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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Martha DUEÑAS de WHIST (Ecuador)

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:

"Operational activities for development:

"(a) Comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system;

"(b) United Nations Development Programme;

"(c) United Nations Capital Development Fund;

"(d) United Nations technical co-operation activities;

"(e) United Nations Volunteers programme"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 30th, 37th to 43rd, 47th, 49th, 50th and 52nd meetings, on 3, 17, 20 to 22 and 29 November and 11, 15 and 19 December. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/44/SR.30, 37-43, 47, 49, 50 and 52). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 10th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 October (A/C.2/44/SR.2-10).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- A/44/3 Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. VI, sect. A 1/
- A/44/361 Letter dated 28 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Caracas Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Group
- A/44/376-
E/1989/125 Letter dated 6 July 1989 from the Head of the Observer Delegation of the German Democratic Republic to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989 addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic entitled "Assistance rendered by the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988"
- A/44/401-
E/1989/129 Letter dated 18 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting information on economic assistance given by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988
- A/44/409-
S/20743 and
Corr.1 and 2 Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 17 to 19 May 1989
- A/44/432 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the review and assessment of population programme experience
- A/44/477 Letter dated 22 August 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Grand Anse, Grenada, from 3 to 7 July 1989

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/44/3/Rev.1).

- A/44/646 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical co-operation projects"
- A/44/689-
S/20921 Letter dated 26 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 24 October 1989
- A/C.2/44/6 Letter dated 20 November 1989 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations, adopted by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1989
- (a) Comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system
- A/44/324-
E/1989/106 and
Add.1 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for the triennial policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- A/44/324/Add.2-
E/1989/106/
Add.2 Note by the Secretary-General presenting a consolidated report on integrated country reviews undertaken in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- A/44/324/Add.3-
E/1989/106/
Add.3 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the recommendations of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for the triennial policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system
- A/44/324/Add.4-
E/1989/106/
Add.4 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation providing preliminary statistical data for operational activities for the year 1988
- A/44/324/Add.5-
E/1989/106/
Add.5 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on fulfilment of the target for official development assistance

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(b) United Nations Development Programme

- E/1989/32 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1989, its special session, and its thirty-sixth session 2/
- A/44/389 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

(c) United Nations Capital Development Fund

- E/1989/32 Relevant chapter of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme 2/

(d) United Nations technical co-operation activities

- DP/1989/46 and Add.1-3 Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities
- E/1989/32 Relevant chapter of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme 2/

(e) United Nations Volunteers programme

- E/1989/32 Relevant chapter of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme 2/

4. At the 30th meeting, on 3 November, an introductory statement was made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Statements were also made by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (see A/C.2/44/SR.30).

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 13 (E/1989/32).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft decision A/C.2/44/L.66 and draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.75

5. At the 47th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/44/L.66) entitled "United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities", which read as follows:

"United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

"Requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities to be managed as effectively as possible, to examine the modalities of the Conference and to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, about future arrangements, including:

"(a) The possibility of shortening the Conference from three meetings to two;

"(b) Greater use of written pledges, where appropriate;

"(c) Shortened procedures for the Final Act."

6. At the 49th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Payton (New Zealand) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.75) submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/44/L.66.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.75 by consensus (see para. 23, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.75, draft decision A/C.2/44/L.66 was withdrawn by the sponsor.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/44/L.69 and L.76

9. At the 47th meeting, on 30 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.2/44/L.69) entitled "Fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting that 1990 will be the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system,

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through the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Special Fund and the consolidation of these two programmes into the United Nations Development Programme,

"Taking note of decisions 89/68 of 30 June 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and 1989/187 of 28 July 1989 of the Economic and Social Council,

"1. Decides to observe, during its forty-fifth session, the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system, in a manner befitting the role and achievements of such co-operation, and that the United Nations Day in 1990, Wednesday, 24 October, should be the day for the commemoration of this anniversary;

"2. Invites all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute to the celebration of that anniversary."

10. At the 49th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Payton (New Zealand) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.76) submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.69.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.76 by consensus (see para. 23, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.76, draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.69 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/44/L.67 and L.79

13. At the 47th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Sudan, Sweden and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Hungary, Poland and Togo, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.67) entitled "Future needs in population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance". The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling decision 87/30 of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Governing Council welcomed the intention of the United Nations Population Fund to conduct a wide-ranging review and assessment of accumulated population experience in key areas within its mandate, 3/

3/ Ibid., 1987, Supplement No. 12 (E/1987/25), annex I.

"Recalling also its resolution 43/199 of 20 December 1988, in which it welcomed the review and assessment being conducted by the United Nations Population Fund of its experience in the field of population and requested that an appropriate summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

"1. Takes note of the report prepared by the United Nations Population Fund containing the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review and assessment of population programme experience; 4/

"2. Welcomes the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations, adopted by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, at Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1989, 5/ which placed special emphasis on, inter alia:

"(a) The responsibilities of the present generation to future generations, in particular in the field of population;

"(b) The inextricable linkage between population, resources and the environment;

"(c) The need for urgent action on problems relating to population growth and distribution, especially in the developing world;

"(d) The need to improve the role and status of women so as to enhance their freedom to make decisions affecting their lives and that of their families;

"(e) The need to recognize that the principal aim of social, economic and cultural development, of which population policies and programmes are integral parts, is to improve the quality of life of people;

"3. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund:

"(a) To bring the results of the Forum to the attention of Governments, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations and to invite them to implement the Call to Action contained in the Declaration;

"(b) To examine the implications for population programmes of the Declaration and to further develop the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, taking into account the increasing demand for such assistance and the resources likely to be mobilized by the developing countries for population programmes;

4/ A/44/432, annex.

5/ A/C.2/44/6.

"(c) To submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council."

