



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/38/702/Add.11
16 December 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 78 (m)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

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

Report of the Second Committee (Part XII)

Rapporteur: Mr. Policarpo ARCE-ROJAS (Colombia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 78 (see A/38/702), para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (n) was considered at the 50th and 55th meetings, on 25 November and 9 December 1983. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/38/SR.50 and 55).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/38/L.74 AND L.96

2. At the 50th meeting, on 25 November, the representative of Mexico introduced, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/38/L.74), 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 the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade relating to the least developed countries, 1/

"Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 2/ adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

"Recalling its resolutions 36/194 of 17 December 1981 and 37/224 of 20 December 1982,

"Expressing serious concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts at development, even two years after the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and stressing the immediate need for greatly expanded support measures, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources from all countries, in particular developed countries, multilateral development and financial institutions and other sources for the realization of the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

"Recognizing that only a substantial increase in official development assistance in real terms during the present decade will enable the least developed countries to achieve the objectives of their country programmes within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action in accordance with aid targets and modalities contained in the Programme, and emphasizing that external assistance complements and reinforces domestic efforts in the least developed countries themselves,

"Alarmed at the devastating impact of the current world economic crisis on the least developed countries,

"Deeply concerned at the painfully slow pace at which the Substantial New Programme of Action is being implemented,

"Recalling resolution 142 (VI) of 2 July 1983 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 3/ on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,

1/ Resolution 35/56, annex, paras. 136-155.

2/ 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.

3/ See TD/325. To be issued in Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6).

"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 deteriorating socio-economic situation, 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. Reaffirms the commitments of the international community to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, and urges all countries, international institutions and others concerned to implement fully and effectively their commitments under the Substantial New Programme of Action;

"3. Welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its sixth session of resolution 142 (VI) on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, reflecting the unanimous support of the international community;

"4. Urges the international community to implement fully and effectively the Substantial New Programme of Action and to provide financial assistance to the least developed countries in amounts and on terms which correspond to their immediate and long-term development needs, and also urges that those donors that have made specific commitments with respect to aid targets to the least developed countries but have not fulfilled them should do so promptly, accept a doubling of their official development assistance or the attainment of 0.15 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to the least developed countries, and implement it by 1985;

"5. Calls upon the international community, as a matter of priority:

"(a) To support the least developed countries in their efforts to attain internal and external balance in their economies;

"(b) To help in maximizing capacity utilization of the productive economic units;

"(c) To support the efforts of the least developed countries to increase their per capita food and agriculture production, so as to improve the nutritional situation of their populations and achieve food security;

"(d) To provide financial and technical assistance for the research, exploration and development of energy resources in the least developed countries;

"6. Calls upon the bilateral development partners and international organizations:

"(a) To assist the least developed countries to create industries for local and on-the-spot processing of raw materials and food products;

"(b) To assist in the development of integrated projects for the expansion of exports and provide adequate resources to overcome all supply bottle-necks;

"(c) To promote long-term arrangements for the sale of the export products of least developed countries and to have Governments and international institutions, as a matter of policy, seek to purchase some of their supplies from least developed countries;

"7. Urges the international community to provide the least developed countries, as recommended in paragraph 85 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, with financial resources, particularly for the development of ports, roads, rural tracks and railways in least developed countries, from United Nations organizations and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as financial resources and technical assistance to train the required manpower and to set up indigenous training institutions;

"8. Urges all donor countries to make adequate special allocation 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, including other existing funds and resources of the United Nations, to assist in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue his efforts to mobilize additional resources for the activities under his administration;

"9. Urges developed countries:

"(a) To implement promptly and fully Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978, 5/ and to convert all outstanding bilateral official development assistance loans into grants for all the least developed countries without discrimination;

"(b) To take the necessary measures to extend relief to the least developed countries for private debts;

"10. Urges all countries concerned:

"(a) To take immediate steps to fulfil their commitment to provide official development assistance to the least developed countries fully in the form of grants;

"(b) To provide loans on highly concessional terms, at least as concessional as those provided by the International Development Association, and to take urgent steps to fulfil their commitments to provide official development assistance grants and loans to the least developed countries on an untied basis without discrimination;

"(c) To improve the quality and effectiveness of aid and eliminate the time-lag between aid commitment and disbursement;

