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SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations
Development Decade on its fourth session

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ANNEX

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 26 September to 8 October 1969.

2. The Committee adopted the following agenda (A/AC.141/3):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Further discussion of policy measures in all key areas.
5. Preliminary consideration of proposals relating to arrangements for continuing review and appraisal of objectives and policy measures.
6. Preliminary consideration of a draft of the preambular part of the document on the international development strategy to be submitted for approval by the General Assembly.
7. Examination of arrangements for the mobilization of public opinion.
8. Finalization of interim report in terms of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII), including proposals regarding the launching of the Decade.
9. Other matters.
10. Provisional agenda for the fifth session.
11. Time and place of the fifth session.
12. Approval of interim report.

3. The Committee held twelve meetings in which statements on various agenda items were made (see A/AC.141/SR.34-45). The conclusions of the Committee at its fourth session are contained in paragraphs 4 to 15.

II. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT OF THE PREAMBULAR PART OF THE DOCUMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (agenda item 6)

4. After an exchange of views and consideration of various suggestions before it, the Committee agreed on a draft preamble which would be used as a basis of further work with a view to arriving at a final text at a later date. This draft is annexed to the present report.

III. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS RELATING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTINUING REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICY MEASURES (agenda item 5)

5. It was agreed that arrangements were necessary to keep under systematic scrutiny the progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Decade - to identify shortfalls in their achievement and the policies which were not consistent with the attainment of objectives and to recommend positive measures, including new goals and policies as needed.

6. It was also agreed that such reviews and appraisals would need to be carried out at various levels, involving both developing and developed countries. The existing arrangements suitable for this purpose would have to be fully and effectively utilized, strengthened as required, and complemented by new ones as appropriate at the national, regional, other multinational and global levels. The Committee decided to take a final decision on this subject at a later session, bearing in mind the views expressed at the present session.

IV. EXAMINATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION (agenda item 7)

7. It was agreed that an essential part of the organization of the Decade would consist in the mobilization of public opinion in both developing and developed countries in the support of the objectives and policies for the Decade.

8. Governments of the more advanced countries would need to continue and intensify their endeavour to deepen public understanding of the interdependent nature of the development efforts during the Decade and of the need to assist the developing countries in accelerating their economic and social progress.

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Similarly, Governments of the developing countries would need to make people at all levels aware of the benefits and sacrifices involved and to enlist their full participation in achieving the objectives of the Decade.

9. The mobilization of public opinion has to be the responsibility mainly of national bodies. Governments might give consideration to the establishment of new national bodies or to strengthening the existing ones designed to mobilize public opinion, and, as a long-term measure, to give increasing development orientation to the educational curricula. Considering that leadership could make a significant contribution to the mobilization of public opinion, the formulation of concrete aims by the competent authorities was indispensable. The role of the organizations of the United Nations system would be to assist the various national information media, in particular by supplying adequate basic information from which these media might draw both substance and inspiration for their work. There was also an urgent need for increasingly co-ordinating the information activities already being undertaken by many organizations within the United Nations system. The information stemming from international sources would have to be aimed primarily at strengthening the sense of interdependence and partnership implicit in the concept of the Decade.

10. The Committee would further consider this matter at a later session with a view to reaching more definite conclusions. It recognized that this subject was under consideration in other bodies of the United Nations which would find it useful, in arriving at appropriate decisions, to take into account the findings and proposals contained in document A/AC.141/L.11 and various suggestions advanced in the Committee, as well as those to be made later. The Committee expressed the hope that action would be taken as soon as possible on the mobilization of public opinion.

V. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF POLICY MEASURES
IN ALL KEY AREAS (agenda item 4)

11. The Committee decided to consider this agenda item at its fifth session.

VI. FINALIZATION OF INTERIM REPORT IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 8
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2411 (XXIII), INCLUDING
PROPOSALS REGARDING THE LAUNCHING OF THE DECADE
(agenda item 8)

12. The Committee decided that the interim report to the General Assembly^{1/} would be prepared by the Rapporteur after the conclusion of the Committee's fourth session. The interim report would follow in the main the format of the annex to document A/7525/Add.2, brought up-to-date in the light of the conclusions reached at the fourth session. The report would also contain an introduction describing the principal developments in pursuance of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII).

