

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records



SECOND COMMITTEE, 1244th
MEETING

Wednesday, 11 December 1968,
at 11.5 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Richard M. AKWEI (Ghana).

AGENDA ITEM 41

Resources of the sea: report of the Secretary-General (continued)* (A/7203, chap. VI, sect. B; A/7245, A/7264, A/C.2/244, A/C.2/L.1034, E/4449 and Add.1 and 2, E/4487 and Corr. 1-6 and Add.1)

1. Mr. KJARTANSSON (Iceland) said that his delegation agreed on the whole with the draft resolution on the resources of the sea (A/C.2/L.1035) which, however, focused attention on the scientific aspects and did not give sufficient emphasis to the Secretary-General's recommendations contained in his report (see E/4487, paras. 268-271) regarding international co-operation in the development, rational exploitation, management and conservation of the living resources of the sea. Consideration had been given to introducing an amendment incorporating those ideas, but for the sake of clarity it had been considered preferable to present a separate draft resolution entitled "Exploitation and conservation of living marine resources" (A/C.2/L.1034). An operative paragraph calling for the matter to be placed on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly had been deleted. The subject was, however, likely to be dealt with among other items grouped together for the Second Committee's consideration at that session.

2. The questions of increased international co-operation for the rational exploitation of fishery resources and the need for agreement on conservation were important enough to form the subject of a separate draft resolution. Scientific exploration of the marine environment in general was a vast subject being dealt with by various specialized branches at the national level and by a number of international organizations, among which the United Nations Edu-

*Resumed from the 1231st meeting.

cational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) played a key role. Scientific research and exploration would lay the groundwork for the exploitation and utilization of the resources of the sea. Co-operation in the development of fishing techniques and technology and of fish-processing industries, and agreements on specifications for fishing gear and on limitations on the types of gear permissible in certain areas were the responsibility of different national departments and international organizations, among which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) played the main role in co-operation with regional fishery bodies.

3. It was pointed out in chapter III, section B of the Secretary-General's report (E/4487) that the need for international co-operation in the development and exploitation of living marine resources was great, since most resources were not confined within national boundaries and many fishing operations were carried out on the high seas by nationals of different countries. A great deal of international machinery had therefore been established to provide for such co-operation. Although the FAO Committee on Fisheries had already promoted closer co-operation among existing bodies, the Secretary-General's report indicated that there was still room for improvement and proposed that the General Assembly should call upon Member States to increase their support for such co-operation including, in particular, the work of regional and other specialized fishery bodies (*ibid.*, para. 271). Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1034 was presented with that in mind. With regard to operative paragraph 3, it had not been considered realistic to ask for the submission of a progress report to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

4. Mr. FIGUEROA (Chile), supported by Mr. KJARTANSSON (Iceland), proposed that a decision on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1034 should be deferred until the next meeting to enable possible amendments to be formulated.

It was so agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I to IX, X (section B), XII, XIII (sections C to E and H to J) and XVI (sections A and B)) (continued)** (A/7203 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.1033, A/C.2/L.1044)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM" (A/C.2/L.1044)

5. Mr. EL-ATTRASH (Syria) said that he understood that chapter II concerning international financial prob-

**Resumed from the 1226th meeting.

lems of the addendum to the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/7203/Add.1) was available. Introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1044, he recalled that international monetary reform had originally been the subject of operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution concerning external financing of economic development of developing countries (A/C.2/L.1021) submitted under agenda item 42, and that it had been agreed to withdraw those paragraphs and to resubmit them as a new draft resolution.

6. The basic idea of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1044 was that there was a need for reform of the international monetary system through the early ratification and activation of the special drawing rights facility of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and also for a link between the creation of additional reserve assets and external development financing for developing countries.

7. As could be seen from operative paragraph 2, the sponsors did not consider that the link should be an organic one since the proposed amendment to IMF's Articles of Agreement precluded the participation of the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in the special drawing rights facility. They considered early activation of that facility necessary because there was already at times a shortage of international liquidity, symptoms of which had been the three monetary crises of the past thirteen months: devaluation of sterling, the gold and dollar crisis and the French monetary crisis.

8. Another symptom was the fact that many developed countries were not in a position to give as much financing to developing countries as they would like because of balance-of-payments constraints.