14. At the 50th meeting, on 15 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Payton (New Zealand) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.79) entitled "Future needs in the field of population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance", submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.67.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.79 by consensus (see para. 23, draft resolution III).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.79, draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.67 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

D. Draft resolutions A/C.2/44/L.65, L.68 and L.87/Rev.1

17. At the 47th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.65) entitled "Comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development". The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and 41/171 of 5 December 1986, 42/196 of 11 December 1987 and 43/199 of 20 December 1988 on operational activities for development,

"Recognizing the diversity in the situation of developing countries, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries, and the consequent need for the responses of the United Nations development system to be tailored accordingly,

"Recognizing the growing importance of problems of a transboundary character and the greater emphasis which needs to be attached to strengthening regional and global co-operation for the solving of common problems,

"Perceiving a pressing need both to strengthen co-operation among partners in the United Nations system by adapting the role and relationship of funding, technical and specialized agencies to draw on their comparative advantages and to consider how to support national management of external resources, including execution of programmes and projects,

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"Highlighting the need to re-examine and adapt the field representation of the United Nations system so as to strengthen the team concept under the leadership of the resident co-ordinator, enhance capacity for integrated multisectoral advice and ensure the alignment of representation with substantive programme functions,

"Affirming the responsibility of the Director-General for leadership in promoting the coherence, co-ordination and effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the need to amplify the relevant mandate of its resolution 32/197 and to enhance the related capacities of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation,

"Recalling the role of the United Nations Development Programme as the central funding mechanism for the United Nations system of technical co-operation, the full potential of which has not yet been realized,

"Stressing the importance of intensified efforts towards the attainment of the official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries as a means of increasing significantly the flow of concessional resources to the developing countries,

"I. Goals and objectives

"1. Welcomes the report of the Director-General on operational activities for development, 6/ which includes insights from the integrated country reviews and the erstwhile case studies, which remain valid;

"2. Affirms as fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system their universality, voluntary nature, neutrality and multilateralism and their responsiveness to the priorities, goals and objectives of the developing countries;

"3. Considers that, within the general framework of support for the goal of self-reliance and sustained equitable growth and development, the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be designed to promote:

"(a) The eradication of poverty, through support for the poorest countries and people;

"(b) The development of human resources;

6/ A/44/324-E/1989/106 and Add.1-5.

"(c) Capacity-building for self-reliance, especially with respect to the management aspects of the development process, including the capacity for macroeconomic planning and analysis and socio-economic policy formulation and for the integration of external assistance into national development processes;

"4. Welcomes in this connection the priority given to capacity-building by the United Nations Development Programme Governing Council in its decision 89/20 7/ on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the 1990s and encourages other appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, also to enhance efforts in this regard;

"5. Requests the Director-General to present to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session proposals for more specific objectives for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order appropriately to reflect the outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, the preparatory process for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"6. Calls for the strengthening of technical co-operation programmes designed to assist countries so requesting to strengthen their overall economic management and integrate the social dimension into the process of structural transformation;

"7. Requests the Director-General to recommend to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session action-oriented measures to strengthen the role of operational activities for development in helping to meet the needs of the poorest people;

"8. Encourages maximum participation of populations in the development process and in the broadening of the capacity-building process through increased engagement, at the request of Governments, local communities, the enterprise sector and non-governmental organizations;

"9. Affirms the need to promote the full integration of women in all aspects of the development process in accordance with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 8/ and requests the

7/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 13 (E/1989/32), annex I.

8/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Director-General to include in his annual report on operational activities to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session an appraisal of the steps taken within those activities to ensure that the development concerns of women are fully reflected and integrated in the mainstream of various programmes;

"II. Principal policy considerations

"Stressing the need to adjust and reorient the United Nations development system with a view to achieving the goals and objectives of the operational activities for development, in particular the enhancement of human and institutional capacities for development, through integrated and comprehensive policies, inter alia, in the following areas:

"(a) Programming;

"(b) Programme and project management;

"(c) Provision of technical advice and backstopping;

"(d) Country-level structure and co-ordination, including role and function of the resident co-ordinators;

"(e) Decentralization;

"(f) Funding,

"1. Recommends the formulation in country programmes of clear strategies based on systematic analysis of development problems and constraints;

"2. Stresses the need for the shift from project to programme approaches, and requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant governing bodies to develop more programme-oriented mechanisms for the provision of technical co-operation with a view to allowing more flexible and effective support of national programmes;

"3. Invites organizations participating in programming to improve coherence through joint programming in co-operation with Governments;

"4. Recognizes national management of all external assistance as essential to capacity-building and the integration of projects into the institutional fabric of the recipient countries, invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider measures designed to accelerate and facilitate the use of a strengthened national execution modality which provides for appropriate technical, administrative and management support from the United Nations system, and invites technical and executing agencies to adapt their functions accordingly;

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"5. Reiterates the need for the United Nations funding organizations, in working with executing partners, to ensure that the highest standards of technical expertise and advice, efficient backstopping and adequate accountability for the use of funds are maintained in the execution of programmes and projects assisted by them;

"6. Encourages the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to consider the question of successor arrangements for agency support costs from the standpoints of how best to meet the needs of developing countries and to foster co-ordination and coherence within the United Nations system, taking into account the need for wider use of national execution of projects, a more programme-oriented approach and regular and timely provision of technical advice and backstopping by agencies;

"7. Stresses the need to reinforce the capacity of the resident co-ordinator to act as the team leader overseeing, within the United Nations system, the integration of the sectoral inputs of the United Nations system through, inter alia:

"(a) A clarified and strengthened mandate from the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination which can draw, as appropriate, on the guiding principles for co-operation in the field as set out by the Committee in 1961;

"(b) A focus in co-ordination on practical co-operation on substantive programme issues with a clear orientation to the development goals and objectives of recipient countries;

"(c) The closer co-operation of the field representation of the United Nations system at the country level with the resident co-ordinator;

"8. Recognizes the urgent need for the rationalization of the field representation of the United Nations system, and requests the Director-General to update the information presented by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on field representation 9/ and to make specific recommendations for enhancing the relevance, impact and cost-effectiveness of that representation to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"9. Recognizes food aid as an important instrument of support for development objectives, which should be programmed in co-ordination with economic and technical assistance, and encourages the participation of the World Food Programme in country food security action plans and the enhanced utilization of food aid, where appropriate, to support the social dimension of the adjustment process;

"10. Stresses the continued need to enhance the use of technical co-operation among developing countries as a modality for co-operation within the United Nations system;

9/ A/41/424.

