



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 46

POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Georg REISCH (Austria)

1. At its 1415th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1966, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 46 entitled "Population growth and economic development".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 1098th and 1099th meetings, held on 12 and 13 December 1966. At the 1098th meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, and decided that it should be issued as an official document (A/C.2/L.941).
3. In considering the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/6462) and a report of the Secretary-General on population growth and economic development (A/6466 and Corr.1).
4. At the 1098th meeting, the representative of Iraq, on behalf of Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Norway, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Singapore, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.936) which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 1838 (XVII) of 13 December 1962 on population growth and economic development and the 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 as well as resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 on the work programme and priorities in the field of population,

"Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions 18.49 and 19.43 on the health aspects of world population,

"Taking note of the resolution 3.252 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the paragraphs 842-844 of the Work Programme for 1967-1968 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of education and information related to population growth,

"Recalling the inquiry by the Secretary-General among Governments on problems resulting from the interaction of economic growth and population change and the Secretary-General's report which reflected a wide variety of population problems,

"Commending the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General for convening the World Population Conference in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 30 August to 10 September 1965, in which a large number of specialists in demography and related fields from developing countries were able to participate,

"Taking note of the non-technical summary of the World Population Conference,

"Noting the steps taken by the organizations concerned in the United Nations system to co-ordinate their work in the field of population,

"Concerned over the growing food shortage in the developing countries, which is due in many cases to a decline in the production of food-stuffs relative to population growth,

"Recognizing the need for further study of the implications of the growth, structure and geographic distribution of population on economic and social development including national health, nutrition, education and social welfare programmes carried out at all levels of government activity,

"Believing that demographic problems require the consideration of economic, social, cultural, psychological and health factors in their proper perspective,

"Recognizing the sovereignty of nations in formulating and promoting their own population policies with due regard to the principle that the size of the family should be the free choice of each individual family,

"1. Invites the Economic and Social Council, the Population Commission, the regional economic commissions, the Economic and Social Office in Beirut and the specialized agencies concerned to study the proceedings of the World Population Conference, 1965 when pursuing their activities in the field of population;

"2. Notes with satisfaction the decisions of the World Health Organization to include in its programme of activities the study of the health aspects of human reproduction as well as the provision of advisory services upon request within its responsibilities under World Health Assembly resolution 19.43 and of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to stimulate and provide assistance towards scientific studies covering the relations between development of education and population;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) to pursue within the limits of available resources the implementation of the work programme covering training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population in the light of the recommendations of the Population Commission in the report of its thirteenth session as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1084 (XXXIX) and the considerations set forth in the preamble of the present resolution;

(b) to continue his consultations with the specialized agencies concerned in order to ensure that the activities of the United Nations system of organizations in the field of population are effectively co-ordinated;

(c) to present as envisaged in the Economic and Social Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX) to the Population Commission at its fourteenth session proposals with regard to the priorities of work for periods of two years and of five years within the framework of the long-range programme of work in the field of population;

"4. Calls upon interested Member States, the Economic and Social Council, the Population Commission, the regional economic commissions, the Economic and Social Office in Beirut and the specialized agencies concerned to assist when requested in further developing and strengthening national and regional facilities for training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population bearing in mind the different character of population problems in each country and region and the needs arising therefrom."

5. El Salvador, Jamaica and the Netherlands subsequently joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. The representative of Iraq, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution by deleting from operative paragraph 4 the words "interested Member States".
7. At the 1099th meeting, the Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.936), as orally revised (see paragraph 9 below).
8. In adopting the draft resolution, it was the understanding of the Committee that the words "advisory" and "training" in operative paragraphs 3 (a) and 4 referred solely to technical advice and training within the responsibility of the United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, namely, the provision to students, professionals and administrators of information and the fruits of continuing research in the various fields enumerated in the ninth and tenth paragraphs of the preamble, while bearing in mind the principle of the free choice of each individual family, as mentioned in the final paragraph of the preamble.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Population growth and economic development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1838 (XVII) of 13 December 1962 on population growth and economic development and Economic and Social Council resolutions 933 C (XXXV) of 5 April 1963 on the intensification of demographic studies, research and training, 1048 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 on population growth and economic and social development and 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 on the work programme and priorities in the field of population,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions 18.49 and 19.43 on the health aspects of world population,

Taking note of resolution 3.252 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and of paragraphs 842-844 of the work programme for 1967-1968 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject of education and information related to population growth,

Recalling the inquiry by the Secretary-General among Governments on problems resulting from the interaction of economic growth and population change and the Secretary-General's report,^{1/} which reflected a wide variety of population problems,

Commending the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General for convening the World Population Conference at Belgrade from 30 August to 10 September 1965, in which a large number of specialists in demography and related fields from developing countries were able to participate,

Taking note of the non-technical summary of the World Population Conference,^{2/}

Noting the steps taken by the organizations of the United Nations system concerned with these questions to co-ordinate their work in the field of population,

Concerned at the growing food shortage in the developing countries, which is due in many cases to a decline in the production of food-stuffs relative to population growth,

Recognizing the need for further study of the implications of the growth, structure and geographic distribution of population on economic and social development, including national health, nutrition, education and social welfare programmes carried out at all levels of government activity,

Believing that demographic problems require the consideration of economic, social, cultural, psychological and health factors in their proper perspective,

Recognizing the sovereignty of nations in formulating and promoting their own population policies with due regard to the principle that the size of the family should be the free choice of each individual family,

1. Invites the Economic and Social Council, the Population Commission, the regional economic commissions, the Economic and Social Office in Beirut and the specialized agencies concerned to study the proceedings of the World Population Conference, 1965, when pursuing their activities in the field of population;

2. Notes with satisfaction the decision of the World Health Organization to include in its programme of activities the study of the health aspects of human reproduction and the provision of advisory services, upon request within its responsibilities under World Health Assembly resolution 19.43, and the decision of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to stimulate and provide assistance towards scientific studies covering the relations between development of education and population;

^{1/} E/3895/Rev.1 and Add.1-3.

^{2/} World Population: Challenge to Development, E/CONF.41/1.

3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To pursue, within the limits of available resources, the implementation of the work programme covering training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population in the light of the recommendations of the Population Commission contained in the report on its thirteenth session,^{3/} as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1084 (XXXIX) and of the considerations set forth in the preamble of the present resolution;

(b) To continue his consultations with the specialized agencies concerned in order to ensure that the activities of the United Nations system of organizations in the field of population are effectively co-ordinated;

(c) To present to the Population Commission at its fourteenth session, as envisaged in Economic and Social Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX), proposals with regard to the priorities of work for periods of two and five years within the framework of the long-range programme of work in the field of population;

4. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council, the Population Commission, the regional economic commissions, the Economic and Social Office in Beirut and the specialized agencies concerned to assist, when requested, in further developing and strengthening national and regional facilities for training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population, bearing in mind the different character of population problems in each country and region and the needs arising therefrom.
