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WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "World social situation" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered the item jointly with items 91, 92, 93, 97, 99, 101, 102 and 113 at its 12th to 20th, 30th and 37th meetings, on 18 to 20, 23 to 26 October and 2 and 9 November 1989. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/44/SR.12-20, 30 and 37).
3. The Committee had before it the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation (ST/ESA/213-E/CN.5/1989/2). 1/
4. At the 12th meeting, on 18 October, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Director of the Social Development Division made introductory statements (see A/C.3/44/SR.12).

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.2.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.13

5. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Yugoslavia introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.13), entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights", sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, India, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Costa Rica joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 37th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.13 without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.14

7. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.14), entitled "Social welfare, development and science and technology", sponsored by Algeria, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, the Federal Republic of, Hungary, Iraq, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia.

8. At the 37th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the German Democratic Republic made a statement, in the course of which he orally revised draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.14 by deleting operative paragraph 4, which read as follows:

"Invites the Commission for Social Development to start elaborating criteria for a humane, moral and social evaluation of scientific and technological progress".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.14, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/44/SR.37).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.16

11. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, on behalf also of Poland, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.16), entitled "Achievement of social justice".

12. At its 37th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.16 without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.24

13. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.24), entitled "World social situation".

14. At the 37th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.24 by a recorded vote of 114 to 1, with 22 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution IV). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2/ The representative of Italy subsequently indicated that, had he been present, he would have abstained. The representatives of the Congo, Costa Rica, Guinea, Kenya, Nicaragua, and Peru subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of France (on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community), Japan, New Zealand, Norway (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden) and Canada made statements.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

17. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/152 of 17 December 1979, 37/55 of 3 December 1982, 38/24 of 22 November 1983 and 40/99 of 13 December 1985,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/31 of 27 May 1983 and decision 1984/131 of 24 May 1984, as well as of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/14 of 2 March 1989, 3/

Reaffirming that popular participation in all its various forms constitutes an important factor in socio-economic development and in the full realization of all human rights and the dignity of the human person,

1. Invites Governments, the concerned specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to transmit to the Secretary-General their comments on the study on popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights; 4/

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to consider at its forty-sixth and, if desired by the Commission, at its forty-seventh, forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, the question of popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in the full realization of all human rights, and to inform the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, of the results of that consideration;

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

4/ E/CN.4/1985/10 and Add.1 and 2.

3. Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-eighth session, in the context of the item relating to the world social situation, under the sub-item entitled "Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights".

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Social welfare, development and science and technology

The General Assembly,

Noting that scientific and technological progress is an important factor in the social and economic development of society,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, in which States were called upon to share equitably scientific and technological advances, to intensify international co-operation in the field and to use science and technology for the benefit of the social development of society,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3384 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, in which all States were called upon to promote international co-operation to ensure that the results of scientific and technological developments were used in the interests of strengthening international peace and security, freedom and independence, and also for the purpose of the economic and social development of peoples and the realization of human rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering that implementation of those Declarations will contribute to the social and economic development of peoples and international co-operation in the interests of scientific and technological progress, as well as to the strengthening of peace,

Emphasizing that international co-operation among States for the promotion of scientific and technological progress is in the interest of the social and economic development of all peoples,

Convinced that, in a time of rapid scientific and technological progress, the resources of mankind and the work of scientists make an important contribution to the peaceful economic and social development of nations and to the improvement of the living standards of all peoples,

Aware that technical co-operation, including the possibility of transfer of technology, is one of the ways of achieving better social progress in developing countries,

1. Calls upon all States to encourage co-operation to ensure scientific and technological progress for the welfare of their peoples, as well as of all human beings and their social and economic development and to contribute to the promotion of economic development and the elimination of grave social problems in the world;
2. Stresses the necessity of making scientific and technological progress a major aspect of the implementation process of fundamental civil and political, economic, social and cultural human rights in their entirety, as laid down in the International Covenants on Human Rights; 5/
3. Calls upon all Governments to make every effort to use scientific and technological achievements for the promotion of peaceful social and economic development and to prevent their misuse to the disadvantage of human beings;
4. Invites the Commission for Social Development, in its discussion of the world social situation, to pay increasing attention to the effects of science and technology on the processes of social welfare and development;
5. Requests the Secretary-General, when elaborating the next report on the world social situation, to take due account of the effects of science and technology on processes of social welfare and development on the basis of available information from Governments and from organizations of the United Nations system;
6. Requests the Secretary-General or interested Governments to consider convening in the near future, within existing resources, a seminar of experts on the effects of science and technology on social welfare and development.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Achievement of social justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/49 of 30 November 1987 as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/46 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/71 of 24 May 1989,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 6/ social progress and development shall be founded on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and shall ensure the promotion of human rights and social justice,

