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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

New international human order: moral aspects of development

Report of the Second Committee (Part XIII)

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 30th and 39th meetings, on 4 and 14 November 1983. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/38/SR.30 and 39).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/C.2/38/L.6 AND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/38/L.14 AND A/C.2/38/L.36

2. By its decision 1983/171 of 25 July 1983, the Economic and Social Council decided, inter alia, to transmit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a draft resolution entitled "Declaration on a new international human order: moral aspects of development" (see A/C.2/38/L.6) which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Adopts the following Declaration:

"DECLARATION ON A NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF
DEVELOPMENT

"We, the Members of the United Nations,

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

"Recalling that, as stated 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,

"Recognizing that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1/ and the Declarations of the Rights of the Child, on Social Progress and Development, on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on the Rights of Disabled Persons, on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 2/ reflect the concern of the United Nations for all members of the human family,

"Also bearing in mind that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 3/ sets a common standard of human rights and obligations to be achieved for all peoples and that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realized,

"Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 4/ the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States 5/ and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 6/

"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,

"Reaffirming the principles contained in those covenants, conventions and declarations, particularly that:

1/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

2/ Resolutions 1386 (XIV), 2542 (XXIV), 36/55, 2263 (XXII), 3447 (XXX), 2856 (XXVI) and 1904 (XVIII).

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

4/ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

5/ Resolution 3281 (XXIX).

6/ Resolution 35/56, annex.

"(a) The recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

"(b) These rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person,

"(c) The ideal of human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can be achieved only in conditions in which everyone is guaranteed the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights,

"(d) The obligations of States under the Charter of the United Nations include the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"(e) The individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he belongs, has a responsibility to promote and respect the rights of his fellow human beings,

"Stressing that the primary responsibility for the development of developing countries rests with them and that it will greatly facilitate their efforts to meet desired development goals under a just and equitable international economic order if economic and social disparities are reduced among peoples and nations,

"Recognizing that a contributing factor to the failure of development has been the lack of political will, co-operation and understanding and of a full appreciation of the reality of interdependence and common interest among peoples and 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 interest of all States members of the international community that the developing countries should be able to achieve their development goals, and that the developed countries have a moral responsibility to assist in facilitating that 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,

"Reaffirming that human beings, as well as States, constitute the membership of the international community,

"Solemnly proclaim our common determination to establish and enhance the development and evolution of a new international human order, with emphasis on the moral aspects of development, based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, common interest and co-operation among all States, regardless of their political and economic systems, and on the principles of equality, mutual respect and co-operation among all peoples;

"And to that end

"Declare that:

"I

"1. The growth and progress of societies, and the stability of Governments and States, are inextricably and inseparably linked to the growth, progress and stability of the human being;

"2. The growth and development of the human being is the fundamental goal of any society, Government or State;

"3. The development of a human being must consist in a balanced development of body and mind and of spiritual faculties;

"4. The human being - man, woman or child - is simultaneously the subject and the object of development;

"5. As the subject of development, the human being should be the ultimate beneficiary of the development process;

"6. The development process must aim at furthering the collective well-being and happiness of all humankind;

"7. Governments and States are in the best position to provide the environment that would ensure the balanced development of the human being and his self-realization;

"8. In order to provide for such an environment, development must, inter alia, aim towards the following goals:

"(a) Meeting the basic needs and wants of human beings, which are essential for the sustenance of life under acceptable standards of living;

"(b) Furthering the economic betterment of all peoples;

"(c) Improving their quality of life by providing the minimum elements in their pursuit of happiness and meaning beyond mere existence and subsistence;

"(d) Helping in the fulfilment of the human being in his wholeness and in the total realization of his economic, social and spiritual needs and aspirations;

"II

"1. In order to achieve a new international human order, development programmes should be designed and carried out at the level of the people, who are the principal instruments and beneficiaries of the development process; development should be carried out to the full extent of popular participation,

/...

the people who are the beneficiaries of development being fully involved so as to ensure that their interests are respected, and bearing in mind that popular participation is necessary for the success of development programmes;

"2. A new international human order also requires the strengthening and expansion of programmes of assistance to refugees, the disabled, the physically handicapped and the aged; the United Nations should similarly sustain and expand assistance to children; it should extend assistance programmes to human beings in the greatest need, regardless of sex, race or religion, bearing in mind that all humankind is the concern of the United Nations;

"3. States, in pursuit of the new international human order, should furthermore work towards the implementation of United Nations declarations on, inter alia, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, international co-operation for disarmament, the suppression and punishment of the crime of apartheid and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, the protection of the human environment and the establishment of a new international economic order;

"4. It is in the interest of the international community if nations and peoples in a position to do so assist the less well-endowed among them, and that the former have a moral responsibility to facilitate the process of economic and social development of the latter;

"5. In order to achieve a new international human order, all States, Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and entities, as well as individuals, are called upon to use all efforts to apply the principles and to attain the goals set forth in the present Declaration."

3. At the 30th meeting, the representative of the Philippines introduced a draft resolution entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development" (A/C.2/38/L.14) and orally revised operative paragraph 4 by replacing the words "to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session of the comments thus received, and to submit his own comments on this question" by the words "to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a report on the preparation of the draft declaration". The draft resolution, as orally revised, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 37/225 of 20 December 1982, entitled 'New international human order: moral aspects of development',

"Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Council on its consideration of this question, 7/ and Council decision 1983/171 of 25 July 1983,

7/ See A/38/3 (Part II), paras. 61-64. To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/38/3).

"Taking note also of the comments of Governments on the question, 8/ and of statements made during the second regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council and at the current session of the General Assembly,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to finalize the draft declaration on a new international human order: moral aspects of development as contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council decision 1983/171, with the assistance of a small ad hoc group of governmental experts to be selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and to be financed by voluntary contributions;

"2. Urges Member States that have not yet done so to submit their comments on this question, and Member States that have already done so to submit additional comments, particularly on the draft declaration;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General and the ad hoc group of governmental experts to take into account the comments of Governments on this question in finalizing the draft declaration;

"4. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a report on the preparation of the draft declaration;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the sub-item entitled 'New international human order: moral aspects of development'."

4. At the 39th meeting, on 14 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development" (A/C.2/38/L.36) submitted by Mr. Faruq Ziada, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/38/L.6 and on draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.14.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Venezuela proposed to amend the title of the sub-item referred to in operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.36 by adding the words "and international economic co-operation" to the end of the sub-item.

6. After hearing statements by the representatives of the Philippines, Finland and Sweden, the representative of Venezuela agreed to withdraw his oral amendment.

7. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.36 without a vote (see para. 10).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.36, draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.14 was withdrawn by its sponsors. The Committee also decided to take no action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/38/L.6.

8/ See E/1983/68 and Add.1-3; E/1983/89.

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines and Venezuela.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

New international human order: moral aspects of development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/225 of 20 December 1982 entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development",

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Council on its consideration of this question, 9/ and Council decision 1983/171 of 25 July 1983,

Taking note also of the comments of Governments on the question, 10/ as well as statements made during the second regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council and at the current session of the General Assembly,

1. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to submit their comments on this question and Member States that have already done so to submit additional comments, particularly on the draft declaration transmitted to the General Assembly by Economic and Social Council decision 1983/171, 11/ preferably before 31 July 1985;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

3. Decides to recommend the inclusion in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the sub-item entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development".

9/ See A/38/3 (Part II), paras. 61-64. To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/38/3).

10/ See E/1983/68 and Add.1-3; E/1983/89.

11/ A/C.2/38/L.6.