"(d) To implement the recommendations of the Second Meeting of Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries; 6/

"11. Affirms the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its sixth session relating to assistance to least developed countries in the spirit of collective self-reliance and in the context of economic co-operation among developing countries, as contained in resolution 142 (VI) of the Conference;

"12. Recommends strongly that the first round of review meetings at the national level on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action to be held in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Programme, should be completed by 1983 or soon thereafter;

"13. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to make arrangements in this regard, including the provision of substantive secretariat services for the round-table meetings for the least developed countries, as and when required;

"14. Reaffirms that regular review and monitoring of the progress made 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;

"15. Urges all donor countries and institutions to respond expeditiously to the regular questionnaires of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the steps they are taking to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action, on a regular basis, so as to permit an objective assessment of the progress made in the implementation process;

"16. Renews the invitation to the governing bodies of appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take the necessary

6/ See TD/B/933.

and appropriate measures for effective implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action within their respective spheres of competence and mandates;

"17. Invites the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to take into account the adoption and implementation process of the Substantial New Programme of Action and related developments in its review and appraisal exercise at all levels, for appropriate action;

"18. Decides to convene, as part of the preparation for the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, a Third Meeting of Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to take the necessary action in this regard; the Meeting should in particular:

"(a) Undertake a review and assessment of the economic situation of the least developed countries and of assistance requirements for their accelerated progress;

"(b) Evaluate and advance relevant recommendations to improve aid practices and management, notably as regards terms and conditions of aid, adapting assistance criteria to the specific needs of the least developed countries, types of aid and priority areas, administration and management of aid programmes, and technical assistance;

"(c) Evaluate the results of the individual country meetings convened in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Substantial New Programme of Action and make recommendations aimed at improving the co-ordination of assistance programmes;

"19. Reaffirms its decision that the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its high-level meeting in 1985, should carry out, inter alia, the mid-term review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, 7/ and urges that all necessary steps be taken to ensure appropriate preparations for an in-depth review on that occasion, stressing the importance of the timely preparation of the necessary documentation, including specific recommendations for the full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent organizations, as requested in the Programme;

"20. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in conformity with paragraph 123 of the Substantial New

Programme of Action, 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 the 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, having regard to the mid-term global review to be held in 1985;

"21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. A statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.74 was circulated in document A/C.2/38/L.84.

4. At its 55th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/38/L.96) submitted by Mr. Phillip Gibson, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.74.

5. The Committee was informed that the administrative and financial implications contained in document A/C.2/38/L.84 also applied to draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.96.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.96 (see para. 9).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.96, draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.74 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

8. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the German Democratic Republic (on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mexico (on behalf of the Group of 77), Iraq and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

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 the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade relating to the least developed countries, 8/

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 9/ and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolutions 36/194 of 17 December 1981 and 37/224 of 20 December 1982,

Expressing serious concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts at development, as well as efforts made by the international community, including donor countries, even two years after the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and stressing the immediate need for greatly expanded support measures, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources for the realization of the objectives of the Programme,

Bearing in mind the debt problems faced by the least developed countries,

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,

Recognizing that only a substantial increase in official development assistance in real terms during the present decade will enable the least developed countries to achieve the objectives of their country programmes within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action in accordance with aid targets and modalities contained in the Programme, and emphasizing that external assistance complements and reinforces domestic efforts in the least developed countries themselves,

8/ Resolution 35/56, annex, paras, 136-155.

9/ 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 .

Alarmed at the negative impact of the current world economic crisis on the least developed countries,

Deeply concerned at the very slow pace at which the Substantial New Programme of Action has been implemented so far,

Recalling resolution 142 (VI) of 2 July 1983 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 10/ on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, 11/

1. Emphasizes that, in view of their deteriorating socio-economic situation, 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. Reaffirms the commitments of the international community to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and urges all countries, international institutions and others concerned to implement fully and effectively their commitments under the Programme;

3. Welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its sixth session of resolution 142 (VI) on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, reflecting the unanimous support of the international community;

4. Urges donor countries, within the overall context of the Substantial New Programme of Action as adopted and of progress towards the 0.7 per cent target, to attain 0.15 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance or to double their official development assistance to the least developed countries by 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter, and recognizes the importance to the least developed countries that flows of official development assistance to them be doubled by 1985, in relation to the transfers to them during the period 1976-1980;

5. Calls upon the international community to provide support measures for the efforts of the least developed countries in the priority sectors established by the Governments of the least developed countries in their country programmes and embodied in the Substantial New Programme of Action,

10/ See TD/325. To be issued in Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6).

