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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Report of the Second Committee (Part XV)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Alawi AL-HADDAD (Democratic Yemen)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 80 (see A/39/790, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (n) was considered at the 53rd and 56th meetings, on 28 November and 6 December 1984. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/39/SR.53 and 56).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/39/L.83 and L.110

2. At the 53rd meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Egypt introduced, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.83), entitled "Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries", which 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,

"Reaffirming the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade relating to the least developed countries, 1/

"Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 2/ adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

"Expressing serious concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts at development, as well as efforts made by the international community, including donor countries, even three years after the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and stressing the immediate need for greatly expanded support measures, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources for the realization of the objectives of the Programme,

"Deeply concerned at the very slow pace at which the Substantial New Programme of Action is being implemented,

"Recalling resolution 142 (VI) of 2 July 1983 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 3/ on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,

"Recalling its resolution 38/195 of 20 December 1983,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 4/

"Recognizing that the mid-term review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action will provide an opportunity for the international community to consider ways and means of enhancing the implementation of the Programme during the rest of the 1980s and adjusting it, as appropriate, in the second half of the Decade,

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1/ Resolution 35/56, annex, paras. 136-155.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

3/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

4/ A/39/578.

"1. Emphasizes that, in view of their deteriorating socio-economic situation, the least developed countries need the urgent and special attention and the large-scale support on a continuous basis or the international community to enable them to progress towards self-reliant development, consistent with the plans and programmes of each least developed country;

"2. Reaffirms the commitment of the international community to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and urges all countries, international institutions and others concerned to implement fully and effectively their commitments under the Programme;

"3. Decides to convene the high-level meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries from 30 September to 11 October 1985 to carry out, inter alia, the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and readjust, as appropriate, the Programme for the second half of the Decade in order to ensure its full implementation, pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 36/194 and paragraph 119 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

"4. Urges all countries as well as multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions to take necessary steps to ensure appropriate preparations for an in-depth review at the high-level meeting;

"5. Stresses the importance of the timely preparation of all necessary documentation, as requested in the Programme, including specific recommendations for the full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent organizations;

"6. Welcomes decision 284 (XXVIII) of 6 April 1984 of the Trade and Development Board, 5/ in which the Board decided to convene from 1 to 10 May 1985, as part of the preparatory process for the mid-term global review of the progress made towards the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, a meeting of governmental experts of donor countries and multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of the least developed countries to consider the following aspects:

"(a) Areas for possible improvement of aid practices and management with respect to the least developed countries, taking into account the experience to be drawn from the national review meetings, and in particular:

"(i) Measures to improve the co-ordination of assistance programmes;

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5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/39/15), vol. I.

- "(ii) Measures that the least developed countries are already taking with the support of the international community, as well as possible additional measures that could be undertaken for accelerated progress of the least developed countries and full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, taking into account the economic situation of the least developed countries;
- "(iii) Ways of better adapting the implementation of development assistance programmes to the specific needs of least developed countries, taking into account the agreed conclusions of the Second Meeting of Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the least developed countries;
- "(b) Organizational issues related to the 1985 mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, including the state of preparation of documentation for that review, especially documents concerning the economic situation of the least developed countries;

"7. Takes note of decision 289 (XXVIII) of 6 April 1984 of the Trade and Development Board 6/ in which, inter alia, the Board decided that the results of the comprehensive review to be carried out at its thirtieth session in March 1985 relating to the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) 7/ and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 142 (VI) are to be taken into account during the preparatory process for the mid-term global review;

"8. Emphasizes the need for the conclusion of the first round of remaining country review meetings for the least developed countries as soon as possible and, at the latest, before the mid-term global review;

"9. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit reports containing a review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input into the preparation for the mid-term global review;

"10. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in conformity with paragraph 123 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, to continue, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and the lead agencies for the aid consultative groups, to ensure at the secretariat level the full

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6/ Ibid.

7/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/33/15), vol. I, part two, annex I.

mobilization and co-ordination of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action, taking into account, in particular, the mid-term global review;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective participation of the representatives of the least developed countries by providing necessary resources to finance travel expenses of at least two representatives from each least developed country to attend the mid-term global review meeting and one representative from each least developed country to attend the meeting referred to in paragraph 6;

"12. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the high-level meeting on the mid-term global review and on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.23) was circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.99.
4. At its 56th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.110), submitted by Mr. Enrique de la Torre, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.83.
5. The Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.110 had no programme budget implications.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.110 (see para. 9).
7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.110, draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.83 was withdrawn by its sponsor.
8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action  
for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

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,

Reaffirming the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade relating to the least developed countries, 8/

Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 9/ adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

Expressing serious concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation of the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts at development, as well as efforts made by the international community, including donor countries, even three years after the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and stressing the immediate need for greatly expanded support measures, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources for the realization of the objectives of the Programme,

Deeply concerned at the very slow pace at which the Substantial New Programme of Action is being implemented,

Recalling resolution 142 (VI) of 2 July 1983 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 10/ on progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 38/195 of 20 December 1983,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 11/

Recognizing that the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action will provide an opportunity for the international community to consider ways and means of enhancing the implementation of the Programme during the rest of the 1980s and adjusting it, as appropriate, in the second half of the decade of the 1980s,

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8/ Resolution 35/56, annex, paras. 136-155.

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

10/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

11/ A/39/578.

1. Emphasizes that, in view of their deteriorating socio-economic situation, the least developed countries need the urgent and special attention of the international community and its large-scale support on a continuous basis to enable them to progress towards self-reliant development, consistent with the plans and programmes of each least developed country;

2. Reaffirms the commitment of the international community to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and urges all countries, international institutions and others concerned to implement fully and effectively their commitments under the Programme;

3. Decides to convene the high-level meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from 30 September to 11 October 1985 to carry out, inter alia, the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and readjust, as appropriate, the Programme for the second half of the decade of the 1980s in order to ensure its full implementation, pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 36/194 and paragraph 119 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

4. Urges all countries, as well as multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions, to take the necessary steps to ensure appropriate preparations for an in-depth review at the high-level meeting;

5. Stresses the importance of the timely preparation of all necessary documentation, as requested in the Programme, including specific recommendations for the full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other competent organizations;

6. Welcomes decision 284 (XXVIII) of 6 April 1984 of the Trade and Development Board, 12/ in which the Board decided to convene from 1 to 10 May 1985, as part of the preparatory process for the mid-term global review of the progress made towards the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, a meeting of governmental experts of donor countries and multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of the least developed countries to consider the following:

(a) Areas for possible improvement of aid practices and management with respect to the least developed countries, taking into account the experience to be drawn from the national review meetings, in particular:

(i) Measures to improve the co-ordination of assistance programmes;

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12/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/39/15), vol. I, part one, sect. II.B.

- (ii) Measures that the least developed countries are already taking with the support of the international community, as well as possible additional measures that could be undertaken for accelerated progress of the least developed countries and full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, taking into account the economic situation of the least developed countries;
- (iii) Ways of better adapting the implementation of development assistance programmes to the specific needs of the least developed countries, taking into account the agreed conclusions of the Second Meeting of Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries, held at Geneva from 11 to 20 October 1982; 13/

(b) Organizational issues related to the 1985 mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, including the state of preparation of documentation for that review, especially documents concerning the economic situation of the least developed countries;

7. Takes note of decision 289 (XXVIII) of 6 April 1984 of the Trade and Development Board, 14/ in which the Board decided that the results of the comprehensive review, to be carried out at its thirtieth session in March 1985, of the implementation of section A of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978, 15/ called for in paragraph 1 of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 161 (VI) of 2 July 1983, and of the implementation of resolution 165 (S-IX) as stated in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and in Conference resolution 142 (VI) of 2 July 1983 on progress in the implementation of the Programme, are to be taken into account during the preparatory process for the mid-term global review;

8. Emphasizes the need for the conclusion of the first round of remaining country review meetings for the least developed countries as soon as possible and, at the latest, before the mid-term global review;

9. Requests all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit reports containing a review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input into the preparation for the mid-term global review;

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13/ See TD/B/933, part two.

14/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/39/15), vol. I, part one, sect. II.B.

15/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/33/15 and Corr.1), vol. I, part two, annex I.



10. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in conformity with paragraph 123 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, to continue, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and the lead agencies for the aid consultative groups, to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and co-ordination of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action, taking into account, in particular, the mid-term global review;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to obtain extrabudgetary resources to ensure effective participation of the representatives of the least developed countries, through provision of necessary resources to finance travel expenses of at least two representatives from each least developed country to attend the high-level meeting on the mid-term global review and one representative from each least developed country to attend the meeting referred to in paragraph 6 above;

12. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the high-level meeting on the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and on the implementation of the present resolution.

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