



Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 24 (a)

Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Juliet **Hay** (New Zealand)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 24 (see [A/68/443](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 32nd and 37th meetings, on 6 and 21 November 2013. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.2/68/SR.32](#) and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/68/L.2](#) and [A/C.2/68/L.45](#)

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Fiji, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system" ([A/C.2/68/L.2](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution [67/226](#) of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 of 12 July 2013 on progress in the implementation of resolution [67/226](#),

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/68/443 and Add.1 and 2.



“*Recalling also* the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

“*Reaffirming* the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

“*Recalling* the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions [57/270](#) B of 23 June 2003, [61/16](#) of 20 November 2006 and [68/1](#) of 20 September 2013 and other relevant resolutions,

“*Taking note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2013,

“1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2011, recalls the sections of resolution [67/226](#) on the simplification and harmonization of business practices, results-based management, follow-up and monitoring, and evaluation of operational activities for development, and its emphasis on the five main areas of development, namely, capacity-building, poverty eradication, South-South cooperation, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and transition from relief to development;

“2. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that they are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

“3. *Underscores* that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should be able to respond to the varying development needs of programme countries and should be in alignment with their national development plans and strategies in accordance with established mandates;

“4. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and, in that regard, notes with concern the growing imbalance between core and non-core funding of such activities;

“5. *Recalls* the concern expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution [67/226](#) over the lack of progress by the governing bodies in the development and operationalization of the concept of the ‘critical mass’ of core resources, which has since also been mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General;

“6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the contribution of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system in addressing the key areas identified in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, namely, the overarching objective of poverty eradication, capacity-building and development, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and transition from relief to development;

“7. *Encourages* the United Nations development system to share good practices of programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in poverty and to promote their active participation in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

“8. *Reaffirms* the increased importance of South-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the regular country-level programming of operational activities for development, to strengthen support mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including drawing upon the knowledge networks of global entities and the capacities of the regional commissions and the United Nations development system regional teams, and to help developing countries, at their request and with their ownership and leadership, to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in order to achieve their national goals, with special emphasis on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

“9. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening strategies for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to contribute to accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets, and to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

“10. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 on operational activities for development, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [67/226](#);

“11. *Notes with appreciation* the policy document for independent system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development prepared by the interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in this regard, decides, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5, that two pilot independent system-wide evaluations shall be conducted in 2014, and that the themes of these two evaluations shall be ‘Evaluation of the contributions of the United Nations development system to achieving the overarching goal of poverty eradication’ and ‘Evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities of policy development and implementation’, and requests the interim coordination mechanism to provide an update on progress in the implementation of the pilot independent system-wide evaluations to the

Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its session in 2015;

“12. *Recognizes* the need to review the composition and functioning of the governing structures of United Nations funds and programmes, in this regard, invites the Economic and Social Council, at its operational activities segment, and United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies to initiate dialogues on this matter, and, in this context, requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to present a report on governance of United Nations funds and programmes to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

“13. *Notes* that the implementation of General Assembly resolution [68/1](#) will require amendments to the reporting cycles of the United Nations development system set out by the Assembly in its resolution [67/226](#);

“14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of resolution [67/226](#) to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the provisions of that resolution.”

3. At its 37th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Operational activities for development of the United Nations system” ([A/C.2/68/L.45](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Waruna Sri Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.2](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.45](#) (see para. 9).

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the Vice-Chair (Sri Lanka) ([A/C.2/68/SR.37](#)).

7. A statement was also made by the representative of Norway ([A/C.2/68/SR.37](#)).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.45](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/68/L.2](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [67/226](#) of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 of 12 July 2013 on progress in the implementation of resolution [67/226](#),

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,¹ and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,²

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions [57/270 B](#) of 23 June 2003, [61/16](#) of 20 November 2006, [67/226](#) and [68/1](#) of 20 September 2013 and other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2013,³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2011;⁴

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its seventeenth session⁵ and the decisions taken at that session,⁶ as well as the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting held on 4 June 2013;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the contribution of operational activities for development to national capacity development and development effectiveness of the United Nations development system in addressing the key areas identified in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

¹ Resolution 65/1.

² Resolution 68/6.

³ E/2013/94 and A/68/97-E/2013/87.

⁴ A/68/97-E/2013/87.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/67/39).*

⁶ *Ibid.*, chap. I.

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by those entities of the United Nations development system that have made efforts to align their strategic plans, frameworks and budgets with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and encourages all entities of the United Nations development system to take further steps in this regard;

5. *Recalls* the concern expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution [67/226](#) over the lack of progress by the governing bodies in the development and operationalization of the concept of the “critical mass” of core resources, which was reiterated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2013/5, notes that the funds and programmes have not presented specific proposals on the matter to their governing bodies, as requested in 2013, and requests the funds and programmes to take necessary actions in order to take a decision on the matter in 2014, as mandated in resolution [67/226](#);

6. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to strengthen and improve the results-focused delivery of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to maximize their support for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets, as well as their support for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

7. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 on operational activities for development, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [67/226](#);

8. *Notes* the policy for independent system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development prepared by the interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, decides in this regard that two pilot independent system-wide evaluations shall be conducted in 2014, subject to the provision and availability of extrabudgetary resources, as outlined in the policy, and that the themes of these two evaluations shall be “Meta-evaluation and synthesis of United Nations Development Assistance Framework evaluations, with a particular focus on poverty eradication” and “Evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals”, invites countries in a position to do so to contribute extrabudgetary resources for the effective implementation of the pilot independent system-wide evaluations, and requests the interim coordination mechanism to provide an update on progress in the implementation of the pilot independent system-wide evaluations to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2015;

9. *Calls upon* the Economic and Social Council, at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2014, to discuss the implications for the United Nations development system of the implementation of General Assembly resolution [68/1](#), while stressing the need to minimize transaction costs associated with reporting and to avoid new or additional formal reporting requirements.