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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1990
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR
DEVELOPMENT

Future administrative arrangements for the United Nations
Pledging Conference for Development Activities

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 44/208 of 22 December 1989, the General Assembly, noting the importance of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, requested the Secretary-General to examine the modalities of the Conference and to make recommendations on future administrative arrangements for the Conference to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, for transmission to the 1990 Pledging Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, as appropriate, including the following arrangements:

(a) Sessional arrangements for the Conference, including the possibility of shortening it, and its timing, bearing in mind the budgetary cycles of Governments;

(b) Procedures for making pledges, including the greater use of written pledges, as appropriate;

(c) Formalization of and rationalization of procedures for the Final Act of the Pledging Conference.

2. By its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee that a single pledging conference be held annually for all United Nations operational activities for development (see paragraph 31 of the annex to the resolution). A list of the programmes and funds to which Member States are invited to make pledges is annexed to the present report.

* A/45/50.

Present arrangements relating to the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

3. Under the present arrangements, the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities is held annually early in November, requiring three meetings over a period of two days. The resources utilized to service these meetings are drawn from those allocated to the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Consequently, no meetings of the Second Committee are scheduled during the period of the Pledging Conference.

4. The Conference is generally opened by the Secretary-General or his representative. Its proceedings are governed by the rules of procedure for United Nations pledging conferences (A/33/530). After the election of its officers and the adoption of the agenda, the Conference proceeds to hearing statements by Governments in connection with their pledges. States are called upon to make their statements in alphabetical order and pledging forms are distributed for completion and return. The following day, the Conference is informed of the total contributions pledged and statements are made by the executive heads of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund and by other executive heads.

5. Following the adoption of the draft Final Act, representatives of Governments are called upon, in alphabetical order, to sign the Final Act in the presence of the President and other officers of the Conference.

6. The Conference is declared closed after a concluding statement by the President.

Proposals concerning future arrangements

7. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/208, the Secretary-General reviewed the existing arrangements relating to the annual Pledging Conference on Development Activities and is of the view that the Conference is a useful and important exercise for mobilizing resources. The Secretary-General is also aware of the expressed desire of Member States to improve the administrative and organizational aspects of the Conference. In that light, the Secretary-General proposes the following modified arrangements for consideration:

(a) That, beginning in 1991, the United Nations Pledging Conference on Development Activities be limited to one day and that the Conference be convened, as in previous years, early in November;

(b) That, as far as possible, greater use be made of written pledges. To this end, it is proposed that the Secretary-General request Governments to communicate to him their written pledges three weeks prior to the opening of the Conference;

(c) That, as a general rule, statements by participants in the Conference be limited to five minutes;

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(d) That the adoption and signing of the Final Act of the Conference be replaced by the adoption of a report of the Conference, thus dispensing with the process of signing a Final Act. Should this recommendation be accepted, the General Assembly will be required to decide that the provisions of the rules of procedure of United Nations pledging conferences relating to the adoption and signing of the Final Act of the Conference (A/33/580, rule 9) shall not apply to the Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The Final Act of these Conferences will be replaced by a report of the Conference.

ANNEX

List of programmes of funds of operational activities included
in the United Nations pledging conferences a/

United Nations Development Programme
Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries
United Nations Capital Development Fund
United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
United Nations Volunteers Programme - Special Voluntary Fund
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities
United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training
Institute for the Advancement of Women
United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation of the United Nations
Centre for Human Settlements
United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
United Nations Trust Fund for the Transport and Communications Decade in
Africa
United Nations Trust Fund for Aging
Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons
Trust Fund for the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

a/ In accordance with General Assembly decisions 35/441 and 36/446 and resolutions 37/142, 38/172 and 38/177 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/28 and 1985/35.

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