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Agenda item 8

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 Part two: biennial programme plan

(*Item 3(b)*)

Programme 7 Economic and social affairs

1. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 17 and 18 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 7)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 7 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for the programme, its objectives and subprogrammes, and the view was expressed that the narratives were comprehensive.
4. It was also noted that the overall orientation provided a good and balanced overview of the programme for economic and social affairs, including the general framework for poverty eradication and development provided by the United Nations conferences of the 1990s, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. References to civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector,

throughout the programme and in particular in subprogramme 1, were noted with appreciation, and a suggestion was made to reflect the important role that civil society plays in development. The important role that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs can play to facilitate initiatives to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote human and social development, such as the International Humanitarian Fund and the Zero-Hunger Project, was emphasized.

5. Agreement was expressed with regard to the programme's emphasis on follow-up of the high-level review in 2005 on the progress achieved on the Millennium Declaration, with particular emphasis on implementation. The multidisciplinary approach that the Department pursues in the design and implementation of its activities was commended.

6. A question was raised regarding the need to undertake further assessment of the quantity as well as the quality of Department of Economic and Social Affairs publications. The importance and usefulness of the Department's technical cooperation programme was recognized. At the same time, the view was expressed that a system-wide review of technical cooperation activities, with a view to maximizing synergies and minimizing duplication, was anticipated. Such a review would allow a fuller analysis of the value added by the Department's technical cooperation activities. Views were expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the programme could be improved, while the formulation of others was welcomed. The view was also expressed that the indicators for several subprogrammes placed too much emphasis on the number of resolutions, decisions and recommendations.

7. Support was expressed for strengthening the mandate of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the overall reform of the United Nations. In that context, the view was expressed that it was necessary to streamline the Organization and to pursue effective management.

8. A question was raised as to how the overall guidance and coordination roles of the Economic and Social Council would be reinforced and how the programme would strengthen its capacity to support the Council's activity in post-conflict reconstruction. The importance of strengthening the existing coordination of all aspects of cooperation between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations agencies and regional commissions was stressed.

9. The importance of gender mainstreaming across all subprogrammes of programme 7 was underscored.

10. Satisfaction was expressed with regard to the contribution of the subprogramme to improving the ability of Member States to reassess macroeconomic policies with the aim of giving employment generation and poverty reduction a central place in the goals of macroeconomic policy. The view was expressed that the eradication of hunger should be included in the objective of subprogramme 3. It was proposed that a separate expected accomplishment should be developed on indigenous issues under subprogramme 3.

11. A definition of "persons in situations of conflict" was requested, and the view was expressed that subprogramme 3 had no mandate for work on persons in situations of conflict.

12. The view was expressed that subprogramme 3 should take into greater account the process of globalization and, in that regard, the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization should be mentioned.

13. The responsibility for supporting the Commission for Social Development, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities should be mentioned in the strategy of subprogramme 3.

14. The view was expressed that in the preparation and consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, due consideration should be given to the follow-up by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the biennium of the major event to be held in 2005 and the allocation, for that purpose, of the necessary financial and human resources, while maintaining the level of budget

15. A question was raised concerning how Member States' satisfaction was measured with respect to the quality of support provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant intergovernmental processes. Clarification was sought on the reference to strengthening cooperation with major groups, and the view was expressed that the scope of expected accomplishment (b) under subprogramme 4 should extend beyond energy and water and include sustainable production and consumption. The importance of the regional implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was emphasized, and a request was made to reflect the implementation modalities in the strategic framework. The view was also expressed that a separate expected accomplishment on small island developing States should be established under subprogramme 4.

16. Clarification was sought on the role played by the regional commissions in enhancing the capability of national statistical offices in expected accomplishment (c) of subprogramme 5. It was pointed out that statistical publications should disaggregate data by age and sex whenever possible. The importance of increasing the capacity of the Statistics Division to collect and report statistical data on Member States was emphasized. Strengthening information on how the outputs of the Division are used by other divisions, as well as coordination mechanisms with other multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and other regional institutions, was recommended. It was proposed that the work of subprogramme 5 on geographical names be reflected more distinctly.

17. The view was expressed that the subprogramme should collaborate with other entities within and outside the United Nations system in collecting and analysing country information on conflict and post-conflict situations.

18. A clearer account was requested of how the impact and value added by activities of subprogramme 8 were to be measured.

19. The orientation of subprogramme 10, regarded as a critically important area of the programme, was welcomed. It was suggested that percentages and impact, rather than absolute numbers, be used as indicators of achievement.

20. The importance of creating an enabling environment through the promotion of good governance was stressed. The view was expressed that the subprogramme did not have the resources to carry out capacity-building at the country level. It was also

noted that the work on international tax cooperation should properly be reflected in subprogramme 10. Proposals were made to add references to specific recent national and subregional initiatives related to the financing for development process in the strategic framework of the subprogramme.