"11. Affirms the commitment to the procurement from developing countries and from under-utilized major donor countries and recommends the implementation of the applicable proposals of the Director-General in accordance with the principles of international competitive bidding;

"12. Stresses the continuing need for a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, and urges all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development, in particular those countries whose overall involvement is not commensurate with their capacity;

"13. Reaffirms the need for the priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

"III. Action programme to enhance the effectiveness and support of United Nations system operational activities

"Recognizing the need to establish within the United Nations system a framework of interrelated actions in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities and ensure that those actions are carried out in an integrated and mutually supportive manner,

"1. Requests the Director-General to bring his report and recommendations, together with the present resolution, to the attention of all the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, and invites the governing bodies of those organizations:

"(a) To give in-depth consideration to the recommendations of the Director-General, taking into account the present resolution, with a view to preparing an action-oriented response;

"(b) To establish appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms, within organizations that do not have them, for the specific consideration of substantive, technical and administrative questions relating to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

"2. Recognizes the need for immediate action in the harmonization and simplification of procedures, especially programming, financial and administrative procedures, and:

"(a) Requests all organizations of the United Nations engaged in operational activities to harmonize their programming cycles at the country level with the planning cycles of recipient countries;

"(b) Decides that procedures pertaining to programme and project formulation, design and implementation, including procurement, monitoring, reporting and evaluation, should be standardized and simplified to the extent

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possible and should be designed to facilitate national management, and requests all organizations of the United Nations system concerned to take specific measures to this end;

"(c) Requests funding organizations to simplify their project approval and implementation procedures for nationally executed projects;

"(d) Invites the governing bodies to review existing budget, audit and other relevant practices with a view to taking specific decisions not later than 1991 on measures designed to facilitate the utilization of national capacity, including national management, a more programme-oriented approach and the improved provision of technical advice and backstopping;

"3. Requests all organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake the necessary arrangements, in co-operation with host Governments and without delay, to establish common premises at the country level, and requests the Director-General to include in his annual reports on operational activities information on progress made in that area;

"4. Requests the Director-General to further develop the concept of common country statements under the leadership of Governments and resident co-ordinators, taking into account other co-ordinating and programming mechanisms, in order to permit testing on a pilot basis over a two-year period, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the experience to date, and calls on all executive heads to co-operate fully in this effort;

"5. Requests the Director-General to further develop the concept of multidisciplinary country teams under the leadership of the resident co-ordinators and to review with Governments in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and other executive heads, the possibility of organizing such teams through, inter alia, more flexible utilization and co-operation of the field representation of the United Nations system, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"6. Requests all organizations of the United Nations system engaged in operational activities to undertake further decentralization, and requests those organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to submit to their governing bodies, as soon as possible but not later than 1991, proposals for specific measures to achieve greater decentralization, while maintaining an adequate level of accountability, and requests the Director-General to include in his annual reports on operational activities information on progress made in the field of decentralization;

"7. Requests the Director-General:

"(a) To draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 to recommendations on which he considers additional guidance is required;

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"(b) To apprise the General Assembly, in his annual reports on operational activities for development, of progress in the implementation of the present resolution;

"(c) To submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution and make recommendations for the next triennial policy review."

18. At the 47th meeting, on 29 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.2/44/L.68) entitled "Triennial review of operational activities for the United Nations system", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/171 of 5 December 1986, 42/196 of 11 December 1987 and 43/199 of 20 December 1988,

"Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Government of the recipient country for formulating national development plans, priorities and objectives, as set out in the consensus of 1970 contained in the annex to its resolution 2688 (XXV), and emphasizing that the integration of the operational activities of the United Nations system with national programmes would enhance the impact and relevance of those activities,

"Reaffirming further that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universality, multilateralism, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality, non-conditionality and flexibility in meeting the technical co-operation requirements of developing countries,

"Reaffirming also that the national plans and priorities should constitute the only viable frame of reference for programming operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

"Reaffirming also that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of all developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

"Stressing that the primary objective of the operational activities of the United Nations system is to promote the self-reliance of developing countries through multilateral co-operation,

"Bearing in mind the urgent and specific needs of the least developed countries,

"Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development to overcome their economic difficulties,

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"Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,

"Recalling also its resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988 on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America,

"Deeply concerned over the continued economic stagnation and retrogression of developing countries and the resulting reduction in the standard of living and quality of life of their population, and stressing, in this regard, the importance of enhancing and increasing the positive impact of operational activities for development in support of the development efforts of developing countries,

"Stressing that it is undesirable and unsustainable that, while developed countries in general have attained the longest uninterrupted period of economic growth and prosperity since the post-war era, the resources for development continue to be inadequate and the resources for operational activities of the United Nations system continue to decrease in real terms,

"Recognizing the need for a substantial increase in resources for the operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing requirements of all developing countries, and taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries, and emphasizing the need to increase the proportion of grants in overall official development assistance,

"Aware that a substantial part of world resources, human as well as material, continues to be diverted to armaments, with a detrimental effect on international security and on bilateral and multilateral co-operation, including the operational activities for development, and stressing, in this regard, that the recent relaxation of global political tensions and the important disarmament efforts that it could bring about, should allow the liberalization of significant resources which could be used for developmental purposes in developing countries,