9. A further reason why the facility should be activated as early as possible was that an expanding world economy required increased liquidity in the same way as the economy of a developing country required increased financing. Gold production could not be expected to rise at a sufficient rate to cope with the expansion of international trade. In addition, it was unreasonable to expect that the balance-of-payments deficit of the United States, which had avoided a shortage of international liquidity since 1958, could continue without undermining confidence in the dollar. The need for international liquidity had been recognized by the Board of Governors of IMF in 1967,^{1/} when it had agreed to introduce the special drawing rights facility. The sponsors believed that the direct benefit to developing countries would be limited, since the SDR would be distributed in proportion to countries' participation in the International Monetary Fund. That idea had not been included in the draft resolution, however, since it was controversial and might be difficult for some developed countries to accept. Operative paragraph 2 therefore advocated a link between SDR and the provision of external resources. That formulation closely followed the suggestion made in the International Monetary Fund by the Italian Minister of the Treasury that steps to activate the SDR

^{1/} International Monetary Fund, *Annual Report of the Executive Directors for the Fiscal Year ended April 30, 1968* (Washington, D.C.), transmitted to the Economic and Social Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/4596).

should be coupled with the announcement by the developed market-economy countries of new contributions to IDA funds.

10. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) said that his delegation would find it difficult to accept the wording of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution concerning consideration of the possibility of combining steps for the early activation of the special drawing rights facility with steps to increase the resources of IDA. The special drawing rights would come within the IMF's competence, while IDA was the World Bank Group's responsibility.

11. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) wholeheartedly endorsed the appeal addressed to Governments in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. The sponsors had, however, been unwise in combining it with a recommendation (see operative paragraph 2) on a highly tendentious issue which had not been resolved at the technical level.

12. The feasibility and desirability of a link between international liquidity and development finance had been under discussion in UNCTAD's Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade—a Committee which had probably attracted more expert representation than most others—since its inception. That Committee had never found it possible to reach consensus on such a link, whether organic or not. Almost all authorities accepted, for instance, that to improve the world monetary system would enhance the ability of donor countries to transfer financial resources to developing countries, but the idea of synchronizing steps to increase international liquidity with the provision of additional development finance was a highly controversial one. For those reasons, his delegation urged the Committee to avoid taking a stand on a matter on which experts had so far failed to agree.

13. Mr. EL-ATTRASH (Syria) replying to the comments of the Mexican representative, said that operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution merely provided for a situation in which the allocation of special drawing rights to the main industrial countries would free part of their reserves for contributions to IDA which might otherwise have been unavailable because of balance-of-payments difficulties. A link between the new facility and the replenishment of IDA resources had in fact been advocated, in a slightly different form, by one member at the recent meeting of the Fund's Board of Governors.

14. In reply to a point raised by the United States representative, he pointed out that the draft resolution contained no provision for an organic link between the new facility and development aid; the fact that no agreement had been reached on such a link in UNCTAD's Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade did not mean that the Second Committee should not try to find a flexible formula for some kind of non-organic link.

15. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) repeated his delegation's view that, while the special drawing rights facility would be of undoubted benefit to developing countries, its ratification and activation should not be a condition for the replenishment of IDA resources. The operations of IMF and IDA were

entirely separate and should not be linked in the draft resolution.

16. Mr. EL-ATTRASH (Syria) suggested that the words "steps to increase the resources of the International Development Association" in operative paragraph 2 should be replaced by the words "steps to provide additional resources to the International Development Association" in order to meet the objection of the Mexican representative.

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting should be suspended to enable the delegations concerned to hold informal consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 12.5 p.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "HUMAN RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT" (A/C.2/L.1033)

18. Mr. VAKIL (Iran), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1033, said that the one important aspect of efforts to solve the world's social and economic problems in the search for peace had been neglected—the means of bringing the aspirations of ordinary men and women to bear on the work of maintaining peace. The present unrest among the youth of the world indicated that young people felt that traditional methods were no longer relevant and that new and better paths to peace must be sought. A way must be found to harness the idealism and capacities of youth in a world-wide co-operative endeavour, free of political, racial, national and religious constraints, to alleviate human ignorance and distress.

19. That idea had first been broached by the Shahinshah of Iran in an address delivered at Harvard University in July 1968, in which he had spoken of the establishment in Iran of three compact organizations collectively called "The Armies of Iran's White Revolution", consisting of conscripts who performed their national service in the Literacy Corps, Health Corps, and Development Corps. They served in the villages of Iran, helping to educate the illiterate and improve the health services and participating in reconstruction projects. The Shahinshah had called for the extension of that kind of service on a voluntary basis beyond the national boundaries. He had proposed that it should be organized on a world-wide scale, placed under international auspices, and internationally administered, so as to mobilize the vast unused fund of intelligence, energy, and willingness to serve of great numbers of young men and women—and older people too for that matter—who at present had no practical outlets for demonstrating their potential in the cause of peace.

20. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1033 visualized the establishment of such an international corps of volunteers for development. The corps would be open to all who gave evidence of their willingness and capacity to devote some part of their lives to the work involved and might be administered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the supervision of the General Assembly, either directly or through the Economic and Social Council. The sponsors of the draft resolution were seeking no more than an expression of the Assembly's willingness to consider the idea

by authorizing a study of its feasibility, since many countries had experience of similar services rendered by non-nationals and would have suggestions to make on such aspects as how the volunteers could be most aptly fitted into a particular national context and whether they would be useful in it.

