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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Paulina GARCIA DONOSO (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, included in its agenda the item entitled:

"Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator:

(a) Activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator: report of the Secretary-General;

(b) Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia: report of the Secretary-General";

and allocated it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered this item in conjunction with the general debate at its 4th to 18th meetings, from 1 to 15 October 1979, and at its 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 39th, 41st and 48th meetings, on 2, 5, 7, 14, 16 and 23 November 1979. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/34/SR.4-18, 30, 32, 33, 39, 41 and 48).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council; 1/

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/34/3/Rev.1), chap. XXVI.

- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (A/34/190);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought stricken areas of Ethiopia (A/34/198).

4. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator made an introductory statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.14 and Rev.1

5. At the 32nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Upper Volta, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/34/L.14) entitled "Assistance to drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia" and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator" were inserted between the words "efforts of" and "the United Nations Development Programme".

(b) A new operative paragraph 4 was added, which read:

"4. Calls upon all concerned to ensure that the international assistance provided be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation."

(c) The former paragraph 4 of the draft resolution was consequently renumbered.

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 7 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/34/L.14/Rev.1) which contained the oral revisions made by the sponsors at the 32nd meeting. Angola, Burundi, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, the United States of America and Viet Nam also joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

7. Before the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.2/34/SR.33).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.14/Rev.1 (see para. 19, draft resolution I).

9. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Ethiopia, France and Somalia (A/C.2/34/SR.33).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.37

10. At the 39th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Bangladesh, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Somalia, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/34/L.37) entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator". Subsequently, El Salvador, the Gambia, Honduras, Mozambique, the Philippines and the Upper Volta joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. A statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.37 was circulated in document A/C.2/34/L.47 and Corr.1.

12. At the 48th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee, by 114 votes to 14, with 8 abstentions, retained operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.37, on which a separate vote had been requested.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.37 as a whole by 119 votes to none, with 17 abstentions (see para. 19, draft resolution II).

14. Statements on operative paragraph 8 and the draft resolution as a whole were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Ethiopia, the Philippines, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the United States of America and Belgium (A/C.2/34/SR.48).

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.38

15. At the 39th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of India, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/34/L.38) entitled "Measures to be taken in connexion with the earthquake in Montenegro, Yugoslavia".

16. Subsequently, Angola, Austria, Eotswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Egypt, France, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

17. At its 41st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.38 (see para. 19, draft resolution III).

18. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Yugoslavia made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

19. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Assistance to drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia, 2/ prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/21 of 29 November 1978, with regard to the progress made in the implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Having heard the statement of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator 3/ outlining the critical food situation for the year 1979/80,

Noting the statement of the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme on the assistance being provided by the Programme to the Government of Ethiopia in relation to its relief and rehabilitation programmes in the drought-stricken areas of the country,

Noting also the statement of the representative of Ethiopia outlining the measures taken by the Government of Ethiopia to deal with relief and rehabilitation in the drought-stricken areas of the country,

Noting further the call made in the multidonor mission's report for urgent assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia,

Noting with appreciation the determined efforts being made by the Government of Ethiopia through its National Development Campaign to mitigate the effects of drought and to make the country self-sufficient in food,

Concerned at the gravity of the food situation due to the drought and the devastation of crops by swarms of locusts and other pests,

2/ A/34/198.

3/ A/C.2/34/SR.30, paras. 1-13.