"Noting with concern that present procedures of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the unco-ordinated funding from diverse sources continue to limit the positive impact of such activities in the development process of developing countries and impose a considerable administrative and financial burden on Governments in their endeavour to monitor and co-ordinate projects, maximize their complementarities and avoid duplication,

"Concerned that the current execution of programmes and projects of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular by the underutilization of government execution, undermine the realization of the development priorities and objectives of developing countries, obstruct developing country integrated management and programming of resources received from the United Nations system, and inhibit the strengthening and utilization of national capacities,

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"Emphasizing the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries on a priority basis, through the prompt and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Programme of Action, in order to enhance the capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries,

"Expressing concern that the diversity and complexity of the rules and procedures governing the programme and project cycle have imposed an unmanageable administrative burden, entailing high financial costs, on recipient Governments and have prevented the assumption by them of their full responsibility for designing, managing, programming and co-ordinating the grant resources provided through the United Nations system,

"Concerned also that the overcentralization of decisions and decision-making authority in programme and project approval and in procurement of inputs and services in many of the funding organizations, hinder coherent and efficient programming and utilization of the resources from the United Nations system, neglect or distort the objectives of projects and programmes, and inhibit the utilization and strengthening of national capacities,

"Emphasizing that the range and quantity of skills and expertise assembled by the United Nations system at the country level under the team leadership of the resident co-ordinator, should correspond to the multi-sectoral and sectoral technical backstopping needs and requirements of developing countries as defined by them and within the framework of the respective government programme of technical co-operation of the United Nations system, rather than the institutional structure of the United Nations system,

"Reaffirming the need for ensuring adequate developing country representation at the executive management, and other central decision-making levels, as well as all other levels of the secretariat structure of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system involved in operational activities for development, and stressing the need to implement promptly and fully this principle,

"Emphasizing the important role of women and youth in the development process, and recognizing the importance attached to the integration of the women and youth of developing countries in United Nations development programmes, both as agents and as beneficiaries of development,

"1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on the Triennial Policy Review and, in particular, the Report of the Integrated Country reviews;

"2. Reiterates that the recipient Governments have the sole responsibility to design, manage and co-ordinate all external assistance and that the exercise of this responsibility is crucial for the optimal use of external assistance and to strengthen and utilize national capacities;

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"3. Calls upon the international community, in particular donor countries, to provide a substantial increase in resources for the operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the growing needs and requirements of the developing countries; taking into account the continued economic stagnation and retrogression of these countries and the need to reverse their net transfer of resources, in contrast with the uninterrupted economic growth in recent years in developed countries and against the backdrop of new opportunities for a significant increase in resources for development through relaxation of political tensions and disarmament;

"4. Commends the developed donor countries which have fulfilled and in some cases exceeded their ODA targets and/or whose financial contributions for operational activities, individually or as a group, have exceeded the internationally accepted targets, and urges other developed countries to substantially increase their contributions to operational activities of the United Nations system in order to at least attain those ODA targets;

"5. Stresses the need, in this context, to improve the United Nations system operational activities in particular in programming, simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures governing the programming and project cycles, decentralization of authority, role of the country office structures and reorient execution modalities, in order to enable the recipient Governments to exercise its management and co-ordination responsibilities and strengthen their national capacities;

"6. Reaffirms that national programmes constitute the central instrument for the distribution of voluntary grant resources within the United Nations system, and in this context, recommends that the level of resources for individual developing countries, should be higher than their respective allocation in the previous cycle;

"7. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of its scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low income countries, particularly least developed countries;

"8. Emphasizes the primary importance attached to central funding through core resources in operational activities for development, and at the same time recognizes the value of special purpose grant resources, provided these are designed as a means to ensure additional resources flows, and their projects are coherently and sustainably integrated in the United Nations system's technical co-operation in conformity with each country's national development plan and programme and in accordance with the respective mandates of programmes and organizations;

"9. Emphasizes that the United Nations system organizations should adjust its processes and procedures in order to enable the recipient Government to allocate resources received from the United Nations system on the basis of a programme based on their respective national development plan, objectives and priorities, and for this purpose recommends the following measures:

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"(a) The funding organizations of the United Nations system must provide resources to the recipient Government on a coherent basis through a United Nations system technical co-operation programme elaborated by the recipient Government;

"(b) Harmonization of programme cycles and fiscal years among the funding agencies and, especially, with the Government's own planning period and/or budgetary cycles on a rolling cycle basis;

"(c) The recipient Government should assume the execution of all projects, allowing the United Nations specialized agencies to play a critical role in facilitating the implementation of these projects and in the preparation of sector and multisector reviews, essential for a coherent programme approach;

"(d) Decentralization and delegation of authority to the country level and the adoption of common formats and harmonization of programming and project implementation procedures;

"(e) Non-emergency food aid channelled through the United Nations system should be programmed coherently so as to ensure its full integration with the development programmes of the Government;

"10. Decides that the recipient Governments should assume full responsibility for the execution of all projects funded by the United Nations system in order to ensure that they are managed in an integrated manner, to strengthen national capacities and to ensure the long-term sustainability and wide impact of projects in the development process, and, in this regard, decides that:

"(a) The role of country offices and of the resident co-ordinator should be redefined as determined by recipient Governments and geared to support adequately the Government in its execution role, acquiring necessary expertise in the areas defined;

"(b) The specialized agencies of the United Nations system should play an important role in providing technical advice to Governments and in the preparation of multi-sector and sector reviews, appraisal and monitoring of programmes and projects as well as the technical review of inputs;

"(c) The present rules and procedures for Government execution should be modified to enable the Governments to execute projects and facilitate and promote the utilization of national capacities. The country offices should be delegated with a greater role in ensuring accountability on the basis of flexible and simple procedures;