5/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

6/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

Convinced that more extensive international and regional co-operation is important for promoting social progress at the national level,

Mindful of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, 1/

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to develop a comprehensive approach to developmental social welfare, including better integrated and mutually supportive economic and social development policies, aimed at the achievement of social justice,

1. Considers that the common purpose of the international community must be to forge from varied economic, social and political conditions a global environment of sustained development, full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and social justice and peace;
2. Recognizes that social justice is one of the most important goals of social progress;
3. Reaffirms the importance of co-operation among countries in promoting a climate conducive to the achievement by individual countries of the goals of development and social justice and progress;
4. Considers that such co-operation should continue to be a major focus of activities of the United Nations in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
5. Calls upon Member States, in elaborating their national policy in the field of social development, to take into consideration the importance of achieving social justice for all;
6. Recommends that the Secretary-General, in preparing studies and reports on social problems and, in particular, the report on the world social situation, should examine questions of the realization of social justice and ways in which it could be achieved;
7. Requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to consider the question of achieving social justice at its next regular session.

1/ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

World social situation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1392 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/98 and 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 42/49 of 30 November 1987 and 43/113 of 8 December 1988, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/39, 1987/40, 1987/46 and 1987/52 of 28 May 1987, 1989/72 of 24 May 1989 and 1989/113 of 28 July 1989,

Bearing in mind the objective of improving the well-being of the world's population on the basis of the full participation of all members of society in the process of development and the fair distribution to them of the benefits therefrom, and recognizing that the pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve this objective, especially in meeting the basic needs for food, housing, education, employment and health care.

Concerned at the worsening economic situation of the developing countries, particularly that of the least developed countries, including a significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of countries and the decrease of the main social and economic indicators of those countries,

Conscious that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has the primary role in ensuring the social progress and well-being of the people,

Convinced of the urgent need to eradicate policies and practices that hinder social progress, including racism and racial discrimination, in particular apartheid,

Convinced also of the crucial need to eradicate dangerous trends and habits that debilitate individuals and incapacitate society, in particular drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Bearing in mind the importance of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation 8/ for increasing awareness of the advances made towards the goals of social progress and better standards of living, established in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as of the obstacles to further progress,

8/ ST/ESA/213-E/CN.5/1989/2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.1).

Believing that there is a need for greater efforts by the United Nations system to study and disseminate data on the existing world social situation, in particular in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the important contribution of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation to the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Taking note of the deliberation on the question of the world social situation by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session and by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1989,

Having considered the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation,

Concerned over certain shortcomings in the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation,

1. Takes note of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation, including the information on the critical social situation in Africa as provided in the annex to the report;
2. Urges the timely issue of future reports on the world social situation in order to allow the Commission for Social Development to consider the report;
3. Notes with deep concern the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation in the developing countries, in particular that of the least developed countries, as well as of the low-income countries;
4. Notes also with deep concern that the situation faced by the developing countries has been worsened by sharp fluctuations in exchange rates, high real rates of interest, fluctuations in commodity prices, a serious deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries, increased protectionist pressures, the net transfer of resources from developing countries, crushing debt burdens, the restrictive adjustment process demanded by financial and development institutions, the decline in official development assistance in real terms and the severe inadequacy of resources experienced by multilateral development and financial institutions;
5. Notes further with deep concern the critical social situation in Africa resulting from structural imbalances and weaknesses of the African economy and a hostile international economic environment, in spite of the efforts of the Governments of African countries to undertake measures, with the support of the international community, to stabilize and adjust their economies;
6. Reaffirms the principles and objectives of the Declaration on Social

Progress and Development 9/ and calls for their effective realization as a means of attaining a more equitable world social situation;

7. Calls upon all Member States to promote economic development and social progress by the formulation and implementation of an interrelated set of policy measures to achieve the goals and objectives established within the framework of national plans and priorities for employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the aging, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development;

8. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mobilize the necessary resources to undertake measures aimed at improving social conditions world wide;

9. Affirms the request of the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1989/72 for the Secretary-General to submit an expanded version of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1990 and to meet the other requests made in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same resolution;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and to submit the next full report on the world social situation, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly in 1993, for consideration at its forty-eighth session, and also requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Assembly, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, every two years in the intervening period, starting in 1991;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the wider dissemination of the reports on the world social situation;

12. Invites the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of future reports by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence;

13. Decides to include the item entitled "World social situation" in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session for the purpose of considering the expanded version of the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation, of its forty-sixth session for the purpose of considering the interim report, and of its forty-eighth session for the purpose of considering the next full report in 1993.
