

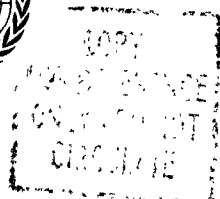
United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

*Official Records**



SECOND COMMITTEE
46th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 22 November 1983
at 10.30 a.m.
New York



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 80: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.47-L.48)

- (a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

1. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) announced that certain countries had become sponsors of the draft resolutions indicated: A/C.2/38/L.47 - Cyprus; A/C.2/38/L.48 - Cyprus, Ghana and Zaire.

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.46, L.71)

- (g) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.46

2. Mrs. MORENO (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.46 on behalf of the members of the Group of 77, said that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 had already expressed their deep concern that some developed countries were resorting more and more frequently to the application of coercive and restrictive measures as an instrument for exerting political pressure on some developing countries (A/38/494, para. 9 (f)). Those kinds of measures, in combination with the difficult economic conditions already existing, reduced still further the development possibilities of the countries on which they were imposed. Such measures should therefore be eliminated and replaced by international economic co-operation. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted and would contribute to that end.

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.71

3. Mr. GIHANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), referring to draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.71, entitled "International co-operation in the field of the environment", which the Committee had adopted at its 45th meeting, said that his delegation was convinced of the importance of international co-operation in the field of the environment and welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution. However, he wished to point out that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was experiencing serious problems with regard to its marine resources. Specifically, the catch of Libyan fishermen had been reduced to almost nothing by the operations of foreign - especially Japanese - fishing fleets in the Mediterranean. The activities of those fleets had had a particularly severe effect on catches of tuna in the region of Gibraltar. He appealed to Japan and other countries to halt such activities; otherwise, as a coastal State of the Mediterranean, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would be forced to assert its rights. In voicing its concern on the matter, his delegation wished to draw attention to the fact that the presence of foreign fleets

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(Mr. Gihani, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

in the Mediterranean constituted a threat to the peace and security of the region and thus to the environment itself.

4. His delegation was discussing the question with the Executive Director of UNEP and had participated in a number of international scientific meetings on the subject. Any draft resolution pertaining to the environment which the General Assembly might consider at its thirty-ninth session should include references to those points.

AGENDA ITEM 81: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/C.2/38/L.39-L.40, L.50-L.61, L.63-L.70)

- (a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.39-L.40, L.50-L.60, L.64-L.66

5. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) announced that a number of countries had become sponsors of the draft resolution indicated: A/C.2/38/L.39 - Burundi, Congo, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Gambia, Pakistan, Senegal and Uganda; A/C.2/38/L.40 - Cyprus and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.50 - Cyprus and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.51 - Argentina, Cyprus, France, India and Saudi Arabia; A/C.2/38/L.52 - Cyprus and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.53 - Angola, China, Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Republic of Cameroon and Vanuatu; A/C.2/38/L.54 - Cyprus and France; A/C.2/38/L.55 - China, Cyprus, France and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.56 - Cyprus, France, Niger and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.57 - Cyprus, France and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.58 - Cyprus, France, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia; A/C.2/38/L.59 - Cyprus and France; A/C.2/38/L.60 - Bangladesh, Canada, Cyprus and Sweden; A/C.2/38/L.64 - Cyprus, France and Pakistan; A/C.2/38/L.65 - Brazil, Cyprus, France, Pakistan and the United Kingdom; A/C.2/38/L.66 - Algeria, Angola, Brazil, China, Cyprus, France, Pakistan, Portugal and Sweden.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/38/L.69 and L.61

6. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69 on behalf of its sponsors, said the draft resolution was based to a large extent on Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/47 of 28 July 1983. In the third preambular paragraph, "1982" should read "1983", and in paragraph 9, the words "with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

7. He drew attention to three changes intended to clarify and improve the provisions of the Economic and Social Council resolution on which the draft was based. The first was the addition of a final preambular paragraph recognizing that the primary responsibility for providing and administering disaster relief lay with the Governments of the countries concerned. It was very important to put the role of outside donors in the correct perspective and, for that reason, the sponsors had inserted the relevant preambular paragraph from General Assembly resolution 37/144.

8. The second change was the addition of a new paragraph 8, requesting the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a small consultative group to provide advice to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. The aim was to meet the wish, expressed during the discussion, for closer ties with non-governmental donors which would make it possible to take advantage of their experience. Those ties were already good, but it was thought that they could be further enhanced by more formal arrangements.

