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NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 2237th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 62, entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 2092nd, 2095th, 2097th and 2103rd meetings, on 18, 21, 22 and 29 November 1974. The summary records of these meetings (A/C.3/SR.2092, 2095, 2097 and 2103) contain the views expressed by representatives of Member States on the item.
3. The Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General on national and international activities in the field of social indicators (A/9794) submitted in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1841 (LVI) of 15 May 1974, by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to make available to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session an interim report on a study of current national and international activities in the field of social indicators to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session, to the Committee for Development Planning at its eleventh session and to the Committee on Review and Appraisal at its third session, the report to be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session.
4. The Assistant Director for Human Resources Development, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the item at the Committee's 2092nd meeting on 18 November.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2134

5. At the 2097th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2134) which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Considering that the reports called for in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1746 (LIV) and 1841 (LVI) are still in the course of preparation and will be considered by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session in January 1975,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 2771 (XXVI) which calls for a report on the world social situation to be discussed at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind that national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress is an important component of the world social situation and will be included in the report of the Secretary-General on this subject,

"Decides to defer consideration of the item entitled 'National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress' to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, to be considered as part of the item entitled 'World social situation'."

6. At its 2103rd meeting, on 29 November, the Committee had before it an amendment (A/C.3/L.2138) to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2134 which was sponsored by Algeria, Peru and Yugoslavia. The amendment called for replacing the operative paragraph by the following text:

"Decides to take up consideration of the item entitled 'National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress' at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly."

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland withdrew draft resolution A/C.3/L.2134.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2135

8. At the 2097th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of Czechoslovakia introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2135) sponsored by Czechoslovakia, the

German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The text read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 1581 A (L) and 1667 (LII), which attach great importance to appropriate fundamental structural socio-economic changes in countries for the purpose of achieving social progress and development and to this end consider it appropriate to study the experience of various countries of the world in this field,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV) in which it was pointed out that the strengthening of national independence and the achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress depend fundamentally on internal basic social changes for purposes of strengthening national independence, achieving the democratization of society and improving social and economic structures, and on the reaffirmation of the principle of the inadmissibility of external interference in any form, including interference by transnational corporations,

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General 1/ prepared on the basis of replies by Governments to his questionnaire on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress,

"Convinced that peaceful coexistence and friendly co-operation among States should promote conditions for economic and social progress,

"Taking into consideration the importance of the implementation of the principles, aims and methods of achieving social progress recommended in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 2/

"Recalling that the Declaration on Social Progress and Development recommends that countries should promote democratically based social and structural reforms and changes,

"Reaffirming that each country has the sovereign right to adopt the economic and social system which it regards appropriate for its own development,

"Sharing the concern of many countries over insufficient rates of their economic and social development,

1/ E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.1, Add.4.

2/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

"1. Stresses the importance of fundamental internal democratic social and economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure a speedy improvement of the well-being of the population;

"2. Reaffirms the right of each State to nationalization in order to carry out fundamental social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

"3. Recommends that measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population in preparation and execution of economic and social development policies and programmes designed to achieve social and economic progress, taking into account the experience of various countries in this field;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme to hold, within the programme of advisory services, interregional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

"5. Recommends that the regional economic commissions should consider this problem at their sessions;

"6. Endorses the action taken by the Economic and Social Council requesting the Commission for Social Development to continue the study of national experience in carrying out fundamental social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to give appropriate attention to national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress in his reports on the world social situation."

9. At the 2103rd meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Czechoslovakia introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2135/Rev.1) sponsored by Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The text read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 1581 A (L) and 1667 (LII), which attach great importance to appropriate fundamental structural socio-economic changes in countries for the purpose of achieving social progress and development and to this end consider it appropriate to study the experience of various countries of the world in this field,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV) in which it was pointed out that the strengthening of national independence and the achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress depend fundamentally on internal basic social changes for purposes of strengthening national independence, achieving the democratization of society and improving social

and economic structures, and on the reaffirmation of the principle of the inadmissibility of external interference in any form, including interference by transnational corporations,

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General 3/ prepared on the basis of replies by Governments to his questionnaire on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress,

"Convinced that peaceful coexistence and friendly co-operation among States should promote conditions for economic and social progress,

"Taking into consideration the importance of the implementation of the principles, aims and methods of achieving social progress recommended in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 4/

"Recalling that the Declaration on Social Progress and Development recommends that countries should promote democratically based social and structural reforms and changes,

"Sharing the concern of many countries over insufficient rates of their economic and social development,

"1. Reaffirms that each State has the sovereign right to adopt the economic and social system which it regards appropriate for its own development;

"2. Stresses the importance of internal democratic social and economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure a speedy improvement of the well-being of the population;

"3. Reaffirms the importance of the right of every State to exercise its permanent sovereignty over all its riches, natural resources and economic activities for the purpose of achieving economic and social progress;

"4. Reaffirms further the right of every State to carry out social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, including nationalization, as well as the right to take all appropriate measures in connexion with the activities of transnational corporations which it considers detrimental for the achievement of economic and social progress;

"5. Recommends that measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population in preparation and execution of economic and social development policies and programmes designed

3/ E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.1, Add.4.

