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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Second Committee (Part XVII)

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 (p) was considered at the 31st, 55th and 56th meetings, on 1 and 30 November and 6 December. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/39/SR.31, 55 and 56).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/39/L.14 AND L.89

2. At the 31st meeting, on 1 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.14) entitled "Development of the energy resources of developing countries", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

"Recalling its resolutions 37/251 of 21 December 1982 and 38/151 of 19 December 1983,

"Considering that the principal impediments to the realization of the indigenous energy potential of the developing countries remain insufficient exploration data, inadequate exploration, the dearth of financial resources, inadequate access to technology and a shortage of skills,

"Reaffirming that effective and urgent measures need to be taken by the international community to assist and support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the energy deficient among them, towards developing their energy resources, in order to meet their needs through co-operation, assistance and investment in the field of conventional and new and renewable sources of energy, consistent with their national plans and priorities, as called for in the International Development Strategy,

"1. Reaffirms its resolutions 37/251 and 38/151 and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to elaborate further and update the contents of his report on the development of the energy resources of the developing countries ^{1/} and, in so doing, to consider all sources of energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, in a balanced and integrated manner and to submit a consolidated and comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

"3. Urges, in this connection, early consideration of possible avenues that would increase energy financing, including, inter alia, the mechanisms being examined by the World Bank, such as an energy affiliate, and calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to this end in the relevant forums;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to promote international co-operation for the development of internal technological and other capabilities in developing countries in order to achieve the development of their energy resources;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fortieth session."

3. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.14) was circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.50.

4. At the 55th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.89), 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.14.

^{1/} E/1983/91 and Corr.1; A/38/512, annex; A/39/420 and Corr.1, annex.

5. After statements by the representatives of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Sweden and Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the European Community), as well as by the representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, the Committee decided to defer action on the draft resolution until a later date.

6. Subsequently, a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.89 was circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.102.

7. At the 56th meeting, on 6 December, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Kuwait and Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the European Community).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.89 (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.89, draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.14 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

Development of the energy resources of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Recalling its resolutions 37/251 of 21 December 1982 and 38/151 of 19 December 1983,

Considering that the principal impediments to the realization of the indigenous energy potential of the developing countries are, in addition to inadequate exploration, the scarcity of financial resources, insufficient exploration data, inadequate access to technology and a shortage of skills,

Reaffirming the principle of the full and permanent sovereignty of each State over its natural resources,

Reaffirming also that effective and urgent measures need to be taken by the international community to assist and support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the energy deficient among them, for developing their energy resources, in order to meet their needs through co-operation, assistance and investment in the field of conventional and of new and renewable sources of energy, consistent with their national plans and priorities, as called for in the International Development Strategy,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 38/151 and calls for the immediate and effective implementation of all its provisions;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to improve further and update the contents of his report on the development of the energy resources of the developing countries, 2/ taking into account the opinions of Member States expressed before the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, and, in so doing, to consider all sources of energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, in a balanced and integrated manner and to submit a consolidated and comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

3. Urges, in this connection, early consideration of possible avenues that would increase energy financing, including, inter alia, the mechanisms being examined by the World Bank, such as an energy affiliate, and calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to this end in the relevant forums;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to promote international co-operation for the development of internal technological and other capabilities in developing countries in order to achieve the development of their energy resources;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in that report the results of symposiums and similar undertakings in support of efforts by developing countries for the exploration and development of their energy resources.

2/ See E/1983/91 and Corr.1, A/38/512 and A/39/420 and Corr.1.