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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)

Rapporteur: Mr. Stoyan BAKALOV (Bulgaria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a general discussion on item 71 (see A/36/680, para. 2). Action to be taken on subitem (h) was considered at the 43rd, 44th, 47th and 48th meetings, on 23 and 29 November and 8 and 13 December 1982. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/37/SR.43, 44, 47 and 48).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/37/L.84 and A/C.2/37/L.114

2. At the 44th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.84) entitled "Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues", 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, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Recalling also its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which, inter alia, the Ad hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System was established for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Recalling further its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 34/206 of 19 December 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which process was affirmed as an integral part of the efforts required to ensure the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and by which process specific, additional tasks were assigned to the regional commissions, including the task of being the main general economic and social development centres for their respective regions, providing team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level and acting as executing agencies,

"Mindful of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the Commission shall participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and shall assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region, 1/

"Mindful in particular of the importance attached by the Commission to economic co-operation among member States, particularly at the subregional level, and to the various resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in this regard, culminating in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and the Final Act of Lagos, 2/

"Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues', 3/ the comments of the

1/ See E/CN.14/111/Rev.8.

2/ A/S-11/14, annexes I and II.

3/ A/37/119.

Secretary-General thereon, 4/ and the views of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982,

"1. Takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/63 of 30 July 1982, on regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues with respect to the Economic Commission for Africa;

"2. Endorses the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report; 5/

"3. Calls upon the Secretary-General:

"(a) To investigate new approaches to regional and subregional programming and management of the intercountry projects of the United Nations system, working closely with the organizations of the system; 6/

"(b) To initiate immediately, in consultation with all concerned United Nations organizations, an examination of the progress made thus far in the decentralization of United Nations activities and to report thereon to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to determining the specific duties, responsibilities and resources that should be decentralized and the timing of such decentralization; 7/

"(c) To provide the necessary regular budget resources to ensure that the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa are suitably staffed and equipped to carry out their basic functions, which includes the over-all direction and management of their programmes; the organization of annual meetings at both official and ministerial levels; the preparation of studies; the collection, synthesis and dissemination of information; and general research into development questions; 8/

"(d) To strengthen the status and functions of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office at United Nations Headquarters to better enable it to carry out its representation responsibilities; 9/

"(e) To ensure that the necessary measures are undertaken to implement

4/ A/37/119/Add.1.

5/ A/37/119, chap. VI.

6/ Ibid., recommendations 1 and 2.

7/ Ibid., recommendation 3.

8/ Ibid., recommendation 5.

9/ Ibid., recommendation 4.

recommendations 6 to 8 of the Joint Inspection Unit, 10/ in particular the speedy development of management services, in order to ensure that the Commission functions at optimum efficiency and effectiveness;

"4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute, under the aegis of the Commission, regional, subject-oriented and high-level interagency meetings to discuss common issues aimed at the development of firm guidelines for co-ordinated action towards attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa; 11/

"5. Urges the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to increase their exchanges of staff in order to foster the broader scheme of interregional co-operation; 9/

"6. Requests organizations of the United Nations system to assist African Governments, within the framework of the country programming process, in incorporating the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action into their sectoral country programmes and projects, and adapting them to subregional and regional priorities; 11/

"7. Invites the Secretary-General to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session."

3. A statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.84 was circulated in document A/C.2/37/L.108.

4. At its 47th meeting, on 8 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.114) submitted by Mr. Qazi Shaukat Fareed, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.84.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.84, contained in document A/C.2/37/L.108, also applied to draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.114, with the deletion of paragraph 1 (a) and paragraph 2 therefrom.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.114 without a vote (see para. 14).

10/ See A/37/119, chap. VI.

11/ Ibid., recommendation 2.

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.114, the sponsors withdrew draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.84.

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of 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).

B. Draft decisions A/C.2/37/L.72 and A/C.2/37/L.120

9. At the 43rd meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Jamaica introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/37/L.72) entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, Jamaica, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Canada. The draft decision read as follows:

"The General Assembly, having considered the draft resolution on the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, transmitted from its thirty-sixth session; 12/ the report of the Economic and Social Council on Revitalization of the Council; 13/ the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Relationships between the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and entities of the United Nations Secretariat' 14/ and 'Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues', 15/ together with the comments of the Secretary-General thereon, 16/ the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, 17/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/63 of 30 July 1982 on regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues with respect to the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, 18/ decides:

12/ A/C.2/37/L.7, annex.

13/ See A/37/3 (Parts I and II); to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/37/3).

14/ A/36/419.

15/ A/37/119.

16/ A/36/419/Add.1 and A/37/119/Add.1, respectively.

17/ A/37/439.

18/ A/36/477.

I

" (a) To welcome Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982;

" (b) To consider further the draft resolution on the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 1/ at its thirty-ninth session, in the light of the results of the consultations to be continued by the President of the Economic and Social Council and in the light of further experience of the Assembly and the Council;

" (c) To request the President of the Assembly also to undertake consultations on the subject and, in close co-ordination with the President of the Council, to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

II

" (d) To take note of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit with respect to relationships between the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and entities of the United Nations Secretariat, 19/ and of the comments thereon by the Secretary-General, 20/ as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197; 18/

" (e) To request the Secretary-General to undertake urgent implementation of the aforementioned recommendations along the lines indicated in his comments and to submit a report thereon, including proposals for further action, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

III

" (f) To take note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/63 on regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues with respect to the Economic Commission for Africa;

IV

" (g) To welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 17/ and to request him to submit a further progress report, including proposals for further action, to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

" (h) To request the Secretary-General to submit also similar reports on

19/ A/36/419, chap. VII.

20/ See A/36/419/Add.1.

the implementation of sections III, IV, V and VI of the annex to resolution 32/197 to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

V

"(i) To review the implementation of section I of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 at its thirty-ninth session;

"(j) To welcome, in this connexion, section III of decision 10/1 of 31 May 1982, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its tenth session 21/ and to request that similar consideration should be undertaken by all other subsidiary organs and bodies of the Assembly with a view to submitting their views and recommendations on modalities for implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

"(k) Requests the Economic and Social Council to submit concrete recommendations on the present section, having due regard to its own measures for revitalization, and in the light of its consideration of the views requested above, to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

VI

"(l) That future consideration of the item entitled 'Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system', will be undertaken by the Assembly once every two years, beginning with its thirty-ninth session."

10. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision (A/C.2/37/L.120) submitted by Mr. Qazi Shaukat Fareed, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/37/L.72.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/37/L.120 without a vote (see para. 15).

12. In light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/37/L.120, the sponsors withdrew draft decision A/C.2/37/L.72.

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

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming,
operations, restructuring and decentralization issues

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, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling also its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which, inter alia, the Ad hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System was established for the purpose of preparing detailed action proposals with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, and to make it more responsive to the objectives of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling further its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 34/206 of 19 December 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which process was affirmed as an integral part of the efforts for ensuring the equitable, full and effective participation of the developing countries in the formulation and application of all decisions within the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and by which process specific, additional tasks were assigned to the regional commissions, including the task of being the main general economic and social development centres for their respective regions, providing team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level and acting as executing agencies,

Mindful of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the Commission shall participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and shall assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region, 22/

Mindful in particular of the importance attached by the Commission to economic

22/ See E/CN.14/111/Rev.8.

co-operation among member States, particularly at the subregional level, and to the various resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in this regard, culminating in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and the Final Act of Lagos, 23/

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues", 24/ the comments of the Secretary-General thereon, 25/ and the views of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/63 of 30 July 1982 on regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues with respect to the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. Welcomes the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report 26/ and approves the comments of the Secretary-General thereon;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General:

(a) To investigate new approaches to regional and subregional programming and management of the intercountry projects of the United Nations system, working closely with the organizations of the system; 27/

(b) To initiate immediately, in consultation with all concerned United Nations organizations, an examination of the progress made thus far in the decentralization of United Nations activities and to report thereon to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to determining the specific authorities, responsibilities and resources that should be decentralized and the timing of such decentralization; 28/

(c) To take practical measures aimed at strengthening liaison functions between the United Nations Headquarters and the Regional Commissions, bearing in mind the role of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office; 29/

23/ A/S-11/14, annexes I and II.

24/ A/37/119.

25/ A/37/119/Add.1.

26/ A/37/119, chap. VI.

27/ Ibid., recommendations 1 and 2.

28/ Ibid., recommendation 3.

29/ Ibid., recommendation 4.

(d) To ensure that the necessary measures proposed by the Secretary-General are undertaken to implement recommendations 6 to 8 of the Joint Inspection Unit, 30/ in particular the speedy development of management services, in order to ensure that the Commission functions at optimum efficiency and effectiveness bearing in mind the ongoing consultations;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to institute, under the aegis of the Commission, regional, subject-oriented and high-level inter-agency meetings to discuss common issues aimed at the development of firm guidelines for co-ordinated action towards attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa; 31/

5. Urges the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to increase the effectiveness of the programme of their exchanges of staff in order to foster the broader scheme of interregional co-operation; 30/

6. Requests organizations of the United Nations system to assist African Governments, within the framework of the country programming process, in incorporating the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action into their sectoral country programmes and projects and adapting them to subregional and regional priorities; 31/

7. Invites the Secretary-General to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

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15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the
United Nations system

The General Assembly, having considered the draft resolution on the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, transmitted from its thirty-sixth session, 32/ the report of the Economic and Social Council on revitalization of the Council, 33/ the reports of the Joint

30/ See A/37/119, chap. VI.

31/ Ibid., recommendation 2.

32/ A/C.2/37/L.7, annex.

33/ See A/37/3 (Parts I and II); to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/37/3).

Inspection Unit entitled "Relationships between the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and entities of the United Nations Secretariat" 34/ and "Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues", 35/ together with the comments of the Secretary-General thereon, 36/ the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, 37/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/63 of 30 July 1982 on regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues with respect to the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, 38/ decides:

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- (a) To welcome Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982;
- (b) To request the President of the General Assembly, in close co-ordination with the President of the Economic and Social Council, to undertake consultations regarding the organization and rationalization of work of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;
- (c) To further transmit the draft resolution entitled "Implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" 32/ to its thirty-ninth session;

II

- (a) To note section III of decision 10/1 of 31 May 1982, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its tenth session; 39/
- (b) To invite its other subsidiary intergovernmental organs and bodies in the economic and social fields, if they deem it desirable, also to consider similar

34/ A/36/419.

35/ A/37/119.

36/ A/36/419/Add.1 and A/37/119/Add.1 respectively.

37/ A/37/439.

38/ A/36/477.

39/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, annex.

possibilities and to submit their views and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its second regular session of 1984;

(c) To invite the Economic and Social Council to submit concrete recommendations on this section of the present decision, having due regard to its own measures for revitalization and in the light of its consideration of the views and recommendations requested above, to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

III

To endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/63 on regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues with respect to the Economic Commission for Africa;

IV

To take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197; 37/

V

(a) To take note of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit with respect to relationships between the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and entities of the United Nations Secretariat, 40/ and of the comments made thereon by the Secretary-General, 41/ as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197; 38/

(b) To request the Secretary-General to undertake implementation of the aforementioned recommendations along the lines indicated in his comments;

VI

(a) To review the implementation of all aspects of its resolution 32/197 during its next consideration of the subject "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", which will be undertaken at its thirty-ninth session and thereafter only once every three years, without prejudice to future decisions of the Assembly regarding the periodicity of such consideration;

(b) To request the Secretary-General, in this regard, to submit a report, including, as appropriate, proposals for further action, on the implementation of sections III to VIII of the annex to resolution 32/197 to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

40/ A/36/419, chap. VII.

41/ See A/36/419/Add.1.