UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/582
15 October 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 29

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By paragraph 37 of its resolution 38/36 A of 1 December 1983, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to develop, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a comprehensive programme of assistance to States that were neighbours of South Africa and Namibia, on the understanding that such assistance should not only envisage the overcoming of short-term difficulties but be designed to enable those States to move towards complete self-reliance. The Secretary-General was further requested to report to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the development of the programme.

2. It will be recalled that a request, in similar terms, was contained in General Assembly resolution 37/233 A of 20 December 1982. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, in his report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/38/525) had concluded, on the basis of his consultations with the authorities of the countries concerned, that "the beginning elements of a comprehensive programme of assistance are available in the national development plans of the States bordering Namibia and South Africa and in the projects and programmes being developed under SADCC [the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference]. Since these elements reflect the considered judgements of the Governments concerned, additional international assistance to ensure their implementation would represent the most realistic approach to the type of assistance envisaged in paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 37/233 A".

3. As the Governments concerned have not indicated any change in their positions since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, it would appear that the approach suggested in that report continues to be the most appropriate manner of responding to their critical needs.

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