11/ A/38/471.

particularly in food and agriculture, manufacturing industries, exploration and development of energy and natural resources, human resources development, expansion and diversification of exports, development of transport and communications, and improvement in planning, implementation and management capabilities;

6. 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;

7. 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, including other existing funds and resources of the United Nations, to assist in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue his efforts to mobilize additional resources for the activities under his administration;

8. Stresses the critical importance of the International Development Association to the least developed countries, calls upon Governments to implement speedily their commitments undertaken with regard to the sixth replenishment of the Association and urges negotiations on the seventh replenishment to be completed as soon as possible and at an adequate level;

9. 'Urges developed donor countries that have not yet done so to implement fully and rapidly the commitments undertaken in pursuance of section A of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978, 12/ in respect of least developed countries, and calls upon developed countries to respond in a positive manner to requests from individual least developed countries, taking into account the particular circumstances and the requirements of the situation of the debtor country, for an alleviation of their debt burden resulting from official development assistance loans provided by the developed country concerned;

10. Welcomes the provision by some donors of assistance to least developed countries fully in the form of grants, as well as in more flexible forms such as local and recurrent costs financing, maintenance aid, rehabilitation aid, as well as balance-of-payments support, adapted to the special needs of the least developed countries and in response to their deteriorating economic and social situation, and urges other donors to take similar steps as a general rule;

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/33/15 and Corr.1) vol. I, part two, annex I.

11. Calls upon donor countries to provide official development assistance to the least developed countries on an untied basis to the maximum extent possible;

12. Urges all donors and all concerned to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid and to reduce, to the maximum extent, the time-lag between aid commitment and disbursement;

13. Also urges countries and institutions concerned to implement, to the maximum extent possible, the agreed recommendations of the Second Meeting of Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries; 13/

14. Reaffirms the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its sixth session relating to assistance to least developed countries in the spirit of collective self-reliance and in the context of economic co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 142 (VI) of the Conference; 10/

15. Recommends strongly that the first round of review meetings at the national level on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action to be held in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Programme should be completed by 1983 or soon thereafter, without prejudice to the timing of the global review in 1985;

16. 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, as required;

17. Reaffirms that regular review and monitoring of the progress made 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;

18. Urges all countries, particularly donor countries, and institutions to respond expeditiously to the questionnaires of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the steps they are taking to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action, on a regular basis, to be used in making an objective assessment of the progress made in the implementation process;

19. 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 mandates;

13/ See TD/B/933.

20. Invites the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to take into account the adoption and implementation process of the Substantial New Programme of Action and related developments in its review and appraisal exercise at all levels;

21. Requests the Trade and Development Board, at its twenty-eighth session, to take a decision on the convening, as part of the preparation for the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, of a Third Meeting of Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries, taking into account the wish of the least developed countries; the Meeting should, inter alia:

(a) Undertake a review and assessment of the economic situation of the least developed countries and of assistance requirements for their accelerated progress;

(b) Evaluate and advance relevant recommendations to improve aid practices and management, notably as regards terms and conditions of aid, adapting assistance criteria to the specific needs of the least developed countries, types of aid and priority areas, administration and management of aid programmes, and technical assistance;

(c) Evaluate the results of the individual country meetings convened in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Substantial New Programme of Action and make recommendations aimed at improving the co-ordination of assistance programmes, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to take the necessary action in this regard;

22. Reaffirms its decision that the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its high-level meeting in 1985 should carry out, inter alia, the mid-term review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, 14/ and urges that all necessary steps be taken to ensure appropriate preparations for an in-depth review on that occasion, stressing the importance of the timely preparation of the necessary documentation, including specific recommendations for the full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent organizations, as requested in the Programme;

23. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in conformity with paragraph 123 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, 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, taking into account, in particular, the mid-term global review to be held in 1985;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.
