



Twentieth session  
Agenda item 46

POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:  
REPORTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. A. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar)

1. At its 1336th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1965, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 46 entitled "Population growth and economic development: reports of the Economic and Social Council".
2. The Committee discussed this item at its 1010th, 1014th, 1016th and 1017th meetings on 9, 14 and 15 December 1965.
3. In considering this item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/6104 and Corr.1); a report of the Secretary-General on the World Population Conference (A/6101); a report of the Secretary-General on an inquiry among Governments on problems resulting from the interaction of economic development and population changes (E/3895/Rev.1 and Add.1-3); the report of the Population Commission on its thirteenth session;<sup>1/</sup> resolution 54 (XX) of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East;<sup>2/</sup> and the relevant parts of the reports of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions.<sup>3/</sup>

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/4019).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/3876/Rev.1), part III.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/5803), chapter VIII, section III; ibid., Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/6003), chapter XII, section II.

4. The Committee also had before it a draft resolution submitted by Denmark, Ghana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Nepal, Norway, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, Syria, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.2/L.835 and Corr.1 and Add.1), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 on population growth and economic development and Economic and Social Council resolutions 933 C (XXXV) of 5 April 1963 on intensification of demographic studies, research and training and 1048 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 on population growth and economic and social development,

"Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 on work programmes and priorities in population fields, endorsing the long-range programme of work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of population,

"Recalling that problems resulting from the interaction of economic development and population change were the subject of an inquiry by the Secretary-General among Governments in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution of the General Assembly, and noting the report of the results in documents E/3895/Rev.1 and Add.1-3,

"Commending the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General upon the timely and successful World Population Conference in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 30 August to 10 September 1965,

"Noting with satisfaction that a large number of specialists in demography and related fields from developing countries were able to participate in the World Population Conference, and that special attention was given to the interrelationships of population change with economic and social development in developing regions,

"Bearing in mind the role of population change and structure and its impact on development planning within the framework of the goals of the Development Decade,

"1. Draws the attention of Member States to the wide variety of population problems: (a) reflected in the replies to the inquiry among Governments on problems resulting from the interaction of economic development and population changes, and (b) expressed in the deliberations of the World Population Conference, and to the importance which therefore attaches to promoting adequate national population programmes related to their individual needs;

"2. Invites the Economic and Social Council, the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies concerned to take into account the deliberations of the World Population Conference, as a basis for strengthening their activities in the field of population;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide, within the limits of available resources, for an expanded programme of assistance in the field of population along the lines recommended by the Population Commission in the report of its thirteenth session (E/4019) and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-ninth session;

(b) To continue his consultations with the specialized agencies concerned on the roles which they could play in carrying out various parts of the expanded programme in the field of population, ensuring that all activities are effectively co-ordinated;

(c) To present, as envisaged in Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX), to the Population Commission at its fourteenth session proposals with regard to the priorities of work over future periods of two years and of five years within the framework of the long-range programme of work in population fields."

The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the 1010th meeting.

5. The following amendments were submitted by Ireland (A/C.2/L.842):

(a) In the first paragraph of the preamble, the words "and the discussion preceding its adoption" were to be inserted after the word "development";

(b) In the fourth paragraph of the preamble, the words "and successful" were to be deleted;

(c) The fifth paragraph of the preamble was to be deleted.

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the words "and (b) expressed in the deliberations of the World Population Conference, and to the importance which therefore attaches to promoting adequate national population programmes related to their individual needs;" were to be deleted;

(e) Sub-paragraph (a) of operative paragraph 3 was to be reworded as follows:

"(a) To provide within the limits of available resources for an expanded programme of advisory services for the intensification of demographic studies, research and training, it being understood that the Organization would not undertake any operational activities in the field of family planning;"

6. The following amendments were submitted by France (A/C.2/L.843):

(a) The following new paragraph was to be inserted between the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the preamble:

"Noting resolution WHA 18.49, adopted by the World Health Assembly at its eighteenth session, on the health aspects of world population,"

(b) The following new paragraph was to be inserted between operative paragraphs 1 and 2:

"2. Welcomes with satisfaction the decision of the World Health Assembly to include in the programme of activities of the World Health Organization the study of the health aspects of human reproduction, as well as the provision of advisory services within its responsibilities;"

(c) Operative paragraph 2 (now operative paragraph 3) was to be replaced by the following text:

"3. Invites the Economic and Social Council to define, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, the role which the United Nations and its related organizations could play in the comparative study of population problems and economic and social problems, at the same time ensuring that their activities are effectively co-ordinated;"

(d) Sub-paragraph (b) of operative paragraph 3 (now operative paragraph 4) was to be deleted.

