



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/43/L.79
2 December 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 82 (b)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the
Committee, Mr. Ejeviome Eloho Otobo (Nigeria), on the
basis of informal consultations held on draft
resolution A/C.2/43/L.57

Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Reiterating the call for specific action in favour of island developing countries contained in Assembly resolution 41/163 of 5 December 1986 as well as resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976, 1/ 111 (V) of 3 June 1979 2/ and 138 (VI) of

1/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

2 July 1983 3/ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as resolution 86/33 of 27 June 1986 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the special needs of island developing countries, 4/

Recognizing that, in addition to the general problems facing developing countries, island developing countries also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of the ecosystem, constraints in transport and communications, great distance from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining fresh water supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a few commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration particularly of high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

Recognizing further that many of the above factors occur concurrently in island developing countries, resulting in economic and social vulnerability and dependence, particularly in those that are small and/or geographically dispersed,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 41/163 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;

2. Expresses its appreciation to States, and organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system that have responded to the special needs of island developing countries;

3. Welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in convening a meeting of a Group of Experts on Island Developing Countries at Valletta in May 1988, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Malta for acting as host to the meeting;

4. Takes note of the report of the Valletta meeting and of the report of the Secretary-General on specific problems and special needs of island developing countries; 5/

5. Welcomes the efforts made by island developing countries to adopt policies that address their specific problems, including efforts at regional co-operation and integration and calls upon them to continue to pursue, in

3/ Ibid., Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 9 (E/1986/29 and Corr.1), annex I.

5/ A/43/513 and Corr.1.

accordance with their national objectives, policies and priorities, further measures to render their economies less vulnerable to the adverse consequences of their specific situation;

6. Calls upon States, particularly those in a position to do so, international organizations and multilateral development and financial institutions;

(a) To maintain and if possible increase the level of concessional financial and technical assistance provided to island developing countries;

(b) To maximize access of island developing countries to concessional financial and technical assistance by taking into account the specific development needs and problems facing those countries;

(c) To consider reviewing the mechanisms of existing procedures used in providing concessional resources to island developing countries;

(d) To ensure that assistance conforms to the national and, as appropriate, regional priorities of island developing countries;

(e) To provide support to island developing countries over a mutually agreed and, where appropriate, longer time-frame to enable them to achieve economic growth and development;

(f) To consider improving existing arrangements for the compensation of island developing countries against adverse effects on their export earnings and to consider wider adoption of such arrangements;

(g) To continue to ensure that a concerted effort is made to assist island developing countries, at their request in improving their administrative capacity, and in satisfying their overall needs with regard to the development of human resources;

7. Calls upon the international community to consider improving measures, within existing trade arrangements, in favour of island developing countries according to their special circumstances, taking into account particularly the special needs and problems of small island developing countries;

8. Requests Governments of host countries, in accordance with their national immigration policies, to give consideration to the special needs of island developing countries, particularly those with small populations, high population density and limited development prospects;

9. Urges once again relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries and to report on such measures, as appropriate;

10. Urges the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen its role as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries and to act as a catalyst in this regard,

inter alia, by organizing and facilitating the cross-regional interchange of information and experience in full co-operation with regional and subregional organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, as appropriate;

11. Calls upon the Secretary-General, taking into account work already done on this issue, including that envisaged in paragraph 10 above, to identify within the appropriate inter-agency framework the problems of island developing countries, in particular those of small island developing countries, in order to elaborate specific measures that the international community might take to address those problems;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and donor countries and organizations to review the problems of island developing countries and propose appropriate concrete action with respect to those countries;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