9. The third important change was the rewording of paragraph 9, as compared with paragraph 8 of the Economic and Social Council resolution, to include the words "with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster". The reason for the change was that, as indicated by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, no voluntary contributions had so far been forthcoming to enable UNDRRO to raise the normal maximum grant for emergency disaster assistance from \$30,000 to \$50,000, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 37/144, paragraph 5. That paragraph 5 had been accepted as a compromise on the understanding that voluntary contributions would be forthcoming. Since that had proved not to be the case, the sponsors of the draft resolution thought suitable budgetary provision should be made. They hoped the resolution would receive general support in view of its constructive nature and of the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations as a central co-ordinating body in disaster relief operations.

10. Finally, he announced that Ethiopia and Jamaica had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

11. Turning to draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.61, which he introduced on behalf of its sponsors, he pointed out that it was a simple draft based on existing resolutions adopted by consensus. The final three lines of paragraph 4 of the draft should be corrected to read "and to report to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1984, and to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution".

12. Cyprus and Mauritania had added their names to the list of sponsors. He invited more countries to join them and expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

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Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.63

13. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.63 on behalf of its sponsors, said that Australia, Botswana, China, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Fiji, Mozambique, Pakistan, Seychelles, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe had added their names to the list of sponsors indicated. The draft resolution was being submitted because the efforts of the Government of Vanuatu to build up a viable social and economic infrastructure to promote the well-being of the population were being severely hampered by the country's geography, lack of resources, heavy dependence on a few commodities and generally unfavourable economic situation. Without special assistance from the United Nations and the international community to support existing aid operations and bolster the efforts of the Government, it was feared that the situation would worsen with catastrophic results.

14. Because the sponsors believed that special economic assistance was of the utmost necessity, they hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.67

15. Mr. GAMUCIO (Bolivia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.67 on behalf of its sponsors, said that the further appeal for the understanding of the international community contained in the draft resolution had been made necessary by the seriousness and persistence of the damage caused by the natural calamities which had occurred in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. The sponsors hoped that the Committee would be able to adopt the draft resolution by consensus. Algeria, Cyprus, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Suriname had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.68

16. Mrs. MORENO (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.68 on behalf of its sponsors, said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to ensure the continuation of assistance for the reconstruction and development of Nicaragua, which, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General on that question, required additional financial resources. The international community should support the economic development of Nicaragua and prevent any actions that might jeopardize such development. It was to be hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, as had been the case with earlier resolutions on that subject. Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Romania and Suriname had become sponsors of the draft resolutions.

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.70

17. Mr. RAMOS (Cape Verde), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.70 on behalf of its sponsors, said that the draft resolution was largely based on other General Assembly resolutions which had expressed the need for the continued support of the international community to combat drought in the Sahel. The operative part of the

(Mr. Ramos, Cape Verde)

draft resolution was almost the same as that of General Assembly resolution 37/165, except for the addition of operative paragraphs 2 and 5. The Second-Generation Programme, referred to in operative paragraph 5, comprised projects from the First Generation Programme as well as others referred to in the subparagraphs of paragraph 5. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 79: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/38/3 (Part II), A/38/106, A/38/494)

- (a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/258 and Add.1 and Corr.1, A/38/276, A/38/333)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (continued) (E/1983/20; A/38/516)
- (c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (continued)
- (d) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued) (A/38/410)
- (e) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME (continued)
- (f) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/293)
- (g) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued) (E/1983/21)
- (h) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued) (A/C.2/38/L.7)
- (i) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/172 and Add.1; DP/1983/18 and Add.1-2)

18. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that operational programmes were the response of the United Nations to the obligations in respect of international co-operation enshrined in the Charter, and multilateral co-operation in the form of technical and economic co-operation had been a concern of the Organization for the past 33 years. In that connection, General Assembly resolution 1240 (XIII) had established the Special Fund and had also stated that multilateral co-operation should not be a means of economic and political interference in the internal affairs of States. For that reason, each participating Government was exclusively responsible for formulating its national development plans and for participating in and benefiting from international programmes, which were voluntarily funded by the international community.

19. The results of the 1983 Pledging Conference were encouraging. A number of developed countries and many developing countries had met or exceeded the 14 per cent minimum target for the increase in contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations. Several other developing countries had made significant efforts in that direction and some of them, in spite of difficult

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(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

economic circumstances, had announced their pledges in convertible currencies. Those efforts reflected the trust of the developing countries in the multilateral system of the United Nations operating through its operational programmes.