7. At the 1016th meeting, the representative of India introduced a revised text of the fourteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.835/Rev.1), which included the following changes:

(a) The following new paragraph was inserted between the fifth and sixth paragraphs of the preamble:

"Noting resolution WHA 18.49, adopted by the World Health Assembly at its eighteenth session, on the health aspects of world population,"

(b) Operative paragraph 2 was revised to read as follows:

"2. Invites the Economic and Social Council, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social office in Beirut and the specialized agencies concerned to take into account, in their activities in the field of population, the deliberations of the World Population Conference;"

(c) A new paragraph was inserted between operative paragraphs 2 and 3, reading as follows:

"3. Welcomes with satisfaction the decision of the World Health Assembly to include in the programme of activities of the World Health Organization the study of the health aspects of human reproduction, as well as the provision of advisory services within its responsibilities;"

(d) Operative paragraph 3 (now operative paragraph 4) was revised to read as follows:

"4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to provide, within the limits of available resources, for an expanded programme to meet requests from the

developing countries for assistance on population problems along the lines and terms recommended by the Population Commission in the report of its thirteenth session (E/4019) and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1084 (XXXIX);"

(e) A new paragraph (operative paragraph 5) was inserted, incorporating sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) of operative paragraph 3, with a slight modification in sub-paragraph (b). The new paragraph reads as follows:

"5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his consultations with the specialized agencies concerned on the roles which they could play in carrying out various parts of the expanded programme in the field of population, ensuring that all activities are effectively co-ordinated, and to report to the Economic and Social Council on his consultations;

(b) To present, as envisaged in Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX), to the Population Commission at its fourteenth session proposals with regard to the priorities of work over future periods of two years and of five years within the framework of the long-range programme of work in population fields."

8. The representative of Ireland said that, in deference to requests made by some delegations and in a spirit of conciliation, he would withdraw his first four amendments (see paragraph 6 (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, provided that the Rapporteur made a suitable note in his report. Only his fifth amendment remained. In introducing his first amendment, the representative of Ireland had made the point that the General Assembly, at its seventeenth session (1197th plenary meeting) had discussed birth control in connexion with resolution 1838 (XVII) and had by vote deliberately deleted the latter part of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, thus making of dubious legality any subsequent expenditure on birth control programmes out of United Nations funds unless and until authorized by the General Assembly. As regards his second, third and fourth amendments, the Irish representative had expressed the view that it was premature in the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.835) to commend the Second World Population Conference and its deliberations until the Second Committee had more official documentation than document A/6101 and, in particular, had had an opportunity to see and assess the proceedings which, according to document A/5969, would not be printed until 1966. He then moved his fifth amendment in a revised form (A/C.2/L.842/Rev.1) to the fourteen-Power revised draft resolution. This amendment was to reword operative paragraph 4 as follows:

"Authorizes the Secretary-General to provide within the limits of available resources for an expanded programme of advisory services for the

intensification of demographic studies, research and training, it being understood that the Organization would not undertake any operational activities in the field of family planning;"

9. The representative of France, noting that two of his amendments (A/C.2/L.843) had been incorporated in the fourteen-Power revised draft resolution (see paragraphs 8 (a) and (c) above), withdrew his remaining amendments (see paragraph 7 (c) and (d) above).
10. At the same meeting the representative of Brazil proposed that the consideration of item 46 be postponed until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.
11. At the 1017th meeting, the Committee voted on the procedural proposal by Brazil to postpone consideration of the item until the next session of the Assembly. It approved this proposal by 34 votes to 28, with 17 abstentions.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

12. The Second Committee therefore recommends that the consideration of this item should be postponed until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

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