"(d) Procedures and formats for programming, project formulation, approval, implementation, appraisal, reporting and evaluation should be reviewed with a view to introduce more simplified, flexible and effective procedures, taking into account costs involved for recipient Governments and

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the United Nations system, at both country level and headquarters, and on the basis of consultation with the recipient Governments regarding the latter's views on effectiveness of various procedures and their adaptability to the different nature and requirements of individual recipient Governments;

"(e) The United Nations system should provide Governments at the country level with information on the capacities and needs of other developing countries, in relation to the particular needs of the country in question, in the required detail and frequency so as to enable greater integration of TCDC in the programming and project formulation and with a view to strengthen national capacities of developing countries;

"11. Stresses the need to increase substantially the procurement from all developing countries in order to promote collective self-reliance and, in this regard, emphasizes the importance for all parts of the United Nations system to set specific time-bound quantitative targets for increasing procurement from developing countries;

"12. Recommends also that bilateral donors concerned endeavour to harmonize and simplify their rules and procedures in order to respond as fully as possible to conditions and practices in recipient countries and lessen these countries' administrative burden and related costs, with a view of facilitating the task of developing countries in co-ordinating development co-operation and assistance;

"13. Recommends the decentralization and delegation of authority to the country level by the United Nations system funding agencies in order to develop country-focused, innovative strategies and specially to ensure a maximum utilization and strengthening of national capacities, and in this regard, undertake the following changes:

"(a) Programme and project approval authority should be delegated to the country level, and field offices should fully exercise it with a view to improving speed, quality and efficiency of project implementation;

"(b) During implementation of the programme, country offices should review disbursements on a regular basis, reallocate funds between projects and purposes within the limits set by the country programme, authorize budget revisions and reimbursements of eligible expenses incurred by recipients, and support these Governments to make necessary ongoing changes in the scope and design of individual projects as needed and requested by recipient Governments;

"14. Recommends also, in this context, that the adaptation of the rules, procedures and practices, the decentralization and delegation of authority to the country level and the role of the country office structures to the needs of the recipient Governments demands adequate, dedicated, competent, neutral and well prepared staff of the United Nations system at the country level through appropriate review of the recruitment process to give greater participation to recipient countries;

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"15. Requests that the United Nations funding agencies at headquarters be rationalized and streamlined in support of the requirements of the decentralized country offices in order to fulfil their new servicing capacity, in accordance with the needs and priorities of recipient countries;

"16. Stresses the vital importance of the full, co-ordinated and timely implementation of all modifications required of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as mentioned in the above paragraphs;

"17. Decides that the implementation of this resolution in all the above related areas by the United Nations system should be accomplished as early as possible, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a proposed three-year schedule for the implementation of the resolution by all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1990;

"18. Requests further the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the resolution, on a consolidated system-wide basis, to the second regular sessions of the Economic and Social Council for the next three years and, also, a comprehensive report to the Triennial Review of the forty-seventh General Assembly;

"19. Calls upon States members of the governing bodies of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to ensure full implementation of the provisions contained in the present resolution and to adopt the necessary adjustments in this regard, and in the light of paragraph 12, submit a report for inclusion in the Secretary-General's annual report to the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1991;

"20. Calls upon the governing bodies of all funding agencies of the United Nations system to adopt the necessary measures in order to ensure full implementation of the provisions contained in this resolution, modify, simplify and harmonize the processes, rules, procedures and practices, in accordance with this resolution, with the assistance of country offices and the resident co-ordinator;

"21. Requests the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the implementation of this resolution, including in particular the preparation and implementation of the schedule referred to in paragraph 16;

"22. Requests also the Secretary-General to include, in his first annual report to the Economic and Social Council, a section on the representation of developing countries in the executive management and other central decision-making levels of the secretarial structures, in the area of operational activities for development of the United Nations system."

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19. At the 52nd meeting, on 19 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Payton (New Zealand) introduced, and orally revised, a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/44/L.87/Rev.1) submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/44/L.65 and A/C.2/44/L.68.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.87/Rev.1, as orally revised, by consensus (see para. 23, draft resolution IV).

21. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.87/Rev.1, draft resolutions A/C.2/44/L.65 and A/C.2/44/L.68 were withdrawn by their respective sponsors.

22. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the United States of America, Norway and the Netherlands (see A/C.2/44/SR.52).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

The General Assembly,

Noting the importance of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

Bearing in mind the need for the United Nations Pledging Conference, the principal occasion for Member States and others to announce their contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system, to continue to be managed as effectively as possible,

Requests the Secretary-General to examine the modalities of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and to make recommendations on future administrative arrangements for the Conference to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, for transmission to the 1990 Pledging Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, as appropriate, including the following arrangements:

(a) Sessional arrangements for the Conference, including the possibility of shortening it, and its timing, bearing in mind the budgetary cycles of national Governments;

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(b) Procedures for making pledges, including the greater use of written pledges, as appropriate;

(c) Formalization of and rationalization of procedures for the Final Act of the Pledging Conference.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Noting that 1990 will be the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system, which commenced with the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund, the two programmes later consolidated into the United Nations Development Programme,

Taking note of decisions 89/68 of 30 June 1989 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme 10/ and 1989/187 of 28 July 1989 of the Economic and Social Council,

1. Decides to observe, during its forty-fifth session, the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical co-operation for development within the United Nations system, in a manner benefiting the role and achievements of such co-operation, and also decides that United Nations Day in 1990, Wednesday, 24 October, should be the day for the commemoration of this anniversary;

2. Invites the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to make the necessary preparations for the celebration of the anniversary, and also invites all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system engaged in technical co-operation to contribute to that end.

10/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 13 (E/1989/32).