20. At the same time, there existed a tragic and absurd situation whereby \$US 70 billion was being devoted to military expenditures in 1983, an amount equal to the total debt of the poor countries, with a thousandth part of that amount or \$US 700 million, earmarked for UNDP programmes of international co-operation in 1984. Global development remained the world's only hope for averting the danger of nuclear holocaust and contributing to the well-being of mankind. The operational programmes demonstrated that that goal was attainable if only the minimum volume of financing was provided. It was important for world public opinion to be informed of those matters, but the news media of the wealthy countries said little or nothing about the fact that 80 per cent of United Nations activities were in the sphere of development.

21. His delegation had noted with keen interest the important statements made in the Committee on multilateral co-operation. As pointed out in the report on operational activities for development (A/38/258 and Add.1), the country programming aspect of operational activities was essential. It was also essential, however, for the international community to ensure that, at the very least, operational activities were maintained at their current levels to meet the real needs of the developing world. His delegation was concerned that the trend towards bilateralism would tend to replace rather than complement multilateral programmes.

22. In a world beset by inflation, efforts must be made to maintain the real level of programme resources. Moreover, in the implementation of programmes in developing countries, it was important to recruit as many nationals as possible and to purchase equipment locally. It was also important to improve efficiency and to cut costs for administration, programme support and unnecessary travel. Project identification, inspection and assessment could be carried out by the respective Governments, many of which were highly experienced, and evaluation could be carried out within the existing budgets of the headquarters of the international agencies and with the full support of the Governments concerned. Any resulting savings could be transferred to the recipient countries in the form of projects.

23. The development programmes of the United Nations were to be commended. However, their effectiveness could be improved by eliminating inter-agency barriers, increasing co-operation and co-ordination and enhancing services in the field. Accordingly, the authority of the UNDP Administrator and Governing Council of UNDP should be strengthened. The untiring efforts of the UNDP Administrator to attain the minimum level of resources required for the third programming cycle were commendable. Among the operational activities, the population programme was outstanding, as was apparent in the enthusiastic response of recipient countries to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). In his country, population activities were an integral part of national planning. The activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme were also noteworthy. It was through such operational activities that the developed

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(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

countries could demonstrate their political determination to ensure a genuine international co-operation at a level commensurate with human needs. Efforts towards peace and development were the only civilized alternative to global crisis and violent confrontation.

24. Mr. KOBAYASHI (Japan) said that the report on operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/38/258 and Add.1) and the useful suggestions made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, would help to make the comprehensive policy review of operational activities productive. His Government had consistently supported the operational activities of the United Nations system and had, in particular, given high priority to the development of human resources in its official development assistance programme. It had made every effort to increase its level of co-operation, and its financial contributions to United Nations 1981-1982 development activities had been second only to those of the United States of America. His country intended to make every effort to make further increases in its total contributions to the development activities of the United Nations.

25. It was to be welcomed that 40 per cent of the resources for operational activities had been allocated to the least developed countries, with particular emphasis on agriculture, health and population. Programmes in the field of natural resources, including energy, had received increased attention. It was to be hoped that those trends would continue.

26. With regard to the mobilization of resources, it was a source of concern that the total estimated resources pledged to UNDP at the recent Pledging Conference had fallen below the voluntary contributions pledged to the Programme's central resources in 1980. However, that shortfall reflected not only global economic stagnation but also the fact that the original target had been overly ambitious. The Committee's discussion of ways to mobilize resources should take account of the current economic situation and financial difficulties faced by many Governments. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation of the UNDP Governing Council that all Governments should endeavour at least to maintain the real value of their contributions from year to year. New special purpose funds should not be allowed to proliferate, and all available resources should be channelled to the central resources of UNDP and the existing funds.

27. UNDP and the special purpose funds were overly dependent for their resources on the countries of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The financial burden would be shared in a truly equitable manner only when all Member States, including the socialist industrialized countries, contributed to operational activities according to their capacity.

28. While the Group of 77 had expressed concern that bilateralism was gradually supplanting multilateral economic co-operation, the respective roles of bilateral and multilateral assistance should not be underestimated. Furthermore, attempts to achieve the goals of bilateral assistance by means of multilateral programmes

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(Mr. Kobayashi, Japan)

should be discouraged. The practice of tying contributions to the procurement of goods and services should be limited and should be accepted only when tied contributions supplemented general contributions.

29. Improved inter-agency co-ordination would increase the efficiency of United Nations development activities and should involve recipient countries. His delegation was not fully satisfied with the conclusion of ACC that the role of Resident Co-ordinators should be allowed to develop in a flexible manner. An unnecessary increase in the number of regional representatives of United Nations agencies should be avoided for the sake of cost-effectiveness and efficiency; the preparation by the Resident Co-ordinators of country review reports for 1984 was an example of the type of co-operation favoured by his delegation.

30. Objective evaluation and monitoring were essential if the high calibre of United Nations programmes was to be maintained. His delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of the UNDP Governing Council Intersessional Committee of the Whole and the Programme's central evaluation unit.

31. On the issue of cost-effectiveness, his delegation was concerned that administrative expenditures accounted for an increasingly large share of resources. Further efforts should be made to increase the transparency of administrative expenditures in order to free more resources for the programme needs of recipient countries. His delegation had therefore been pleased to learn that more information on support costs should be available in 1984, when the UNDP ex post facto reporting system on agency support costs went into effect. His delegation shared the view that more responsibility should be given to personnel in the field, although overall accountability should be ensured.

32. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) said that operational activities for development had become even more important in the face of the current international economic crisis and should therefore play a larger role in solving the problems confronting the developing countries. Unfortunately, international multilateral development co-operation had weakened in recent years: while contributions to operational activities had grown slightly in nominal terms during the past three years, they had failed to grow in real terms, because of inflation and fluctuations in exchange rates. Likewise, the contributions announced at the recent Pledging Conference for Development Activities had not been equal to the needs of developing countries. As a result, United Nations agencies were increasingly forced to cut back their activities, thereby discrediting the concept of co-operation and interdependence on which the United Nations system was founded.

33. In the case of UNDP, contributions had fallen short of the indicative planning figure by 45 per cent in 1982, registering only a slight nominal growth in 1983. However, an increase of at least 7.5 per cent was required for 1985 and 1986 to sustain the current programme level. In that connection, he expressed his delegation's support for the conclusions with regard to contributions reached by the Intersessional Committee of the Whole and the UNDP Governing Council at its thirtieth session. The UNDP Administrator was to be commended for his leadership and his efforts to mobilize resources in the face of financial constraints.

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(Mr. Blain, Gambia)

34. His delegation was concerned at the decrease in pledges in 1983 to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). However, his delegation had been pleased by the increase, slight as it was, in contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Generally speaking, the increased effectiveness of operational activities required a more predictable and continued flow of resources and the important principle of voluntary contributions must be reconciled with the need for predictable resource flows. Unless the gap between the needs of developing countries and available resources was bridged, operational activities would no longer be able to contribute to the socio-economic development of the most needy countries. His delegation consequently endorsed the proposals for the mobilization of resources contained in paragraphs 95-99 of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/38/258).

35. He drew attention to paragraphs 100-104 of the Director-General's report which dealt with contributions tied to the procurement of goods and services. The increasing preference of donors for such contributions necessitated a close examination of their positive aspects; in addition, it should be ensured that such contributions were consistent with the principles of multilateralism.

36. Given the resource constraints facing UNCDF, the Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, and other funds, it was only logical that additional sources of funding should be explored. Trust funds conditioned on procurement were of vital importance to the developing countries, since what was most important to them was access to development assistance and not the modalities of such assistance. However, his delegation maintained that position only when tied contributions did not distort the development priorities of recipient countries.

37. His delegation agreed with the recommendation in paragraph 49 of the Director-General's report regarding the use of trained nationals in project implementation and welcomed the references in paragraphs 57-59 to the development of South-South co-operation. As a least developed country, the Gambia believed that the United Nations system should increase its support to the least developed countries; a shift away from multilateral and towards bilateral co-operation would have disastrous effects on those countries' development efforts. The Gambia also endorsed the action referred to in paragraph 56 of the report aimed at increasing the capacity of the system to assist African countries in the mobilization of resources to overcome their development problems.

38. The importance of improved linkages among operational activities, as described in paragraphs 60-62 of the report, could not be overemphasized. Such linkages would ensure better integration of external input into programmes; his delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of inter-agency task forces and working groups to facilitate such co-ordination. Finally, his delegation shared the view that the quality and effectiveness of United Nations programmes must be improved by all possible methods. The next review report on operational activities should contain an in-depth analysis of alternative arrangements for achieving that objective and describe the experience of the United Nations with the various schemes.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.