by 1983;
7. Requests all donors and multilateral development, financial and technical assistance institutions to participate in these review meetings at an appropriately high level with a view to providing support for the implementation of the individual countries' plans and programmes;
8. Calls upon donor countries and institutions urgently to improve further the quality and effectiveness of official development assistance to increase its responsiveness to the requirements of the least developed countries, as called for in paragraph 70 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

9. Urges all donor countries and multilateral development and financial institutions to take immediate concrete measures and steps in accordance with the Substantial New Programme of Action to help the least developed countries to overcome the adverse effects of global recession;

10. Also urges all donor countries to make adequate special allocations to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and to the United Nations Capital Development Fund or through other suitable channels for the least developed countries and, for that purpose, invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue his efforts to mobilize additional resources for the activities under his administration;

11. Decides that regular review and monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels should be undertaken as envisaged in the Programme to maintain the momentum of commitments made by the international community and to promote the implementation of the plans and programmes of the least developed countries with a view to achieving accelerated growth rates and structural transformation of their economies;

12. Renews the invitation to the governing bodies of appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take the necessary and appropriate measures for effective implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action within their respective spheres of competence and mandate;

13. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue supporting and making arrangements for the round-table meetings for the least developed countries, including the Round-Table Meeting for the Least Developed Countries in the Asia and Pacific Region, to be held from 9 to 18 May 1983 at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

14. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the sixth session of the Conference on the progress made in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and on measures for ensuring its full and expeditious implementation;

15. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to continue, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and lead agencies for the aid consultative groups, to ensure at the Secretariat level the full mobilization and co-ordination of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementing and following up the Substantial New Programme of Action;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, in the light of the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other developments, on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

New international human order: moral aspects of development

The General Assembly,

Noting the proposal relating to the question of a new international human order: moral aspects of development,

Realizing the need for a further elaboration of the proposal,

1. Decides to transmit the draft resolution entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development", 15/ to the Economic and Social Council, with the request that it consider the matter at its second regular session of 1983, taking into account the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;
2. Requests Governments to submit their comments on this question before 30 April 1983 to the Secretary-General, for transmission by him to the Economic and Social Council at that session;
3. Decides to take up this question at its thirty-eighth session on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.