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Future needs in the field of population, including the development of resource requirements for international population assistance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, adopted at Bucharest in 1974 11/ and affirmed and expanded at the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in 1984, 12/

Recalling decision 87/30 of 18 June 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, in which the Governing Council welcomed the intention of the United Nations Population Fund to conduct a wide-ranging review and assessment of accumulated population experience in key areas within its mandate, 13/

Recalling also its resolution 43/199 of 20 December 1988, in which it welcomed the review and assessment being conducted by the United Nations Population Fund of its experience in the field of population and requested that an appropriate summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

Mindful of the diversity in culture and traditions and in social, economic and political conditions among countries, and respectful of the national sovereignty of all countries for the formulation, promotion and implementation of their own population policies,

1. Takes note of the report prepared by the United Nations Population Fund, 14/ containing the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review and assessment of population programme experience;

11/ See Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

12/ See Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

13/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 12 (E/1987/25), annex I.

14/ A/44/432, annex.

2. Takes note with appreciation of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations, adopted by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1989; 15/

3. Stresses the importance of taking duly into account the outcome of the International Forum in the preparations for and the deliberations of relevant forthcoming United Nations conferences, particularly the proposed international meeting on population in 1994, and in the preparations of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund:

(a) To bring the results of the International Forum to the attention of Governments, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(b) To examine in particular the implications for population programmes of the Declaration and to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance;

(c) To submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/171 of 5 December 1986, 42/196 of 11 December 1987 and 43/199 of 20 December 1988,

Taking note of the report prepared by the United Nations Population Fund, entitled "Review and assessment of population programme experience", 14/ in pursuance to the request contained in General Assembly resolution 43/199 of 20 December 1988,

Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Government of the recipient country for formulating its national development plan, priorities or objectives, as set out in the consensus of 1970 contained in the annex to its resolution 2688 (XXV), and emphasizing that the integration of the operational activities of the United Nations system with national plans and objectives would enhance the impact and relevance of those activities,

15/ A/C.2/44/6.

Reaffirming also that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming further that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universality, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism, and their ability to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the different and complex situations and conditions that exist among developing countries and the consequent need for the activities of the United Nations development system to respond effectively to them,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of the least developed countries,

Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development to overcome their economic difficulties,

Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 16/

Recalling also its resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988 on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America,

Concerned about the worsening economic and social situation of many developing countries,

Stressing the need for a significant increase in real terms in the overall resources available for development co-operation, taking into account the economic problems of developing countries, the economic capacities of developed countries and recent developments in international relations, which may have an impact on resources available for development, and emphasizing in this respect the need to increase the grant element of development co-operation resources,

Concerned that the resources available for operational activities are insufficient in relation to the requirements of developing countries,

Stressing the consequent need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, and emphasizing the special needs of the least developed countries,

16/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

Recalling the role of the United Nations Development Programme as the central funding mechanism for the United Nations system of technical co-operation, the full potential of which has not yet been realized,

Recognizing the need to reorient operational activities in order to strengthen and utilize fully national capacities in all aspects of the programme and project cycle,

Stressing that co-ordination in funding arrangements and procedures of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should minimize the administrative and financial burden on recipient Governments in their endeavour effectively to monitor and co-ordinate programmes and projects, and should maximize their complementarities and avoid duplication, so as to increase the positive impact of such activities on the development of developing countries,

Stressing that government/national execution and full utilization of national capacities would contribute to ensuring that programmes and projects are managed in an integrated manner and to promote their long-term sustainability and wider impact in the development process,

Emphasizing the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries on a priority basis, through the rapid and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 17/ in order to enhance the capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries,

Emphasizing also the need to further decentralize capacity and authority in the United Nations system to the country level in order to increase responsiveness to the needs of developing countries, enhance coherent and efficient programming and resource utilization, achieve the objectives of programmes and projects, and strengthen and utilize national capacity,

Emphasizing further that the range and quantity of skills and expertise assembled by the United Nations system at the country level, under the team leadership of the resident co-ordinator, should correspond to the multisectoral and sectoral technical backstopping needs and requirements of developing countries and should be within the framework of the respective government programme of co-operation of the United Nations system, rather than to the institutional structure of the United Nations system,

17/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Reaffirming the need to promote the full integration of women in all aspects of the development process in accordance with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 18/

Affirming also the need to promote the survival, protection and development of children and youth and the full integration of their concerns in the development process of the developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of regional, interregional and global co-operation for solving common problems in the light of current concern for global, regional and subregional problems,

Affirming the responsibility of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for leadership in promoting the coherence, co-ordination and effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Welcoming the positive reaction of the governing bodies to the recommendations contained in the report on the case studies undertaken in 1987 and in the subsequent General Assembly resolution 42/196,

Taking note with appreciation of the decision adopted by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in April 1989, concerning the role and functioning of the United Nations Development System in the 1990s particularly the unequivocal resolve of its members to continue to adapt, both individually and collectively, to present needs, evolving circumstances and challenges, in the developing countries,

1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for the triennial policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 19/ including the report on the integrated country reviews on the functioning of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system; 20/

2. Reiterates that the recipient Governments have the sole responsibility for the co-ordination of external assistance and the principal responsibility for its design and management and that the exercise of those responsibilities is crucial to the optimal use of external assistance and to the strengthening and utilization of national capacity;

18/ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

19/ A/44/324-E/1989/106 and Add.1-5.

20/ A/44/324/Add.2-E/1989/106/Add.2.

