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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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:

"Human settlements:

"(a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements;

"(b) Reports of the Secretary-General"

and allocated it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 24th to 29th and 36th, 38th and 49th meetings from 2 to 9 November and on 15, 16 and 28 November 1978. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/33/SR.24-29, 36, 38 and 49).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its first session; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/33/8).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories (A/33/354);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society (E/1978/91 and Add.1);

(d) Report of the Economic and Social Council on its organizational session for 1978 and its first and second regular sessions of 1978, 2/ chapter IV, section I.

4. At its 24th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (A/C.2/33/SR.24, paras. 24-40).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.18 and Corr.1

5. At the 38th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/33/L.18 and Corr.1) entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people", on behalf of Algeria, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yugoslavia. Later, Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Cuba, Cyprus, India, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Viet Nam and Yemen joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

6. For its consideration of the draft resolution, the Committee also had before it a statement (A/C.2/33/L.36), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At the 49th meeting, on 28 November, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Israel and Iraq and by the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.18 and Corr.1 by a roll-call vote of 89 to 2, with 23 abstentions (see para. 13 below, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico,

Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

8. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Japan, the United States of America, Mexico, Guinea and the Bahamas made statements.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/33/L.20 and A/C.2/33/L.41

9. At the 36th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Tunisia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/33/L.20) entitled "International co-operation in the field of human settlements". The text of the draft resolution 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,

"Recalling also its resolutions 32/162 and 32/173 of 19 December 1977, 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974,

"Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its first session, 3/ the report of the Secretary-General on specific measures

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/33/8).

to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society, 4/ and the report of the Economic and Social Council on its organizational session for 1978 and its first and second regular sessions of 1978, 5/ containing the observations referred to above and the text of a draft resolution, 6/

"Noting with regret that the transfer of posts and resources to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/162, has not yet been implemented,

"Welcoming the appointment of the Executive Director of the Centre,

"Noting with satisfaction the statement of the Executive Director, 7/ particularly on the medium-term plan 1980-1983, which provides the necessary framework for the Executive Director to initiate urgently needed actions in the field of human settlements,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate transfer of:

"(a) All posts and resources to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/162;

"(b) All field projects and operational activities in the field of human settlements with appropriate resources, as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 32/162;

"2. Urges the Executive Director of the Centre to:

"(a) Integrate and consolidate expeditiously all activities in the new Centre at Nairobi, including an appropriate organizational structure, taking into account the requirements for the regional and subregional activities;

"(b) Contact various financial institutions and countries with a view to increasing voluntary contributions to the Centre through the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

"3. Calls upon all States to co-operate with the Executive Director in implementing the approved programme, including operational activities and requests, and particularly calls upon the developed countries to increase their voluntary contributions for human settlements activities, especially

4/ E/1978/91 and Add.1.

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

6/ E/1978/C.1/L.21.

7/ A/C.2/33/SR.24, paras. 24-40.

for those activities directed towards fulfilling the objectives of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as now incorporated into the Centre, with a view to achieving the \$50 million target for the years 1978-1981;

"4. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session, to be held at Nairobi in March/April 1979, to examine, on the basis of the integrated programme of work of the Centre, the total resources available to the Centre in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, and to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1979."

10. At the 49th meeting, on 28 November, Mr. S. Zachmann (German Democratic Republic), in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/33/L.41) which had been drawn up following informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.22. The latter was consequently withdrawn.

11. The Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.41 without a vote (see para. 13 below, draft resolution II).

12. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Sweden, Poland (on behalf of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and France.

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

Living conditions of the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, 8/ and the relevant recommendations for national action 9/ adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

8/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

9/ Ibid., chap. II.

Recalling also resolution 3, entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinians in occupied territories" contained in the recommendations for international co-operation adopted by the Conference, 10/ and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/110 of 16 December 1976 and 32/171 of 19 December 1977,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories 11/ and notes that it has not been possible to prepare the full report called for in General Assembly resolution 32/171 in time for submission to the Assembly at its thirty-third session;
2. Requests, therefore, the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a comprehensive and analytical report on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories;
3. Also requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;
4. Urges all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

International co-operation in the field of human settlements

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,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/162 and 32/173 of 19 December 1977, 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVIII) of 15 December 1972 and 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974,

10/ Ibid., chap. III.

11/ A/33/354.

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its first session, 12/ the report of the Secretary-General on specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society, 13/ the report of the Economic and Social Council on its organizational session for 1978 and its first and second regular sessions of 1978, 14/ and Council resolution E/1978/66 of 4 August 1978,

Noting with regret that the transfer of posts and resources to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as described in General Assembly resolution 32/162, has not yet been implemented,

Welcoming the appointment of the Executive Director of the Centre,

Noting with satisfaction the statement of the Executive Director, 15/ in which he set out his approach to initiating urgently needed action in the field of human settlements,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate transfer to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) of:

(a) The posts and resources described in section III, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 32/162;

(b) The mandate and responsibility for all those field projects and operational activities in the field of human settlements previously undertaken by the Secretariat units referred to in section III, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 32/162;

2. Urges the Executive Director of the Centre:

(a) To integrate and consolidate expeditiously all activities of the new Centre, including the establishment of an appropriate organizational structure;

(b) To continue urgently his discussions with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions as proposed in paragraph 31 of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements, 12/ in order to provide a basis for the identification of posts and resources to be assigned to the regions, as set out in section III, paragraph 8, and section IV, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 32/162, and to report thereon to the Commission at its second session;

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/33/8).

13/ E/1978/91 and Add.1.

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

15/ A/C.2/33/SR.24, paras. 24-40.

(c) To contact various institutions, organizations and countries with a view to mobilizing voluntary financial contributions to the Centre, including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and increasing the activities of the Centre;

3. Calls upon all States to co-operate with the Executive Director in implementing the programme for the current biennium, including related operational activities, and particularly calls upon the developed countries to increase their voluntary contributions for human settlements activities, especially for those activities directed towards fulfilling the objectives of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as now incorporated into the Centre, with a view to achieving the \$50 million target for the years 1978-1981;

4. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session, to be held at Nairobi in March/April 1979, to examine, on the basis of the integrated programme of work of the Centre, the total resources available to the Centre in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162, and to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1979;

5. Further requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session to examine the resources available to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as now incorporated into the Centre, in the light of pledges made at the 1978 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held on 7 November 1978 and of contributions made subsequently and, on the basis of proposals to be submitted by the Executive Director, to submit recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.
