



Fifteenth session
Agenda item 88

AFRICA: A UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME FOR INDEPENDENCE
AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Gustavo Santiso GALVEZ (Guatemala)

1. By a letter dated 28 September 1960 (A/4515), the United States requested the inclusion of the item entitled: "Africa: a United Nations programme for independence and development" in the agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. Attached to the letter was an explanatory memorandum. An addendum to this document was submitted on 20 October 1960 (A/4515/Add.1).
2. At its 898th plenary meeting, held on 10 October 1960, the General Assembly decided to include the item in the agenda and at its 904th plenary meeting on 13 October referred it to the First Committee.
3. The First Committee considered the item at its 1137th, 1138th, 1139th, 1140th, 1142nd, 1144th, 1145th, 1147th, 1152nd and 1161st meetings.
4. On 11 April 1961, a draft resolution was submitted by Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Upper Volta (A/C.1/L.271 and Add.1). On 12 April 1961 the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.271/Rev.1), which, as further revised on 21 April (A/C.1/L.271/Rev.2), read as follows:

A

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the item entitled: 'Africa: a United Nations programme for independence and development',

"Considering that the independence of colonial territories is a prerequisite for the harmonious, progressive, steady and lasting development and advancement of all States in Africa,

"Conscious also of the need for protecting the independent States of Africa from outside pressures which threaten their independence and sovereign rights and which retard their development in all fields,

"1. Reaffirms its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960;

"2. Urges all States which have responsibilities for the administration of territories in Africa to implement resolution 1514 (XV);

"3. Recognizes that the question of the achievement of the objectives of resolution 1514 (XV) including the matter of target dates, is a subject of urgency and refers it to the Fourth Committee for consideration.

B

"The General Assembly,

"Considering that a specific programme of economic, social and technical assistance for Africa is now urgently needed,

"Conscious of the urgent necessity to take measures to strengthen and consolidate the economic independence of the independent States of Africa,

"Aware of the pressing need for economic and social development in Africa,

"Convinced that international co-operation in the economic and social field is of critical importance to assist the independent nations in Africa so that they may reap the benefits of their independence, carry out its responsibilities and preserve their independence,

"Appreciating the willingness and desire of Member States to contribute to such a development programme,

"Recalling resolution 1527 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and all other resolutions relevant to the subject of economic, social and technical assistance,

"1. Reaffirms resolution 1527 (XV) and specially urges the economically advanced countries to increase financial and technical assistance to African countries through multilateral channels and within the framework of the Economic Commission for Africa, with no conditions attached prejudicial to their political and economic sovereignty;

"2. Reaffirms its resolution 1518 (XV) and its confidence in the Economic Commission for Africa as an essential instrument of co-operation among African States;

"3. Calls attention to the particular importance in present circumstances of providing assistance to African countries, at their request, in shaping long-term social and economic development through:

"(a) The expansion of regular technical assistance programmes of the United Nations, including those relating to the provision of operating and administrative personnel at the request of independent countries, and the acceleration of programmes for newly independent countries under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance;

"(b) The acceleration of the appropriate technical assistance and pre-investment activities of the Special Fund and of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, particularly the establishment of Training Institutes to meet urgent needs for training technical personnel;

"(c) The establishment of an Economic Development Bank for Africa, as recommended in resolution 27 (III) of the Economic Commission for Africa;

"(d) The establishment under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa, and with the assistance of the United Nations Special Fund, of an Economic Development Institute for Africa for the purpose of training suitable persons in the field of economic development, in particular in the techniques of economic planning and programming;

"4. Believes that the Economic Commission for Africa should play an important role not only in the provision of advisory services to requesting African States but also in the co-ordination of economic and technical assistance rendered to Africa;

"5. Welcomes the convening by UNESCO, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Specialized Agencies, of a conference on Education in relation to the Economic Development of Africa to be held in Addis Ababa in May 1961, and requests that the recommendations and plans formulated by this conference be communicated to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session;

"6. Recognizes the necessity that studies and measures relating to trade in primary commodities now under consideration or contemplated by CICT and other bodies, including the new Committee on African Trade, established by the Economic Commission for Africa by its resolution 28 (III), should lead to action to alleviate the problems of under-developed countries with respect to their trade in primary commodities;

"7. Requests the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session to make the necessary studies for implementation of those provisions of this resolution within its competence and to report to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly;

"8. Decides to consider this item at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly."

5. At the 1161st meeting, on 21 April 1961, the First Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item be adjourned to the sixteenth session of the Assembly.