21. The view was expressed that, although concerted efforts and concrete action by the international community were necessary for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals and ensuring the level of official development assistance was surely important, too much focus was currently being placed on quantitatively increasing official development assistance, which did not automatically bring about expected accomplishment (b) of subprogramme 10. In that context, the importance of capacity development was emphasized. It was further noted that, as stated at the International Conference on Financing for Development, it was important to mobilize and utilize not only official development assistance, but also domestic resources in developing countries, foreign direct investment and private resources, in a consistent manner, to achieve the economic growth necessary for the alleviation of poverty.

Conclusions and recommendations

22. **The Committee drew attention to the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other agencies, funds, programmes and Secretariat structures, in particular regional commissions.**

23. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 7.1

After the words “sustained economic growth”, add the words “, poverty eradication”.

Paragraph 7.3

The third sentence should read: “Secondly, it reviews development issues and policies to deepen the international community’s understanding of global challenges in the economic and social spheres and to assist Member States to reach consensus on the most appropriate responses to those challenges.”

Paragraph 7.5

In the second sentence, replace the words “poverty eradication” with the words “the eradication of poverty”.

Subprogramme 1

Economic and Social Council support and coordination

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (c), add the words “, as mandated by the Economic and Social Council”.

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (b) (ii), add the words “, in accordance with recent decisions”.

At the end of indicator (c), add the words “, as mandated by the Council”.

Paragraph 7.7

At the end of sub-item (c), add the words “, as mandated by the Economic and Social Council, and developing strategies to address the development dimension of post-conflict situations”.

Insert a new subparagraph (e) reading: “(e) Better use of the regular consultations provided for in paragraph 43 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997, including between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council; the Secretary-General will provide those meetings with support as appropriate, including written information to Member States submitted through the Chairmen of the regional groups.”

Subprogramme 2**Gender issues and advancement of women***Indicators of achievement*

At the end of indicator (e) (ii), add the following: “, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the underrepresentation of women from certain countries”.

Subprogramme 3**Social policy and development***Objective of the Organization*

Delete the words “persons in situations of conflict”.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Accomplishment (b) should read: “(b) Strengthening of the capacity of Member States to develop and implement effective social programmes and policies, in particular in the field of social integration of older persons, persons with disabilities, family and youth”.

Replace accomplishment (c) with paragraph 7.17 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, which reads: “Better understanding and awareness by Governments, civil society and the private sector with regard to emerging issues in the field of social development, including gender issues, particularly through improved and timely access by Governments, non-governmental organizations, academia and individuals to United Nations research and analysis in the field of social development”.

Paragraph 7.9

In subparagraph (a), replace the words: “Promoting greater awareness and supporting implementation of the mandates contained in the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences, especially the World Summit for Social Development, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the Millennium Summit” with the words: “Promoting greater awareness of and supporting the integrated follow-up of and the implementation within the overall orientation provided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration of the commitments agreed upon at relevant United Nations conferences and summits, especially the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”.

Replace subparagraph (d) with the following: “Raising civil society awareness and facilitating civil society support for the work of the United Nations on social development.”

**Subprogramme 4
Sustainable development**

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (b) (ii), add the following text: “, including Commission on Sustainable Development-registered partnerships for sustainable development”.

In indicator (d), after the words “major groups”, add the words “and the number of participants attending the sessions of the Commission”.

Paragraph 7.10

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following: “Providing substantive and effective support, including the development of policy options and analysis, to intergovernmental processes, in particular to the Commission on Sustainable Development, including regional implementation meetings to be implemented by the regional commissions in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission”.

**Subprogramme 5
Statistics**

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words “internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, and specifically the Millennium Development Goals” with the words “internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992”.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), replace the words “the Millennium Declaration Goals and targets” with the words “internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992”.

In accomplishment (e), after the words “mapping activities” add the words “and the standardization of geographical names”.

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (ii), replace the words “the Millennium Development Goals and targets” with the words “internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992”.

Under indicator (a), add a new indicator to read: “(iii) An increase in the number of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries in transition providing more complete data to the publications of the Statistics Division”.

Paragraph 7.11

In subparagraph (f), after the words “modern surveying”, add the words “and the standardization of geographical names”.

**Subprogramme 6
Population**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (c), after the words “Improved accessibility of population information”, add the words “in a timely manner”.

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), delete the words “and relevance”.

**Subprogramme 7
Global development trends, issues and policies**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Accomplishment (c) should read: “Enhanced exchanges of views and ideas on development issues with non-governmental actors, including increased awareness among such actors of United Nations analysis of development issues and their increased contribution to United Nations policy development”.

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), replace the words “The number of official statements and discussions in” with the words “The number of decisions taken by”.

Subprogramme 8

Public administration, finance and development

Paragraph 7.14

In subparagraph (a), replace the word “approach” with the word “understanding”.

Subprogramme 10

Financing for development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete accomplishment (b).

In accomplishment (d), add the words “finance and trade organizations and initiatives”, insert the words “, including at the regional level,”.

Indicators of achievement

Indicator (a) should read: “The number of contributions from all stakeholders in the financing for development process to the annual assessment of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus”.

Delete indicator (b).