21. At its nineteenth session, the Commission for Social Development had unanimously adopted a resolution on the development and utilization of human resources,^{2/} in which, *inter alia*, concern was expressed "to promote ways of enlisting popular participation in development and involving more actively all groups of the population, in particular, women and youth". That resolution related to national efforts, which needed an international complement such as the scheme proposed in the draft resolution. Concern had been expressed about the lack of opportunities for the adequate use, and the consequent outflow, of trained personnel. The establishment of an international corps of volunteers under United Nations direction might encourage a more orderly flow of human resources on the basis of priority needs.

22. The Economic and Social Council, with the assistance of the Secretary-General and associated bodies concerned with international technical assistance, should consider the feasibility of the undertaking and the means of implementing it. The study could cover such points as the duties which the volunteers could usefully perform, the qualifications they would require, how many volunteers would be available and where and how they would be recruited, and other likely matters of organization and administration. Financing would clearly be an important element of the study. One possibility might be a system of voluntary self-taxation, which might yield an abundant flow of revenue to alleviate urgent human needs.

23. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) requested the Secretariat to make a minor editorial change in the first preambular paragraph of the Spanish text.

24. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) paid a tribute to the initiative of the sponsors in following up the very imaginative proposal of the Shahinshah. They were also to be commended on their practical approach in requesting that the feasibility of the proposal should be studied by the Economic and Social Council before the General Assembly was requested to make a decision on it.

25. The representative of Iran had referred to existing national volunteer programmes as part of the background which the Council might study. His delegation hoped that the Council would also bear in mind the valuable experience which many countries had acquired of the services of a well-known body of young international volunteers.

26. The Committee had recently approached a consensus, during a discussion of its work in future years (see 1230th meeting), that, whenever possible, its draft resolutions should not include requests for separate reports on agenda items, or possible future agenda items, and that it should be left to the discretion of the Council or other body concerned to

^{2/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/4467/Rev.1), chap. IV, resolution I (XIX).

decide what matters required attention by the General Assembly. He therefore suggested that the reference in the operative part of the draft to a report to be made to the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly should be replaced by a request to the effect that the Council should include in its annual report to that session appropriate conclusions and recommendations deriving from its study.

27. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1033. He suggested, however, that the words "one or two years" in the third preambular paragraph should be replaced by "a certain period". Many development programmes included types of activity in which the participation for even a short period of volunteer workers with special qualifications would be of the utmost value.

28. Mr. LEKONGA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) suggested that the addition of the word "ideology" after the word "religion" in the third preambular paragraph might swell the ranks of potential volunteers.

29. Mr. BEN YAHIA (Tunisia) proposed that the Economic and Social Council should be requested to present its report, or its conclusions or recommendations, to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. The Council already had a substantial programme of work for 1969 and might not be in a position to make a complete report on the subject as early as the twenty-fourth session.

30. Mr. VAKIL (Iran), supported by Mr. CARANICAS (Greece), said that the sponsors accepted the amendments proposed by the representatives of the United States and Somalia. Moreover, in response to the suggestion of the Tunisian representative, they had decided to add the words ", if possible," in the last phrase of the operative part of the draft. They could not, however, accept the amendment suggested by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, since they considered that the wording of the phrase in question was comprehensive enough to embrace all differences between peoples.

31. Mr. KASATKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1033 contained an extremely interesting proposal which merited the

interest of all delegations. The mobilization of a body of trained volunteers for development would do much to relieve the developing countries' acute and continuing shortage of trained personnel.

32. His delegation supported the proposal that the Economic and Social Council should not be asked to make a separate report on the subject.

33. It was to be hoped that the Council, when studying the feasibility of the proposal, would take into account not only the experience of countries such as Iran, which had organized programmes of national volunteer work, but that of the many developing countries in which international voluntary workers operated. A number of such countries had found that the activities of such bodies as the Peace Corps were not in all respects conducive to the peaceful development which the draft resolution sought to achieve; some Governments had even been forced to expel members of such bodies. For that reason, the Council should be urged not to overlook the information such countries could provide when it was preparing its study.

34. The financial implications of setting up an international corps of volunteers for development would, of course, be considerable. If the Council were to recommend the establishment of such a corps, it should be careful to avoid placing any financial burden on Member States for what was, after all, a voluntary programme. Countries which desired to take advantage of the scheme should bear the cost themselves and his delegation urged that due consideration should be given to the method of financing suggested by the representative of Iran in introducing the draft resolution.

35. In conclusion, his delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution on the understanding that the matter would be most carefully considered by the Economic and Social Council before any decision was reached.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1033), as orally revised.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted without objection.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.