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SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

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

Opening of the session

1. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade was opened on 25 February 1969 at United Nations Headquarters, New York, by Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

Meetings

2. During its first session, the Preparatory Committee held three meetings, on 25 February, 3 and 4 March 1969.^{1/}

Adoption of the agenda

3. At its first meeting, on 25 February 1969, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following agenda (E/AC.56/1):

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Work programme:
 - (a) Documentation;
 - (b) Calendar of meetings
5. Provisional agenda for the next session

^{1/} See summary records E/AC.56/SR.1-3.

Membership and attendance

4. The following members of the Preparatory Committee were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Costa Rica, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.
5. The following specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies were represented: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
6. The following non-governmental organizations of category A were represented: International Chamber of Commerce, International Organization of Employers and World Federation of Trade Unions.

Election of officers^{2/}

7. At its 1st meeting the Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:
Chairman: Mr. Ahmed Chtourou (Tunisia)
Rapporteur: Mr. Muchkund Dubey (India)
8. At its 2nd meeting the Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mario Franzi (Italy)
Mr. Juan Gallardo Moreno (Mexico)

Rules of procedure

9. At its 2nd meeting the Preparatory Committee took the following decision regarding its rules of procedure:

"(a) The Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade declares that it is governed by the pertinent provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, rule 162 of which reads as follows:

^{2/} Upon the decision of the Preparatory Committee, one post of vice-chairman remains open.

'The General Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. The rules relating to the procedure of committees of the General Assembly, as well as rules 45 and 62, shall apply to the procedure of any subsidiary organ, unless the General Assembly or the subsidiary organ decides otherwise.'

"(b) In terms of this rule, the provisions applicable to the Preparatory Committee are those which appear in chapter XIII of the rules of procedure, entitled 'Committees', as well as rules 45 and 62.

"(c) The Preparatory Committee decides to modify, for its own purposes, rule 105 relating to the members of the bureau and to create three posts of vice-chairman, in addition to the posts of Chairman and Rapporteur, in order to ensure equitable geographical representation on the bureau of the Committee.

"(d) The Preparatory Committee also decides that any State which is eligible for election to the Committee in terms of paragraph 1 of resolution 2411 (XXIII) but is not currently a member of the Committee may be invited to participate in the discussion of any matter which the Committee considers is of particular concern to that State. Any State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote by request of any member of the Committee."

Organization of the Preparatory Committee's future work
and calendar of sessions

10. At its 2nd meeting, the Preparatory Committee also approved its programme of work as set out in the following paragraphs:

"(a) The Preparatory Committee's terms of reference are defined in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII). The Committee has to decide at the present session (first) on the sequence in which it will consider and prepare drafts on the various aspects of the international development strategy for the 1970s.

"(b) The most practicable way will be to take up first the question of the broad framework of the international development strategy. This will involve the consideration of various assumptions and future projections, as well as a general agreement on the various elements that should go into the development strategy.

"(c) It is recognized that the Preparatory Committee may not be able to complete this aspect of its work during its next (second) session, especially if additional information is required on certain key aspects.

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"(d) However, an agreement on the broad framework of the strategy as far as possible would be desirable, before the Preparatory Committee can start considering the policy packages in different sectors. Besides, in the very nature of things, work on nearly all the aspects of the strategy is likely to remain incomplete until almost the last stage of the preparatory work.

"(e) At the third session, the Preparatory Committee can start considering the concerted measures to be taken in different sectors, while at the same time trying to reach as complete an agreement as possible on the broad framework of the strategy.

"(f) The Preparatory Committee's work at subsequent sessions is also likely to be devoted to the consideration of policy measures, while at the same time filling in the gaps left in the work at the earlier stages.

"(g) As the Preparatory Committee's mandate is the formulation of an international development strategy, it would be advisable for the Committee not to enter into general discussions on problems of development; discussions should be geared exclusively to the clarification of ideas and concepts and reaching agreements thereon, essential for the formulation of the international development strategy. The main part of the report of the Committee at each session should be the closest possible approximation to the final draft of the international development strategy. The Committee may like to consider at a later stage the need for making an appropriate arrangement for facilitating its task of drafting the international development strategy.

"(h) On the basis of aforementioned considerations, the Preparatory Committee will hold three more sessions before the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, on the following dates:

Second session - 14 April-2 May (New York)
Third session - 30 June-11 July (Geneva)
Fourth session - September (open)."

11. At its 3rd meeting, a declaration was made on behalf of the developing countries members of the Committee (see the annex to the present report).

ANNEX

Declaration on behalf of the developing countries members
of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations
Development Decade

The developing countries members of the Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Development Decade reiterate their vital interest in the formulation of an adequate and effective international development strategy for the 1970s. They have taken initiatives in various international forums, particularly in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in other important organizations of the United Nations family, for the creation of a proper institutional framework which can make it possible for the preparations for the Decade to be undertaken at the intergovernmental level and completed in time for the General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session, to take a decision on launching the Decade. Their efforts culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2411 (XXIII) establishing the Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Development Decade. These countries earnestly desire to co-operate among themselves and with developed countries, both centrally planned and market economy countries, for making the second Decade a comprehensive, coherent and concerted endeavour to solve the manifold problems of development confronting the developing world.

2. The developing countries are fully aware that the momentous task of formulating an international development strategy for the 1970s and its successful implementation require a spirit of true international co-operation based on the participation and contribution of all the groups of countries towards the realization of their common objective. They look forward, therefore, to the widest possible co-operation in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee during the coming months and are determined to do everything possible to elicit the co-operation of all concerned.

3. Finally, the developing countries deem it necessary to stress the fact that appointment to the Preparatory Committee does not confer any right of membership

of the United Nations upon any non-member State. Further, the participation of the developing countries in the Preparatory Committee is without prejudice to their well-known individual stands on various political issues and should not be construed as any judgement on the stand of other countries on the political issues relating to the membership of the Committee.
