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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ejeviome Eloho Ootobo (Nigeria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/43/L.42 and L.44

Operational activities for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/171 of 5 December 1986 and 42/196 of 11 December 1987,

Stressing that the primary objective of the operational activities of the United Nations system is to promote the self-reliance of developing countries through multilateral co-operation and, in this context, emphasizing the need to maintain its multilateral character,

Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Government of the recipient country for formulating national development plans, priorities and objectives, as set out in the consensus contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), and emphasizing that the integration of the operational activities of the United Nations system with national programmes would enhance the impact and relevance of those activities,

Emphasizing the central role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as forums for overall policy guidance and co-ordination of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the central funding and co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme in technical co-operation within the United Nations system, in conformity with the consensus of 1970 and General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Reaffirming further that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of all developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Bearing in mind the urgent and specific needs of the least developed countries,

Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development to overcome their economic difficulties,

Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 1/

Recalling also its resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988 on the special plan of economic co-operation for Central America,

Reiterating the importance attached to the integration of women in United Nations development programmes, both as agents and as beneficiaries of development, calling on the funding and executing agencies to intensify efforts to increase the participation of women, especially those from developing countries, and reiterating its request to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, taking into account the requirements of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/86 of 8 July 1987 in this regard, to report on such efforts and on the establishment of mechanisms for generating baseline information and measuring results,

1. Takes note of the report of the Economic and Social Council; 2/
2. Takes note also of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system; 3/
3. Notes the encouraging result of the 1988 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and stresses the continuing need for a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis;
4. Urges all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity;

1/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

2/ A/43/3.

3/ A/43/426-E/1988/74 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2.

5. Requests the Director-General, in the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, to report fully on the implementation thus far of Assembly resolutions 41/171 and 42/196, and to prepare his reports in a comprehensive manner, setting out the interrelationship among problems and factors where appropriate, identifying options available and putting forward his specific recommendations including possible scenarios for their implementation;

6. Reaffirms the primary responsibility of recipient Governments for co-ordinating development assistance at the country level, stresses the need for improved functioning of co-ordination of the United Nations system at the country level, and requests the Director-General:

(a) To report on the action taken by governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system in response to paragraph 24 of Assembly resolution 42/196 to review and rationalize their field office structures, to enhance co-operation, coherence and efficiency, and to make comments on possible improvements in the field structure from those standpoints;

(b) In this context, to make specific proposals for enhancing the functioning of the resident co-ordinator system, including proposals on the inter-agency agreements concerned, within the framework of the role of the resident co-ordinators described in Assembly resolutions 32/197, 41/171 and 42/196;

(c) In the context of paragraphs (a) and (b) above, to make specific proposals on ways and means of achieving the objective of the provision to recipient Governments by the United Nations system at the field level of technical advice in a multisectoral and integrated manner, including the deployment of substantive and technical competence, as envisaged in Assembly resolution 32/197 and stressed in paragraph 24 of Assembly resolution 42/196;

(d) To provide information on the roles of the United Nations Development Programme resident representative and the United Nations resident co-ordinator with respect to the field representation of the organizations of the United Nations system;

7. Emphasizes the importance of flexibility, simplification and harmonization of procedures for operational activities of the United Nations system, so as to increase the responsiveness of those operational activities to the needs and priorities of recipient countries, to reduce the administrative burden on those countries and to allow them to better manage and co-ordinate external assistance, requests the Director-General to make specific proposals on those subjects in his report, as requested by the Assembly in resolution 42/196, and reiterates the view that decentralization of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the field level should, within established principles of accountability, foster appropriate flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of developing countries, and reiterates its request for information on measures taken by organizations of the system in this regard;

8. Requests the Director-General to submit his recommendations on innovative, practical and effective measures to increase substantially procurement

from developing countries for consideration during the triennial policy review to be undertaken in 1989, taking into account the need for the full implementation of the preferential arrangements for developing countries and making maximum use of national institutions and firms of those countries, as well as giving due regard to regional comparative advantage consistent with the principle of international competitive bidding and bearing in mind the need to take concrete measures to achieve equitable geographical distribution of procurement through the increased utilization of supply sources from developing and underutilized donor countries;

9. Stresses that technical co-operation among developing countries should become a widely used modality for development co-operation within the United Nations development system and in this connection draws the Director-General's attention to the need for formulating specific proposals for consideration during the triennial review;

10. Urges all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Director-General in the implementation of Assembly resolutions 41/171 and 42/196 and to provide all the information requested in those resolutions;

11. Urges the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of operational activities, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the existing subregional economic groupings, as appropriate, to provide increased support, as a matter of priority, to African countries in the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the priority themes of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990; 1/

12. Emphasizes the crucial importance of adequate preparations for the second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, taking into account the priorities put forward by those countries themselves, and notes with appreciation decision 88/30 of 1 July 1988 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Administrator of the Programme was requested, in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to enable the least developed countries to participate fully in the preparations, including preparatory meetings, for the Conference and in the Conference itself;

13. Welcomes decision 88/50 of 1 July 1988 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, adopted in response to paragraph 34 of Assembly resolution 42/196, to initiate consideration by a group of experts of the successor arrangements for support costs from the standpoint of the best ways of meeting the requirements of developing countries;

14. Invites the Governing Council, when considering the successor arrangements for support costs to take into consideration the possibilities of the new arrangements promoting coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of action by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system;

15. Invites the Governing Council to examine the current practices in the designation of executing agencies for projects under regional, interregional and global programmes, taking into account the desirability of utilizing the services of relevant and competent United Nations organs and programmes;

16. Invites the Governing Council to consider at its thirty-sixth session, in 1989, the following:

(a) The question of holding its future sessions and the future session of its subsidiary bodies at United Nations Headquarters;

(b) The possibility of changing its name to "Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund", and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council;

17. Welcomes the conducting by the United Nations Population Fund of a review and assessment of its experience in the field of population and requests that an appropriate summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session session;

18. Invites States members of the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to address the issue of operational activities for development in the governing bodies of those organs and organizations, with a view to arriving at a co-ordinated and system-wide approach to this issue.
