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Thirty-first session  
Agenda item 64

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gerhard PFANZELTER (Austria)

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly 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 47th, 49th, 54th, 55th and 59th meetings, between 19 November and 3 December. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/31/SR.47, 49, 54, 55 and 59).
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/31/88 and Add.1 and 2);
  - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (A/31/149);
  - (c) Letter dated 1 September 1976 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting documents of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (A/31/197);
  - (d) Chapter VII, section F, of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/31/3). 1/

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3).

4. At its 47th meeting, on 19 November, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, who also made a supplementary statement at the 54th meeting, on 24 November. 2/

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5. At the 59th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, India, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Surinam, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.40), entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia".

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.14 without a vote (see para. 12 below, draft resolution I).

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7. At the same meeting, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Fiji, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, introduced, and orally revised, a draft resolution (A/C.2/31/L.55), entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator".

8. A statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure (A/C.2/31/L.68). At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services, Controller, made a statement.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France, Democratic Yemen, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Japan and the United Kingdom.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.68, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 12 below, draft resolution II).

11. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Ethiopia, Mexico, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

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2/ For the text of the supplementary statement, see A/C.2/31/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

12. 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,

Noting with deep concern the recent failure of rain during critical stages of the cropping season in parts of Ethiopia,

Mindful of the demands made on the resources of the Government of Ethiopia,

Noting with appreciation the assistance given to Ethiopia by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing the relief and rehabilitation efforts made by the Government of Ethiopia,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1986 (LX) of 6 May 1976, by which the Council requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify the response to the needs for recovery, rehabilitation and development of the drought-stricken areas,

Further recalling its resolution 3441 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 wherein it urged the United Nations and the specialized agencies to continue to implement vigorously the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1833 (LVI) of 8 May 1974, 1876 (LVII) of 16 July 1974, and 1971 (LIX) of 30 July 1975,

1. Urges the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia in its relief and rehabilitation effort in their respective areas of competence and implement promptly the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 and 3441 (XXX) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1833 (LVI), 1876 (LVII), 1971 (LIX) and 1986 (LX);

2. Appeals to all Member States and voluntary agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue and increase their assistance to Ethiopia;

3. Invites 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-second session and to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session on the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 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 resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, establishing the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the strengthening of that Office, 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, which provides, inter alia, for measures to be taken in support of the activities of the Office, and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on the financing of emergency relief assistance and technical co-operation activities of the Office,

Recalling section II, paragraph 14, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2016 (LXI) of 3 August 1976 in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly at its thirty-first session should consider the most appropriate means for financing the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator after 31 December 1977,

Aware that it would be desirable, for planning purposes, for the General Assembly to give guidance to the Secretary-General on the modalities for the future financing of the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

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 3/ and of the further information given by the Co-ordinator in his statement to the Second Committee; 4/

2. Commends the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and his staff for the progress made in strengthening the capacity of his Office with the aim of providing an efficient world-wide service of mobilizing and co-ordinating disaster relief, including in particular the collection and dissemination of information on disaster assessment, priority needs and donor assistance;

3. Recognizes that there will be a need for the maintenance of the activities of the core programme of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as specified in the statement made to the Second Committee by the Co-ordinator on 24 November 1976; 5/

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, his proposals for a continued sound financial basis for the core programme, which should include

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3/ A/31/88 and Add.1 and 2.

4/ A/C.2/31/SR.47.

5/ A/C.2/31/15.

proposals for the transfer, over time, of appropriate costs from voluntary funding to the United Nations regular budget;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General, in formulating his draft programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, to include provision for the financing from the regular budget of a substantial portion of those core programme administrative activities currently financed from the trust fund established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3243 (XXIX), as an initial step in the process of ensuring a sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and to enable the Assembly to reach a final decision on this matter on the basis of the fullest possible information;

6. Decides to maintain for a further two-year period from 1 January 1978 the trust fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXIX), modified under resolutions 3440 (XXX) and 3532 (XXX), in order to ensure that the financial resources available to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator remain adequate to meet the tasks entrusted to that Office;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his budgetary proposals referred to in paragraph 5 above, to take full account of the possibility of field co-ordination being undertaken where appropriate by the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme with due consideration being given to the views expressed by the Government of the disaster-stricken country;

8. Appeals to all Governments to make contributions to the trust fund for a further two-year period;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to undertake in 1978 the review of alternative sources of funding for the technical co-operation activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator provided for in resolution 3532 (XXX);

10. Invites the Secretary-General to submit a report on possible sources of finance for such activities to assist the Economic and Social Council in this review;

11. Decides to examine further the question of future financial arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator at its thirty-second session with a view to reaching definitive conclusions at that time.

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