4/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

to achieve social and economic progress, taking into account the experience of various countries in this field;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme to hold, within the programme of advisory services, interregional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

"7. Recommends that the regional economic commissions should consider this problem at their sessions;

"8. Endorses the action taken by the Economic and Social Council requesting the Commission for Social Development to continue the study of national experience in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly and to give appropriate attention to this question in his reports on the world social situation;

"10. Decides to consider this item at its thirtieth session as a separate item of the agenda."

10. At the same meeting, the sponsors of the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2135/Rev.1) accepted an oral proposal of the representative of Morocco to replace the word "various" by the word "all" in operative paragraph 5.

11. The following oral proposals, made at the same meeting, were subsequently put to the vote:

(a) The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany requested the deletion of the word "coexistence" in the fourth preambular paragraph;

(b) The representative of Morocco requested a separate vote on operative paragraph 6;

(c) The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requested the deletion of the words "to prepare a comprehensive report on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly and" in operative paragraph 9;

(d) The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requested the deletion of the words "a separate item of the agenda" in operative paragraph 10 and the substitution of the words "part of the item entitled 'World social situation'."

12. At the 2103rd meeting, on 29 November, the Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2135/Rev.1), as orally amended, and on the oral amendments thereto (see para. 11 above). The voting was as follows:

- (a) The proposal to delete the word "coexistence" in the fourth preambular paragraph was rejected by 43 votes to 25, with 32 abstentions;
- (b) Operative paragraph 6 was retained by 59 votes to 5, with 34 abstentions;
- (c) Operative paragraph 9 was retained by 64 votes to 14, with 23 abstentions;
- (d) The oral amendment to operative paragraph 10 was rejected by 45 votes to 27, with 30 abstentions;
- (e) The revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2135/Rev.1) as a whole, as orally amended, was adopted by 85 votes to none, with 23 abstentions (see para. 13 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

13. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress

The General Assembly,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 1581 A (L) of 21 May 1971 and 1667 (LII) of 1 June 1972, which attach great importance to appropriate fundamental structural socio-economic changes in countries for the purpose of achieving social progress and development and, to this end, consider it appropriate to study the experience of various countries of the world in this field,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 in which it was pointed out that the strengthening of national independence and the achievement of the ultimate goals of social progress depend fundamentally on internal basic social changes for purposes of strengthening national independence, achieving the democratization of society and improving social and economic structures, and on the reaffirmation of the principle of the inadmissibility of external interference in any form, including interference by transnational corporations,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General 5/ prepared on the basis of replies by Governments to his questionnaire on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress,

Convinced that peaceful coexistence and friendly co-operation among States should promote conditions for economic and social progress,

Taking into consideration the importance of the implementation of the principles, aims and methods of achieving social progress recommended in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 6/

Recalling that the Declaration on Social Progress and Development recommends that countries should promote democratically-based social and structural reforms and changes,

Sharing the concern of many countries over insufficient rates of their economic and social development,

1. Reaffirms that each State has the sovereign right to adopt the economic and social system which it regards appropriate for its own development;

5/ E/CN.5/478 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2, Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1, Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.1, Add.4.

6/ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

2. Stresses the importance of internal democratic social and economic changes designed to safeguard national independence and to ensure a speedy improvement of the well-being of the population;

3. Reaffirms the importance of the right of every State to exercise its permanent sovereignty over all its riches, natural resources and economic activities for the purpose of achieving economic and social progress;

4. Reaffirms further the right of every State to carry out social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, including nationalization, as well as the right to take all appropriate measures in connexion with the activities of transnational corporations which it considers detrimental to the achievement of economic and social progress;

5. Recommends that measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population in preparation and execution of economic and social development policies and programmes designed to achieve social and economic progress, taking into account the experience of all countries in this field;

6. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme to hold, within the programme of advisory services, interregional and regional seminars to study the national experience of developing and developed countries in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress;

7. Recommends that the regional economic commissions should consider this problem at their sessions;

8. Endorses the action taken by the Economic and Social Council requesting the Commission for Social Development to continue the study of national experience in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress; 7/

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session and to give appropriate attention to this question in his reports on the world social situation;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session a separate item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress".

7/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV).