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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Malaysia*: draft resolution

International co-operation for the eradication
of poverty in developing 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,

Recalling also its resolution 43/195 of 20 December 1988, Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/47 of 27 May 1988 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/10 of 2 March 1989 1/ concerning extreme poverty,

Realizing that insufficient external attention has been paid to the human phenomenon of extreme poverty in developing countries, which frequently eludes international and intergovernmental action and current statistical analysis,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

Realizing also that poverty, while not a new human phenomenon, has increased sharply, reaching alarming proportions in developing countries, seriously threatening the very socio-political fabric of those countries and undermining peace and harmony,

Deeply concerned that more than one billion people throughout the world, mostly in developing countries, are still living in abject poverty and misery, with hunger, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and death as an integral part of their lives,

Deeply concerned also about the sharp falls in living standards, incomes, employment levels, and health, nutritional and educational standards that have aggravated widespread poverty in both the urban and rural areas of most developing countries,

Noting that the eradication of poverty in developing countries is one of the most important development objectives and a shared responsibility of both developing and developed countries, requiring national and international action,

Noting also that the eradication of poverty, as a national objective, has gained the highest priority in the national development efforts of developing countries and that specific programmes are needed to solve this problem,

Aware that the difficult economic situation of developing countries, exacerbated by the adverse international economic environment, has hindered the development process in those countries and their capacity to undertake social and economic programmes for the eradication of poverty,

Aware also that the eradication of poverty is made more difficult by a range of factors in the international economic environment, which impede growth and development in the developing countries: inter alia, the worsening in the terms of trade, intensified protectionism, a sharp decline in the flow of resources, high real interest rates, depressed commodity prices and the heavy burden of external debt,

Stressing that structural adjustment programmes that do not take into account specific needs and conditions of developing countries carry high political and social costs, which have contributed to exacerbating poverty and limited the ability of developing countries to attain their socio-economic objectives,

Stressing also that in developing countries there is a strong relationship between poverty, development and the environment, which requires concerted action, at all levels, to ensure comprehensive and effective solutions aimed at the eradication of poverty,

Emphasizing that the very large number of people in poverty in developing countries is a challenge to the international community and, at the same time, a potential resource which, through new and imaginative approaches to the eradication of poverty in developing countries, could become an engine for growth and development in those countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries; 2/

2. Recognizes that a supportive international economic environment, together with a growth-oriented development approach, is crucial to the successful efforts of developing countries in dealing with the eradication of poverty;

3. Calls upon the international community to work, on a priority basis, towards action-oriented programmes with short-term, medium-term and long-term approaches, for the eradication of poverty;

4. Invites the international community to adopt specific measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, including official development assistance, in order to support those countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate and co-ordinate urgent appropriate actions for the formulation, in co-operation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, of action-oriented technical co-operation programmes for the eradication of poverty in developing countries and their implementation by the organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with the policies, priorities and strategies of those countries;

6. Invites Governments to include in the preparatory process for the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992, and in the conference itself, the vital issue of the eradication of poverty, integrated with relevant environmental issues and with a view to strengthening international co-operation on environment and development;

7. Requests the Committee for Development Planning, taking into account the fact that the question of the eradication of poverty has been included as one of the priority aspects of development in the recommended outline for the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ to submit to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, to be held from 4 to 15 June 1990, concrete proposals on international and intergovernmental action for the eradication of poverty in developing countries;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the regional commissions, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, a comprehensive report containing, inter alia:

2/ A/44/467.

3/ See A/C.2/44/L.11, annex.

(a) An analysis of the diversified impact of the adverse international economic environment on the intensification of poverty in developing countries;

(b) A summary of the experience of developing countries concerning the eradication of poverty;

(c) Specific recommendations for effective international policy measures for the urgent and permanent eradication of poverty, in accordance with the present resolution;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session an item entitled "International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".
