

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records\*



SECOND COMMITTEE  
65th meeting  
held on  
Monday, 19 December 1977  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

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COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

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77-58968

**Distr. GENERAL**  
A/C.2/32/SR.65  
21 December 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 67: ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2626 (XXV), 3202 (S-VI), 3281 (XXIX) and 3362 (S-VII), ENTITLED RESPECTIVELY "INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE", "PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER", "CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES" AND "DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION" (continued) (A/32/3/Add.1 (Part V), A/32/34; A/C.5/32/86 and Amend.1; A/C.2/32/L.101, L.104-107)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Tukan (A/C.2/32/L.107), which was the result of informal consultations on draft resolutions A/C.2/32/L.104, A/C.2/32/L.105 and A/C.2/32/L.106.
2. Mr. TUKAN (Jordan), Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolution, suggested that, since it had been possible to reach a consensus on that text, the sponsors of the other three draft resolutions might wish to consider withdrawing them. He proposed that the new draft resolution should be entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System".
3. The text before the Committee (A/C.2/32/L.107) included two foot-notes to operative paragraph 2; however, since a number of delegations felt that it might be inappropriate to mention remuneration in a draft resolution, it had been decided that the first foot-note, marked with an asterisk, should be deleted and the wording quoted in the annex to the draft resolution should be included in the report of the Second Committee on item 67.
4. With reference to paragraph 5, there appeared to be some confusion as to whether the Secretary-General would begin implementation of the recommendations immediately or whether he would await the outcome of the sixty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General had made it known in his report (A/C.5/32/86) that further consideration and study would be required on certain aspects of the administrative, financial and other implications, but it was his (Mr. Tukan's) understanding that paragraph 5 should be interpreted as meaning that the Secretary-General would proceed immediately to implement those recommendations which did not require further consideration.
5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that paragraph 6 should be placed before paragraph 5, thereby clarifying the sequence of the implementation process.
6. Mr. SHASHANK (India) said that his delegation would be agreeable to that amendment. The Secretary-General had pointed out in his report (A/C.5/32/86) that some of the administrative arrangements would have to be considered not only from the financial point of view but from other aspects which might require the attention of the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session. He wondered whether it was the Committee's intention that the Secretary-General should submit a progress report on those aspects.

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7. The CHAIRMAN said he believed that the wording of paragraph 5, which would become paragraph 6 if his suggestion was accepted, would cover the point raised by the representative of India; the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General would be left complete freedom of action in that regard.
8. If there was no objection, he would take it that the amendment he had suggested to draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107 was adopted and that draft resolutions A/C.2/32/L.104, A/C.2/32/L.105 and A/C.2/32/L.106 were withdrawn by their sponsors.
9. It was so decided.
10. Draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107, as orally revised and amended, was adopted without a vote.
11. Mr. BASSIN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that those delegations had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution and the recommendations, the attainment of which was itself something of an achievement, in view of the extremely complicated task that had been undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.
12. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/32/34) contained a number of satisfactory elements, such as the agreements reached on new working arrangements for the Economic and Social Council, the possibility of the Council's assuming the functions of its subsidiary bodies, and a number of useful recommendations on planning, programming and budgeting. The recommendation to appoint a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation enjoyed the support of the delegations for which he spoke, although they would have wished the Director-General to be given a clearer and more comprehensive mandate.
13. However, those delegations would have liked to see more far-reaching results, and were particularly disappointed at the recommendations concerning operational activities in chapter III, section V, of the report. That was one of the areas where they had hoped for major steps forward, and especially more emphasis on the co-ordination role of UNDP. In its present form, that section offered only limited prospects for any major reforms. However, in the last stages of the Ad Hoc Committee's work, the delegations for which he spoke had refrained from introducing amendments or making reservations because it had become obvious to them that bringing the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to a reasonably constructive end, on a consensus basis, was a matter of high priority.
14. That work assumed greater importance if it was regarded as merely a first step in a process set in motion at the seventh special session, as indicated in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution. It should be borne in mind that the eight subject areas selected by the Ad Hoc Committee early in 1976, to which it had devoted its attention for the past two years, had originally been selected for priority consideration and had never been intended as an exclusive list of areas to be restructured. The restructuring exercise in its totality had generated a number of useful ideas which, for various reasons, had not found their

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(Mr. Bassin, Finland)

way into the final recommendations. The delegations for which he spoke believed that the time would come to take up some of those ideas, and they were ready to take an active part in the continuation of the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations in suitable forms and in appropriate forums. They took it that the draft resolution had been adopted in that spirit.

15. Finally, one must not lose sight of the close relationship between the restructuring work and the more general efforts to establish the new international economic order.

