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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part X)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Martha DUEÑAS de WHIST (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 82 (see A/44/746, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (h) was considered at the 29th, 30th and 41st meetings, on 2, 3 and 21 November 1989. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/44/SR.29, 30 and 41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

2. At the 30th meeting, on 3 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Payton (New Zealand) made a statement in which he informed the Committee on the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 10 of resolution 12/1 contained in the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its twelfth session. 1/

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 12 parts (see also A/44/746 and Add.1-8 and Add.11).

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/44/8).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.24 and Rev.1 and 2

4. At the 29th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Pakistan introduced, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Egypt, Mauritania and Pakistan, a draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.24), entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976 2/ and the relevant recommendations for national action 3/ adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

"Recalling also its resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987,

"Expressing its support for the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation,

"Expressing its opposition to the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people aimed at ending the intifadah and prolonging the occupation and its benefits to the Israeli economy,

"Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

"Taking into account the need of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for extrabudgetary resources to prepare a comprehensive study on the Palestinian national economy,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General concerning the infrastructure needed by the Palestinian people; 4/

"2. Calls for the immediate cessation of the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, including economic sieges, burning of crops and harvests and blowing up and sealing off of houses;

2/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

3/ Ibid., chap. II.

4/ A/44/534.

"3. Expresses its alarm at the drastic deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory as a result of deliberate Israeli policies and measures;

"4. Affirms that the elimination of the Israeli occupation and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to sovereignty are prerequisites for their social and economic development in the occupied Palestinian territory;

"5. Rejects the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory in particular the increase and expansion of the Israeli colonial settlements;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the extra funds needed to prepare a comprehensive study on the Palestinian national economy;

"7. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

5. On 8 November, a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.1) was circulated by the sponsors of A/C.2/44/L.24, now joined by Malaysia, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976 5/ and the relevant recommendations for national action 6/ adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

"Recalling also its resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987,

"Taking into account the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation,

"Expressing its opposition to the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people aimed at ending the intifadah and prolonging the occupation and its benefits to the Israeli economy,

"Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

5/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

6/ Ibid., chap. II.

"Taking into account the need of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for extra funds to prepare a comprehensive study on the Palestinian national economy,

"1. Takes note of the study annexed to the note by the Secretary-General concerning the infrastructure needed by the Palestinian people; 7/

"2. Calls for the immediate cessation of the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, including economic sieges, burning of crops and harvests and blowing up and sealing off of houses;

"3. Expresses its alarm at the drastic deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory as a result of deliberate Israeli policies and measures;

"4. Affirms that the elimination of the Israeli occupation and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination are prerequisites for their economic and social development in the occupied Palestinian territory;

"5. Rejects the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory in particular the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development the extra funds needed to prepare the comprehensive study on the Palestinian national economy;

"7. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

6. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.1, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was circulated in document A/C.2/44/L.35.

7. At its 41st meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a further revision of the draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.2), which had been submitted on behalf of the sponsors of A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.1. Mali subsequently joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.2.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee also had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.2, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which was contained in document A/C.2/44/L.35/Rev.1.

7/ A/44/534.

9. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Payton (New Zealand), made a statement in which he informed the Committee on the outcome of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.2, and stated that, in operative paragraph 2, the words "economic and social sectors" should be replaced by the words "economic and social fields".

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.24/Rev.2, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 127 to 2, with 7 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution II). 8/ The result of the voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Federal Republic of, Netherlands, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8/ Subsequently, the representative of Afghanistan stated that, had his delegation been present at the time of the voting, it would have voted in favour of the revised draft resolution.

11. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Israel made a statement. Statements after the adoption of the draft resolution were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Norway, Uruguay, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Japan (see A/C.2/44/SR.41).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 9/ the core of which consists of integrated national shelter strategies,

Also recalling its request, contained in paragraph 7 of the above-mentioned resolution, to the Commission on Human Settlements as the body designated to co-ordinate the implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the General Assembly on progress made in its implementation,

Recognizing that the Global Strategy is the most ambitious programme that the international community has so far adopted in the human settlements sector and, as such, requires the concerted efforts of all member Governments, United Nations bodies and donor agencies, as well as the entire attention of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Convinced that, while integrating the most effective and efficient policy tools in all action areas, national shelter strategies can be a crucial instrument of enablement leading to the full mobilization of all types of resources on a sustainable basis and thereby facilitating adequate shelter for all by the year 2000,

Paying special attention to the need to ensure equal access to available resources by all population groups, while recognizing the critical role that women should play in the implementation of the Global Strategy, and to remove obstacles that some population groups, such as households headed by women, may face in this respect,

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

Concerned about the economic constraints many countries face in their development efforts, but at the same time encouraged by the positive impact which enabling shelter strategies have on economic development,

Emphasizing that the objective of facilitating shelter for all can be promoted by a national strategy which is recognized and supported at the highest possible political level, adjusted to the macroeconomic need of consolidating the national resource base and minimizing the import content, based on nationally and individually affordable standards, flexible in terms of the diversity of shelter priorities and specific in terms of institutional arrangements for partnership between various sectors of implementation,

Having considered the first report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, ^{10/}

Noting with satisfaction the support to the Strategy's Plan of Action by donor Governments and international bodies and agencies in assisting national Governments in the formulation of their national shelter strategies,

Cognizant of the importance of sustaining and expanding national and international support to this crucial phase of the Plan of Action,

Noting that, when considering future voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, donors will be influenced by the degree of emphasis of the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the Global Strategy for Shelter and by the priorities within the Global Strategy reflected in that programme,

1. Commends Governments which are reviewing, revising and consolidating their national shelter strategies, as well as implementing them with great determination, and urges all Governments to do so;
2. Recommends that all Governments set the monitoring system to be proposed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) gradually in place following the guidelines to be prepared by the Executive Director;
3. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions whenever possible to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, in cash or in kind, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;
4. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, and particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide financial and other support to the implementation of the Strategy's Plan of Action.

^{10/} Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/44/8/Add.1).

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied
Palestinian territory

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976, 11/ and the relevant recommendations for national action 12/ adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 42/190 of 11 December 1987,

Taking into account the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation, including its economic and social policies and practices,

Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

Taking into account the need of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for extra funds to prepare the comprehensive study on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory requested by the Trade and Development Board in its resolution 239 (XXIII) of 9 October 1981, 13/

1. Takes note of the study annexed to the note by the Secretary-General concerning the infrastructure needs of the Palestinian people; 14/
2. Calls for the immediate cessation of the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, particularly in the economic and social fields;
3. Expresses its alarm at the deterioration, as a result of the Israeli occupation, in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967;

11/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. I.

12/ Ibid., chap. II.

13/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/36/15 and Corr.1), part three, annex I.

14/ A/44/534.

4. Affirms that the Israeli occupation is contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic development of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory;

5. Rejects the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from the United Nations regular budget the extra funds needed to prepare the comprehensive study on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.