13. The Committee agreed that it would be premature to make specific proposals for the launching of the Decade until further progress was made on the preparation of the framework for the international development strategy. It decided to consider the matter at a later occasion.

VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION (agenda item 10)

14. The Committee agreed on the following provisional agenda for its fifth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Re-examination of growth and other targets as specified earlier.
5. Finalization of the first draft on policy measures in all key areas.
6. Exchange of views on possible priorities regarding the policy measures.
7. Further discussion on arrangements for continuing review and appraisal of objectives and policy measures.
8. Further discussion on arrangements for the mobilization of public opinion, including proposals for the launching of the Decade.

^{1/} To be issued under the symbol A/7699.

9. Further discussion of a draft of the preambular part of the document on the international development strategy to be submitted for approval by the General Assembly.
10. Other matters.
11. Provisional agenda for the sixth session.
12. Time and place of the sixth session.
13. Adoption of the report on the fifth session.

VIII. TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIFTH SESSION
(agenda item 11)

15. The Committee considered it desirable to hold its fifth session for a period of three weeks beginning in the latter part of February 1970. As regards the place, some members expressed the opinion that the session should be held in Geneva, while some other suggested New York. The Committee decided to refer the matter to the resumed forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council.

ANNEX

Draft Preamble

1. On the threshold of the 1970s, Governments dedicate themselves anew to the fundamental objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations twenty-five years ago to create conditions of stability and well-being and to ensure a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity through economic and social progress and development.

2. The launching in 1961 of the First United Nations Development Decade marked a major world-wide endeavour to give concrete substance to this solemn pledge. Since then attempts have continued to be made to adopt specific measures and to fashion and employ new institutions of international co-operation for this purpose.

3. However, the level of living of countless millions of people in the developing part of the world is still pitifully low. These people are often still undernourished, uneducated, unemployed, and wanting in many other basic amenities of life. While a part of the world lives in great comfort and even affluence, much of the larger part suffers from abject poverty, and in fact the disparity is continuing to widen. This lamentable situation has contributed to the aggravation of world tension.

4. The current frustrations and disappointments must not be allowed to cloud the vision or stand in the way of the development objectives being really ambitious. Youth everywhere is in ferment and the 1970s, therefore, must mark a step forward in securing the well-being and happiness not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come.

5. In the conviction that development is the essential path to peace, Governments reaffirm their common and unswerving resolve to seek a better and more effective system of international co-operation whereby the prevailing disparities in the world may be banished and prosperity secured for all.

6. The ultimate objective of development must be to bring about sustained improvements in the well-being of the individual and bestow benefits on all. If

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undue privileges, extremes of wealth and social injustices persist, then development fails in its essential purpose. This calls for a global development strategy based on joint and concentrated action by developing and developed countries in all spheres of economic and social life: in industry and agriculture, in trade and finance, in employment and education, in health and housing, in science and technology.

7. As regards science and technology, the international community must rise to the challenge of the present age of unprecedented opportunities in order that the scientific and technological advances be equitably shared by developed and developing countries, thus contributing to accelerated economic development throughout the world.

8. International co-operation for development must be on a scale commensurate with that of the problem itself. Partial, sporadic and half-hearted gestures, howsoever well-intentioned, will not suffice.

9. Economic and social progress is the common and shared responsibility of the entire international community. Every country has the right and duty to develop its human and natural resources, but the full benefit of its efforts can be realized only with concomitant and effective international action.

10. Undoubtedly, the primary responsibility rests upon the developing countries themselves, but they cannot by themselves attain as expeditiously as they must the desired development goals in spite of their all-out efforts, owing mainly to their lack of sufficient financial resources, as well as to their need of more favourable economic and commercial policies on the part of developed countries.

11. Designating the 1970s as the Second United Nations Development Decade the Governments pledge themselves, individually and collectively, to pursue policies designed to create a more just and rational world economic order in which equality of opportunities should be as much a prerogative of nations as of individuals within a nation. They subscribe to the goals and objectives of the Decade and resolve to take the measures to translate them into reality. These aims and measures are set out in the following paragraphs: