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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/174

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee
(A. Ahsan) on the basis of informal consultations held on the
draft resolution contained in document A/34/L.16

Special measures in favour of the least developed
among the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/149 of 20 December 1978, in which it recommended, inter alia, that the developed countries, as well as the appropriate international organizations and financial institutions within the United Nations system, should implement the special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, as recommended by the General Assembly and other related bodies of the United Nations,

Recalling also the special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in its resolutions 62 (III) of 19 May 1972 1/ and 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976 2/ as well as Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978, 3/

1/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

2/ Ibid., Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/33/15), vol. I, part two, annex I.

Reiterating the decision of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979, 4/ to launch a comprehensive new programme of action for the least developed countries as one of its major priorities,

Noting that the first phase of this programme calls for an immediate effort to meet the critical situation of the least developed countries in the form of an immediate action programme, for 1979-1981, of greatly expanded assistance for the least developed countries, aimed at:

(a) Providing an immediate boost to their economies and immediate support for projects for meeting the most pressing social needs,

(b) Paving the way for comprehensive and much larger long-term development efforts,

Considering that the basic structural and economic problems facing the least developed countries are so severe that extraordinary additional measures, especially designed in the above-mentioned Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries as an essential contribution to the establishment of the New International Economic Order, are required,

Also considering that the special measures so far implemented in favour of the least developed countries have led on the whole only to relatively small and unsatisfactory results and that their growth rate in real terms of gross domestic product per capita has declined in the period 1970-1978,

Emphasizing the need for a greatly expanded transfer of official development assistance to the least developed countries, in the context of a general increase in official development assistance for all developing countries with a view to realizing the 0.7 per cent target,

Emphasizing further that external support should be forthcoming from developed countries, developing countries in a position to do so, multilateral development institutions and other sources,

1. Endorses the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries contained in resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

2. Calls upon donor countries urgently to implement the commitments relating to official development assistance to the least developed countries as undertaken by them in connexion with paragraph 13 of resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

3. Calls upon donor countries to consider urgently as a step towards the implementation of the immediate action programme, how they should

4/ See TD/268, part one, sect. A.

best provide assistance bilaterally or through appropriate multilateral channels such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Programme Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, in response to requests from the least developed countries for immediate additional financial support as foreseen in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in order to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to supplement the activities undertaken by the least developed countries themselves;

4. Notes that such additional assistance would be for 1980 and would in no way adversely affect the share of the least developed countries in the indicative planning figures of the United Nations Development Programme to be considered for the third programming cycle;

5. Requests the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which is to act as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to monitor progress under the immediate action programme and, in particular, to invite donors, as well as the least developed countries to the extent of their possibilities, to inform on the steps they are taking to implement this programme;

6. Recommends that official development assistance to the least developed countries should as a general rule be in the form of grants and that loans to those countries when provided by mutual agreements should be on highly concessional terms;

7. Urges those developed countries which have not yet done so to take steps as quickly as possible to apply fully the conclusions approved under part A of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX);

8. Urges donor countries and multilateral development institutions to allocate increased financial resources and technical assistance in support of activities aimed at transforming the major structural characteristics of the least developed countries;

9. Invites all international development institutions and specialized agencies, as well as bilateral donor institutions, regional commissions and the relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, to accord a high priority to special measures for the least developed countries and to give their full support for the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries;

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10. Further invites the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy to take fully into account, in the formulation of the strategy for the third United Nations development decade, the special and pressing problems facing the least developed countries;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his analytical report to the General Assembly at its special session in 1980 on the implementation of the New International Economic Order, called for in Assembly resolution 33/198 of 29 January 1979, an assessment of the situation of the least developed countries as well as a review of the implementation of the special measures called for in the present resolution.
