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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Theophilos V. THEOPHILOU (Cyprus)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, included in its agenda the item entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator: reports of the Secretary-General" and allocated it to the Second Committee.
2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 34th and 38th to 42nd meetings, on 14 November and from 16 to 21 November 1978. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/33/SR.34 and 38-42).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (A/33/82);
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (A/33/195);
 - (c) Report of the Economic and Social Council. 1/
4. At its 34th meeting, on 14 November, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/33/3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.25

5. At the 39th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Kenya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/33/L.25) on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Botswana, Cape Verde, the Congo, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

6. At the same meeting, the sponsors of the draft resolution, through the representative of Kenya, orally revised the draft resolution by:

(a) Adding a new preambular paragraph after the sixth reading as follows:

"Taking note with appreciation in this regard of the continued efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as well as the World Food Programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, in particular the assistance given by the Food and Agriculture Organization through its Technical Co-operation Programme, its Office for Special Relief Operations and the emergency food aid provided by the World Food Programme as approved by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization";

(b) Inserting in the second line of operative paragraph 2, after the words "Development Programme" the following words: "the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization".

Subsequently, Burundi, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic and Sweden joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At its 40th meeting on 17 November, the Committee, after hearing statements by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic, adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 13 below, draft resolution I).

8. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Ethiopia and Somalia made statements.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35 and Rev.1

9. At the 41st meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Upper Volta, introduced the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/33/L.35 and orally revised it by:

(a) Deleting from the last preambular paragraph, after the words "Geneva", the words "and to respond to the requests for information made by the office on the occasion of each disaster";

(b) Adding to operative paragraph 6, after the word "Co-ordinator", the following phrase: "taking into account the financial difficulties indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/32)";

(c) Changing operative paragraph 7 to read as follows:

"7. Requests the Governing Council of the UNDP at its next session to give consideration to the inclusion of technical co-operation activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in its regional and interregional programmes."

10. At its 42nd meeting, on 21 November, the Committee considered the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1). Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Uganda joined as sponsors.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 13 below, draft resolution II).

12. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made statements.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought stricken areas of Ethiopia, 2/ prepared pursuant to General Assembly

2/ A/33/195.

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resolution 32/55 of 8 December 1977, on the progress made in the implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Having heard the statement of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator 3/ outlining the substantial grain-import requirements for the year 1978/1979 and the urgent need for transport vehicles and associated equipment for the distribution of relief grain,

Noting the statement of the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme 4/ on assistance being provided by the Programme to the Government of Ethiopia in relation to its relief and rehabilitation programmes in the drought-stricken areas of the country,

Noting also the statement of the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia 5/ outlining the measures taken by the Government of Ethiopia to deal with relief and rehabilitation in the drought-stricken areas of the country,

Noting further the call made in the multidonor mission's report for urgent assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia,

Concerned at the gravity of the food situation due to the drought and the devastation of crops by swarms of locust,

Taking note with appreciation in this regard of the continued efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as well as the World Food Programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, in particular the assistance given by the Food and Agriculture Organization through its Technical Co-operation Programme, its Office for Special Relief Operations and the emergency food aid provided by the World Food Programme as approved by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization,

Alarmed by the critical food shortage, especially in Wollo, Tigre, Shoa, Hararghe, Bale and Sidamo,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1833 (LVI) of 8 May 1974, 1876 (LVII) of 16 July 1974, 1971 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, 1986 (LX) of 6 May 1976 and 1978/2 of 2 May 1978, in which the Council, inter alia, called upon the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to respond to the requests of the Government of Ethiopia with regard to the immediate, medium-term and long-term needs of the drought-stricken areas, and appealed to the Governments of all Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to continue giving their fullest support and assistance in the Government's efforts towards relief, rehabilitation and recovery,

3/ A/C.2/33/SR.34, para. 11.

4/ A/C.2/33/SR.38, paras. 2 and 3.

5/ A/C.2/33/SR.39, paras. 27-32.

Further recalling that, despite the generous assistance offered to the Government of Ethiopia by the Governments of Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and voluntary agencies, enormous difficulties of rehabilitation and recovery still persist,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia; 2/
2. Requests the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia in its relief and rehabilitation efforts in their respective areas of competence and to implement promptly and fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, 3441 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 and 31/172 of 21 December 1976, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1833 (LVI), 1876 (LVII), 1971 (LIX), 1986 (LX) and 1978/2;
3. Appeals to Governments of Member States and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to continue and increase their assistance to the Government of Ethiopia for relief, rehabilitation and recovery of the drought-stricken areas;
4. Calls upon all concerned to ensure that the international assistance provided be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation;
5. Requests the Secretary-General, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session, 1979, on the implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 above and of other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Council.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling section II, paragraph 14, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, and its resolution 32/56 of 8 December 1977,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/41 of 1 August 1978,

Reaffirming that it is necessary to ensure a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as it recognized in its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976,

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Reaffirming also the central role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the mobilization, direction and co-ordination of international disaster relief assistance, in accordance with the mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

Bearing in mind that the timely receipt and distribution of information about the responses of donors is essential for the execution of the mandate of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Having heard the appeal of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to donors and recipients of disaster relief assistance to make better use of the machinery which now exists in the co-ordination centre of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator at Geneva,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator 6/ and of the additional information provided by the Co-ordinator in his statement to the Second Committee on 14 November 1977; 7/
2. Commends the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his efforts on behalf of the victims of disaster;
3. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator by furnishing his Office, as expeditiously as possible, with detailed information on their current and intended relief contributions, in cash and in kind, in order to render more effective the provision of assistance to the victims of disaster;
4. Further calls upon recipient Governments to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator by informing his Office of relief contributions offered and received;
5. Requests the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to develop further his working arrangements with donors and recipients of relief assistance;
6. Invites all Governments to contribute to the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, taking into account the financial difficulties indicated in the report of the Secretary-General; 6/
7. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its next session to give consideration to the inclusion of technical co-operation activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in its regional and interregional programmes.

6/ A/33/82.

7/ A/C.2/33/SR.34.