3. Stresses that, in order to attain the goal of self-reliance in the developing countries through the strengthening of national capacities, the operational activities of the United Nations system should emphasize the human dimension of development, in particular through education, training and the development of human resources, should emphasize the need to reach the poorest and most vulnerable sections of societies and should have a positive impact on the overall quality of life and development;

4. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries a section analysing the role that operational activities for development could play in that area;

6. Stresses the need for maximum participation of populations, local communities and organizations, including national non-governmental organizations, in the development process, and encourages, at the request of Governments, promotion of participation at the grass-roots level and of the productive sectors within the operational activities of the United Nations system;

7. Reiterates the importance attached to the integration of women in United Nations development programmes as participants in all aspects of the development process and calls upon the funding, technical and specialized agencies to intensify efforts to increase the participation of women, particularly those from developing countries;

8. Emphasizes the protection and support of children as integral to the development process, and recognizes the need for education and the promotion of opportunities for youth and the need to reflect the concerns of children and youth in development co-operation programmes of the United Nations system;

9. Calls upon the international community, in particular donor countries, to make a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, and urges all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development;

10. Urges developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, and present levels of contributions to increase their official development assistance substantially, including contributions to operational activities of the United Nations system;

11. Emphasizes the primary importance attached to funding through core resources in operational activities for development, and, at the same time, recognizes the value of special-purpose grant resources, provided that they are designed as a means to ensure additional resource flows and that their projects are

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coherently and effectively integrated in the technical co-operation programmes of the United Nations system, in conformity with each country's national development plan and programme and in accordance with the respective mandates of United Nations programmes and organizations;

12. Stresses the value of the concept of central funding of technical co-operation through the United Nations Development Programme in order to promote co-ordination and responsiveness to national priorities through the country programming system and urges all Governments to channel the maximum possible share of resources available for multilateral technical co-operation through the United Nations Development Programme;

13. Emphasizes the need for full utilization of national capacities in all aspects of the programming processes and project cycle of operational activities;

14. Stresses the need, in this context, to improve the operational activities of the United Nations system, in particular with respect to programming, simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures governing the programming processes and project cycles, decentralization of authority, role of the country office structures and reorientation of execution modalities, in order to enable the recipient Governments to exercise their management and co-ordination responsibilities and strengthen their national capacities;

15. Emphasizes that the United Nations system at the country level should be structured and composed in such a way that it corresponds to ongoing and projected co-operation programmes rather than to the institutional structure of the United Nations system and, to this end, decides:

(a) That the country offices and the resident co-ordinators should effectively provide ongoing multidisciplinary technical advice and support to the Government in its programming and executing responsibilities;

(b) To reinforce the team-leadership capacity of the resident co-ordinator within the United Nations system at the country level for the integration of the sectoral inputs of the system and for the effective and coherent co-ordination of the response of the United Nations system to the national programme framework, through, inter alia:

- (i) A clarified and strengthened mandate from the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 41/171 and 42/196;
- (ii) The effective co-ordination of technical advice and input from the United Nations system;
- (iii) Closer co-operation of the field representation of the United Nations system at the country level with the resident co-ordinator;

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(c) To request the Director-General to include in his annual report on operational activities for development, in 1991, an analysis of possible ways and means of providing multidisciplinary technical advice from the United Nations system at the country level, including the concept of multidisciplinary teams and their ability to provide effective and flexible assistance, taking into account the need to maximize the utilization of the capacities of the country offices and field representations of the United Nations system and the varied situations and needs of the developing countries;

(d) To request all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to make, without delay, the necessary arrangements, in co-operation with host Governments and without additional costs to developing countries, to establish common premises at the country level, and to request the Director-General to include in his annual reports on operational activities information on progress made in that area;

16. Recognizes the urgent need to improve the field representation of the United Nations system in accordance with the functions set out in the present resolution, and requests the Director-General to present a report containing comprehensive information, drawing on all relevant reports on the field representation of the United Nations system, and to make specific recommendations for improvements and increased effectiveness in line with the objectives of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, and also requests the executive heads of all the organizations concerned to co-operate fully in the preparation of that report by providing the relevant information;

17. Calls for more integrated and co-ordinated programming of United Nations system co-operation, in which programming processes would be based on an overall national programme framework for operational activities for development to be prepared by the recipient Government, with a view to submitting it to the organizations of the United Nations system for their support and funding, whose response would be co-ordinated by the resident co-ordinator, and decides that:

(a) Governments should formulate, in accordance with their own development plans and priorities, integrated national programme frameworks setting out co-operation requirements of the organizations of the United Nations system, which would enable the system to support more effectively the development priorities of developing countries and to be more country-focused and would facilitate the development of a programme approach, through the clear definition of national objectives and systematic analysis of development problems and constraints;

(b) The organizations of the United Nations system should adapt their programming processes so as to be based upon those national programme frameworks and the needs and practices of recipient Governments;

(c) Programme cycles of all funding agencies of the United Nations system should be harmonized with and adapted to the planning periods of national Governments, and further consideration should be given to the introduction of budgetary cycles on a rolling-cycle basis;

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(d) The need for a shift from a project approach to a programme approach implies that all relevant governing bodies, in particular the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, should develop more programme-oriented mechanisms for the provision of technical co-operation, with a view to allowing more flexible and effective support of national programmes;

(e) Non-emergency food aid channelled through the organizations of the United Nations system should be programmed coherently so as to ensure its full integration with the development programmes of the Government;

(f) Organizations participating in programming should be invited to increase their efforts directed towards integrated programming under the leadership of Governments;

(g) The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be requested to conduct an independent study aimed at developing, among other possible ways to improve the co-ordination at the country level of the United Nations system, the concept of a document containing the integrated operational response of the United Nations system at the country level to the national programme framework of the recipient Government for operational activities for development, which would give greater coherence to existing programming instruments, and to submit this study to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, including an analysis containing his views on the impact of this approach, in particular on the role of the resident co-ordinator, on the leadership role of the United Nations Development Programme, and on the relationship and relevance of such an approach vis-à-vis the existing co-ordinating mechanisms of the organizations of the United Nations system at the country level, such as National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes, round tables and consultative groups, and possible ways for the implementation of the relevant elements contained therein;

18. Decides that, in order fully to enable Governments to assume the execution of programmes and projects funded by the United Nations system for development, the following changes should be undertaken:

(a) The present rules and procedures for government/national execution should be adapted, as appropriate, to promote and maximize the utilization and strengthening of national capacities, while enabling Governments to make effective use of the expertise available within the United Nations system in the implementation of programmes and projects;

(b) Procedures pertaining to programme and project formulation, design, appraisal, implementation, procurement, reporting, monitoring and evaluation should be simplified and harmonized, taking into account costs involved for recipient Governments and the United Nations system, at both the country and headquarters levels, and on the basis of consultation with recipient Governments;

(c) Governing bodies should review existing budget, audit and other relevant practices, with a view to taking specific decisions on measures designed to promote and maximize the utilization of national capacities through government/national

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execution, a more programme-oriented approach and the improved provision of technical advice and backstopping;

19. Considers that, in the context of the application of government/national execution of programmes and projects, as set out in paragraph 18 above, the participation of specialized agencies and technical entities of the United Nations system in operational activities should be redefined towards, in particular, the provision of technical support to Governments on a multisectoral and sectoral basis, as well as a supportive technical role in the project cycle, as requested by Governments;

20. Requests all organs and organizations of the United Nations system to improve their ability to provide Governments at the country level with information on the capacities and needs of other developing countries, in the required detail, so as to enable greater integration in programme and project formulation and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, with a view to strengthening capacities of developing countries;

21. Stresses the need to attach high priority to increasing procurement from developing countries substantially, in order to promote collective self-reliance, while paying due respect to the principles of international competitive bidding, and, in this regard, emphasizes the importance for all parts of the United Nations system to set specific goals for increasing procurement from developing countries;

22. Acknowledges the commitment to procurement from under-utilized major donor countries and recommends the implementation of the relevant proposals of the Director-General in accordance with the principles of international competitive bidding;

23. Recommends, within the framework of a more decentralized and strengthened capacity of the United Nations system at the country level, the delegation of authority from the headquarters to the country level by the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in order to develop a country-focused approach and to ensure maximum utilization and strengthening of national capacities and, in this regard, calls upon them to introduce the following changes:

(a) Within the broad multi-year programmes and projects approved by governing bodies, approval authority for specific programmes and projects should, to the maximum extent possible, be delegated to the country level in support of improvement of programme and project appraisal capacity, and field offices should fully exercise that approval authority with a view to improving speed, quality and efficiency of implementation;

(b) During implementation of the overall programmes approved by governing bodies, country offices should have the flexibility for budgetary revisions of projects during implementation;

24. Reaffirms the established principles of accountability within the operational activities for development and, while maintaining the ultimate accountability of the executive heads of the funding organizations, stresses the

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need to redefine and adapt working mechanisms for ensuring full accountability in the light of the reorientation of the United Nations development system towards, in particular, government/national project execution, decentralization, delegation of authority and adoption of a more programme-oriented approach, as noted in paragraphs 15, 17, 18 and 23 above, and for this purpose recommends the following:

(a) The executive heads of the funding organizations of the United Nations system should make specific proposals to their governing bodies on ways and means of ensuring accountability through rationalizing and streamlining their existing systems, in the context of harmonization and simplification of procedures, including the possibility of conferring on the country offices a greater role in ensuring accountability;

(b) Recipient Governments should take the necessary steps to improve their capacity to satisfy the accountability requirements of their executing role, including financial reporting and the audit function, for operational activities for development and, in this regard, the funding organizations should provide appropriate technical support;

(c) All specialized and technical agencies, in the context of the review of their budget, audit and other relevant practices referred to in paragraph 18 (c) above, should take specific measures to achieve a greater degree of accountability and transparency for the use of funds in operational activities;

(d) Governing bodies of the relevant organizations should exercise their overview function more effectively by improving their working mechanisms;

25. Encourages the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to consider the question of successor arrangements for agency support costs from the standpoint of how best to meet the needs of developing countries and to foster co-ordination and coherence within the United Nations system, taking into account the need to ensure maximum utilization of national capacity through, in particular, government/national execution of projects, a more programme-oriented approach and regular and timely provision of technical advice and backstopping by agencies at the country level, as stated in paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 above;

26. Requests the executive heads of the United Nations funding and technical agencies to re-examine their organizational structures and staff deployment in support of the requirements of decentralization to the country offices, in particular with a view to redeploying personnel and effecting economies at headquarters;

27. Stresses the vital importance of the full, co-ordinated and timely implementation of all modifications required of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as mentioned in the above paragraphs;

28. Decides that the implementation of the present resolution in all the above-mentioned areas by the United Nations system should be accomplished as early as possible, and requests the Director-General to submit a proposed three-year

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schedule for the implementation of the resolution by all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 and to draw attention to recommendations on which he considers additional guidance is required, particularly those facilitating the full implementation of the present resolution, and make available the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation containing his recommendations for the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development; 21/

29. Requests the Director-General to submit, for the next three years, annual reports on the implementation of the present resolution, on a consolidated system-wide basis, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session;

30. Calls upon States members of the governing bodies of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system consistently to ensure full implementation of the provisions contained in the present resolution;

31. Also calls upon the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to adopt the necessary adjustments required to implement the provisions of paragraphs 15, 17, 18 and 20 through 24 above and to prepare information on measures taken for inclusion in the Director-General's annual reports to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, starting in 1991;

32. Requests the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Director-General in the implementation of the present resolution, including, in particular, the preparation and implementation of the schedule referred to in paragraph 28 above;

33. Reaffirms the provision contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the representation of developing countries at the executive management and other central decision-making levels of secretariat structures in the area of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the Director-General to include, in his annual report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, a section on the implementation of this provision;

34. Requests the Director-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in the context of the triennial policy review, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution and to make appropriate recommendations.