16. Following the endorsement of the recommendations by the Second Committee, the delegations for which he spoke expected the Economic and Social Council and other bodies concerned to proceed without delay to the implementation of those recommendations which fell within their mandate. When the rationalization of the Secretariat envisaged in section VIII, paragraphs 2-4, was undertaken, the relations existing between the various types of functions dealing with sectoral research, analysis and technical co-operation should be taken into account.

17. He would like to express sincere admiration and gratitude to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, whose great skill, tactfulness and patience had made it possible to take the first step in restructuring. The concrete results which the Ad Hoc Committee had achieved were largely due to his efforts, and none of its failings could be attributed to him.

18. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan) thanked the Chairman and members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their untiring efforts. The report (A/32/34) contained some new measures but in many cases it was the reaffirmation of the objectives and the spirit with which the United Nations and its various agencies had been created. Viewed in that light, the restructuring exercise had been a very useful and valuable process, because its results showed that new directions and improvements in the Organization were to be sought not so much in the mechanisms as in the people who were entrusted with the task of making them work. Any organization was precisely as good as its members made it. That being the case, the completion of the Ad Hoc Committee's work was not the end but the beginning of the real restructuring, which was a task for representatives, for their respective Governments and for the Secretariat. They had constantly to remind themselves of the need to maintain the vitality of the Organization. In that spirit, he welcomed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee because they provided new guidance and the necessary stimulus to examine and take action on various economic and social problems of world importance. The serious question that everyone should ponder at the present critical moment was whether representatives, Governments and the Secretariat were fully equipped and fully prepared to contribute more effectively to the work of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors.

19. That observation was also valid with respect to the new high-level post. His delegation had maintained its reservation on the creation of the post of "Director-General" because it had felt that it might not necessarily contribute to the solution of the problem of co-ordination within the system but, on the

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(Mr. Kanazawa, Japan)

contrary, might lead to confusion and possibly be harmful. However, it was prepared to go along with the consensus that had now emerged in the belief that, if the post was filled by a person of exceptional quality, dedication, integrity, vision and motivation, it would be an effective organ for better co-ordination and more effective achievement of the objectives of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. He sincerely hoped that such a person could be found.

20. With regard to document A/C.5/32/86, his delegation had a reservation, as some of the steps envisaged for the reorganization of the Secretariat might lead not to the more co-ordinated and better functioning of it, but to the divided function and duplicated activities. One example was the splitting of the Centre for Energy, Natural Resources and Transport into three different parts. His delegation would pursue that point when it was taken up in the Fifth Committee.

21. On the question of restructuring with regard to the Economic and Social Council, his delegation had stated in the Ad Hoc Committee that it considered the concept of subject-oriented sessions a great improvement of the pattern of work of the Council, if that was undertaken in parallel with the measures to streamline its subsidiary bodies. It believed that the coming organizational session of the Council would provide a good opportunity to follow up the various related recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, and ventured to suggest that the first subject-oriented session might be on the question how to implement the recommendations concerning the Council.

22. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107, on the understanding that the comments and reservations contained in the joint statements of the socialist countries at the 39th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee and the 2090th meeting of the Economic and Social Council would be taken fully into account by the Secretary-General and all the bodies concerned when ways of implementing the recommendations endorsed in the draft resolution were being determined.

23. His delegation continued to believe that the way to improve the effectiveness of economic and social activities, to restructure international economic relations on a democratic and just basis and to establish the new international economic order was not to set up new organs or posts, but to make maximum use of existing organs and Secretariat resources.

24. Mr. FOSSUNG (United Republic of Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the time had come to enable the United Nations system to perform the difficult task of making development and international economic co-operation more effective and comprehensive, through structural changes. Draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107 met the concerns of the African Group, which had therefore been happy to join in the consensus.

25. Mr. HILLS (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that he wished to re-emphasize the great importance of the issue of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, particularly from the point of view of developing countries.

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(Mr. Mills, Jamaica)

26. The Group of 77 had believed that in some respects the statements of the administrative and financial implications of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations (A/C.5/32/86) was not in keeping with the spirit and letter of the recommendations. He had therefore requested that document A/C.5/32/86 should be reconsidered in the light of the concerns expressed and had stressed that adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee's report by the General Assembly would in no way imply, as far as the Group of 77 was concerned, unqualified acceptance of the contents of that document. The Group of 77 was grateful for the assurance given by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management concerning the determination of the Secretariat to interpret faithfully the true intent of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee in all respects.

27. With regard to chapter III, section IV, of the report (Structures for regional and interregional co-operation) and paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Secretariat paper (A/C.5/32/86) on the question of the common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices, what the Group of 77 sought was a statement of the financial implications and, at the least, an undertaking that a proposal on which all were agreed would be given further study. The Group noted the Under-Secretary-General's statement, with regard to paragraph 36 of the Secretariat paper, that there had been no intention to raise doubts as to the desirability of decentralizing the responsibility for the execution of all projects to the regional commissions; what the Group asked was that the Secretary-General should give attention to that issue directly, rather than requesting the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to review their own resolutions on the subject and awaiting the results of such a review.

28. With respect to section V (Operational activities of the United Nations system), the Group of 77 took note of the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General in reference to paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Secretariat paper, and expressed appreciation for the revision which had now been made in that document.

29. With reference to section VIII (Secretariat support services), the Group of 77 believed that the words "The detailed implications of these guidelines" in document A/C.5/32/86, paragraph 53, should read: "The detailed implementation of these guidelines". With regard to paragraph 63 of the Secretariat paper, the Group believed that, since the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs contained a large interdisciplinary element, it should not be transferred to any other location. In connexion with paragraph 78, the Group hoped that in the elaboration of the definition of functions, notably those involving liaison with specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, due account would be taken of the over-all co-ordinating function being entrusted to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Finally, on the question of distribution of staff and resources to the new organizational units and on the question of the adequacy of such staff, the Group of 77 reserved the right to direct its attention to those matters in the Fifth Committee.

30. The Group of 77 asked that full account should be taken of its comments, and expected that the Secretary-General would be in a position to indicate to the Fifth Committee and, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-

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(Mr. Mills, Jamaica)

fourth session, the clarifications requested, as well as further elaborations of plans for implementation of the decisions concerning restructuring.

31. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee would make it possible to begin the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, and it represented a significant movement towards the improvement of the United Nations system. It would have been impossible for everyone to be fully satisfied with it, because of the many and varied interests and concerns in relation to the United Nations system, and the report was therefore the result of an attempt to reconcile differences and balance interests so as to arrive at a set of conclusions which would command general support.

32. The approval of the establishment of the post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation represented a major element in the restructuring of the United Nations; it was most important that the post should be filled in good time so that the Director-General might be fully involved in the implementation of the structural changes proposed in chapter III, section VIII, of the Ad Hoc Committee's report. It was the understanding of the Group of 77 that the post would be at an intermediate level between that of an Under-Secretary-General and that of the Administrator of UNDP, the latter being equivalent to the position of a head of a major specialized agency, as was reflected in document A/C.5/32/86/Amend.1, paragraph 5. The Group understood the foot-note in draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107, which had been adopted as a separate decision, to mean that the substantive salary of the Director-General would be supplemented not only by the appropriate allowances applicable to that level but by the element required to bring the total up to that indicated in the decision.

33. The Group of 77 supported the point made by the Vice-Chairman with regard to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution, and expected the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations, except where he had indicated that fuller details needed to be worked out. Such implementation should take into account the comments made on behalf of the Group of 77 at the 39th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee and in the Second Committee.

34. Most developing countries had not participated in the original task of designing the United Nations system and putting it into operation, and the current restructuring constituted the first real opportunity most of them had had of taking part in an exercise designed to make fundamental decisions on the structure of the United Nations. It was therefore inevitable that they should have very strong views about some aspects of the new system, and they believed that those elements in the restructuring exercise on which they held firm views would not only benefit developing countries but would make the United Nations system more effective in the interest of all countries. The Group of 77 considered it of the utmost importance that all States members as well as officials of the United Nations system should approach the formidable task of implementation of the recommendations on restructuring in a spirit of constructive co-operation. The Group of 77 pledged its full co-operation in those efforts.

35. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, said that the delegations of the EEC countries had already expressed their views on the recommendations and conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee

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(Mr. Pirson, Belgium)

on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, and their comments would appear in due course in annex II to the Ad Hoc Committee's report (A/32/34). They believed that document A/C.5/32/86/Amend.1 made a sound evaluation of the administrative and financial implications of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, but they reserved their right to make detailed comments in the Fifth Committee, particularly in respect of the appointment of a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

36. Mr. XIFRA (Spain) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107 because it believed that the establishment of a post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation was in keeping with the increasing importance of the questions of development and international economic co-operation in the work of the United Nations. With regard to the Ad Hoc Committee's report, his delegation believed that in general it was a constructive document and that, despite the concessions that had been necessary, it was a good basis for the restructuring which it was hoped would rationalize the sectors concerned so as to ensure a better use of resources and increased efficiency. His delegation believed that chapter III, section II, concerning the Economic and Social Council, was relatively satisfactory, provided that the reduction in representativeness resulting from the implementation of paragraphs 6 and 7 was adequately compensated by the application of paragraph 9. That was a fundamental point for his delegation, which had already expressed its position on various occasions and would find it difficult to make any further concessions.

37. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.104 had been pleased to join in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107 and endorsed the statement made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77. They recognized the full authority and freedom of the Secretary-General in implementing the measures recommended in the Ad Hoc Committee's report, and reiterated their understanding that the new Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would necessarily be involved in the process of the internal restructuring of the Organization.

38. Mr. HAIDAR (India) said that, with regard to paragraph 6 (formerly para. 5) of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107, his delegation's understanding was that the Secretary-General would report to the Economic and Social Council, within the scope of its competence, on his proposals concerning the administrative arrangements he envisaged for the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations in the Ad Hoc Committee's report.

39. Mr. ONAT (Turkey) said that his delegation accepted the Ad Hoc Committee's report out of respect for the consensus reached, although it believed that the measures outlined in the report fell short of a complete restructuring of the United Nations system. The arrangements suggested in the report of the Group of 25 had been more pertinent in certain respects, in the light of the aspirations for effective United Nations machinery. His delegation therefore believed that the report was a first step in the over-all restructuring exercise and welcomed the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107. The measures recommended in the report would contribute to greater efficiency in the United Nations, but his delegation hoped that additional measures would be formulated at

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(Mr. Onat, Turkey)

a later stage. The adoption of the draft resolution had clearly been the result of the political will of Member States; it was important that political approaches should change over time and in accordance with new circumstances and requirements, and the restructuring process should be similarly dynamic, in view of the changes in the United Nations. His Government was determined to contribute as much as it could to the implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations.

40. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada) recalled that, in his statement to the General Assembly at the current session, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada had stressed the need for a strengthening of United Nations machinery so as to make it as relevant as possible to the genuine concerns of Governments and peoples. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee was a distinct contribution to that, although his delegation had hoped that the restructuring process would be taken further. The real test of the determination of countries would occur at the stage of implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, and his delegation hoped that there would be early action in all areas. It believed that the restructuring process was continuous and that constant review and reform of institutions, machinery and procedures was needed. The experience of delegations during the two years of the Ad Hoc Committee's work had been salutary, and appeared to have led to a more business-like attitude to North-South issues and to the operations of the system, but much remained to be done, and the results would continue to depend on the political will of Member States.

41. Mr. GREET (Australia) said his delegation believed that the measures envisaged in draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.107 should be seen as a first step in the restructuring process. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee had often been extremely difficult, partly because of the practice of adopting decisions by consensus, and he hoped that when the General Assembly came to take a decision on the draft resolution it would still be possible to attain a consensus.

42. It seemed to be generally agreed that the measures outlined in chapter III of the Ad Hoc Committee's report (A/32/34) were essentially the first steps of the restructuring process. Paragraph 7 of the draft resolution was therefore very important, as it encouraged further planning and streamlining of United Nations bodies.

43. The CHAIRMAN paid tribute, on behalf of the members of the Second Committee, to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Dadzie of Ghana, for his untiring efforts, patience and negotiating skills in steering the Ad Hoc Committee to conclude its work successfully for the benefit of the whole United Nations system.

44. Mr. PULI (Ghana) thanked all concerned, on behalf of Mr. Dadzie and the Ghanaian delegation, for the tributes that had been paid. As Mr. Dadzie himself had said, the achievements of the Ad Hoc Committee had been due primarily to the co-operation of all delegations which had participated in the Committee's work.

45. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report submitted by the Economic and Social Council on the rationalization of its work, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX) and decision 31/421 A, which was contained in document A/32/3/Add.1 (Part V), section B.

46. It was so decided.

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47. Mr. DEHARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Rapporteur, announced that he had been informed that the title of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.101, already adopted by the Committee, should be "Committee on the New International Economic Order".
48. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) said he understood that the suggestion referred to the name of the committee itself rather than to the title of the draft resolution, as it had been felt that the name "Committee of the Whole" was meaningless.
49. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) pointed out that there had been discussions on both the title of the draft resolution and the name of the committee. As it had not been considered necessary to give a title to the draft resolution, there was no need for the committee to have a name either.
50. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.101 established a Committee of the Whole, with specified functions, as a temporary body which would meet until the 1980 special session. There was therefore no need for the committee to have a special name, and it was not advisable to jeopardize the consensus that had been reached on draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.101.
51. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) suggested that informal consultations should be held and that it should be decided in plenary meeting whether the committee was to have a title and, if so, what title.
52. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that it was preferable to settle the matter in the Second Committee, so as to avoid unnecessary discussion in the plenary. Further informal consultations were not advisable, and the Committee should simply abide by the consensus already reached on draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.101.
53. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) said that the Group of 77 had no strong views on the point; the Second Committee had already arrived at a satisfactory conclusion on the subject-matter of the draft resolution, and the Group did not wish to reopen the issue.
54. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 67.

#### COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

55. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Committee had completed its work for the thirty-second session.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.