Noting with appreciation in this regard the continued efforts of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as of the World Food Programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, in particular the assistance given by the Food and Agriculture Organization through its Office for Special Relief Operations and the emergency food aid provided by the World Food Programme as approved by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization,

Recalling that, despite the generous assistance offered to the Government of Ethiopia by the Governments of Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and voluntary agencies, enormous difficulties of rehabilitation and recovery still persist,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia;

2. Requests the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia in its relief and rehabilitation efforts, particularly the Government's Resettlement Programme, in their respective areas of competence and to implement promptly and fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, 3441 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 and 31/172 of 21 December 1976, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1833 (LVI) of 2 May 1974, 1876 (LVII) of 16 July 1974, 1971 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, 1986 (LX) of 6 May 1976, 1978/2 of 2 May 1978 and 1979/2 of 4 May 1979;

3. Appeals to Governments of Member States and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to continue and increase their assistance to the Government of Ethiopia for relief, rehabilitation and recovery of the drought-stricken areas;

4. Calls upon all concerned to ensure that the international assistance provided be used for the sole purpose of relief and rehabilitation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1980 on the implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 above and of the other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Council.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling section II, paragraph 14, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, and its resolution 33/22 of 29 November 1978,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/59 of 3 August 1979,

Reaffirming that it is necessary to ensure a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976,

Reaffirming also the central role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the mobilization, direction and co-ordination of international disaster relief assistance, in accordance with the mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

Recognizing the detrimental effects of natural disasters on the development programmes of developing countries and mindful of the need to take disaster matters into consideration in the preparatory process for the new international development strategy,

Recognizing also that the funds provided in the regular budget of the United Nations for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for emergency disaster relief assistance are now inadequate to respond to requests for assistance from disaster-afflicted developing countries,

Emphasizing once more the need for all involved in relief operations to implement measures to expedite international relief assistance and to remove any obstacles to its delivery,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 4/ and the oral statement made by the Co-ordinator to the Second Committee on 2 November 1979; 5/

2. Commends the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his continued efforts on behalf of those who suffer as a result of disasters;

3. Calls upon recipient Governments to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator by informing his Office of the relief contributions offered and received;

4/ A/34/190.

5/ A/C.2/34/SR.30, paras. 1-13.

4. Requests the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to develop further his working arrangements with donors and recipients of relief assistance.

5. Renews its call to Governments and international organizations to provide the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with detailed information on their current and intended relief contributions, in cash and in kind, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure the provision of all necessary assistance to the survivors of disasters;

6. Invites Governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with relief operations to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in his efforts to ensure the rapid and timely delivery of appropriate international relief, and to consider the adoption of appropriate legislative, administrative or operational measures to remove obstacles and expedite international relief assistance to the victims of disasters;

7. Welcomes the decision taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twenty-sixth session to give consideration to the inclusion of technical co-operation activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in national and regional programmes; 6/

8. Requests that additional funds be provided in the regular budget of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for 1980-1981 to permit the Co-ordinator to respond to at least 12 requests for emergency disaster assistance in any one year with a normal ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

9. Requests the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy to take into account, in its deliberations, matters concerning disaster relief, preparedness and prevention;

10. Urges all Governments to contribute to the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, taking into particular account the financial problems of the subaccount for emergency relief, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Measures to be taken in connexion with the earthquake in Montenegro, Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

Noting with deep regret the tragic consequences of the severe earthquake which struck the Montenegrin seacoast of Yugoslavia, caused the loss of many

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 10 (E/1979/40), chap. XXI.

human lives and brought enormous destruction, leaving more than 100,000 of the inhabitants homeless,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/58 of 3 August 1979,

Noting the energetic and urgent measures taken by the people and Government of Yugoslavia to provide immediate relief for the victims of the earthquake and to restore normal living conditions for the people,

Noting also long-term needs for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected area and the measures taken in this regard by the Government of Yugoslavia,

Taking note with appreciation of the assistance rendered, in the true spirit of international solidarity, to the people of Montenegro by many nations, the United Nations system of organizations and various non-governmental organizations, and the role played by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Noting in particular the assistance rendered by the United Nations Development Programme and the loan extended by the World Bank for the reconstruction of the stricken area,

1. Expresses its profound sympathy to the people of Montenegro and to the Government of Yugoslavia over this disaster;

2. Endorses the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/58, by which all States were invited to consider what further assistance they might be in a position to offer to Montenegro, and appeals to them to assist in the reconstruction of the stricken area;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to bear in mind the long-term needs for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the area affected by the earthquake when deciding on services to be provided to Member States in the light of funds available.
