

40/211. Operational activities for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the validity of its resolution 38/171 of 19 December 1983 on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development,

Reaffirming also its resolution 39/220 of 18 December 1984 on financing of operational activities for development, as well as its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations,

Reaffirming further its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system and 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical co-operation,

Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Government of the recipient country in formulating its national development plan, priorities and objectives, as set out in the consensus contained in the annex to resolution 2688 (XXV), and emphasizing that the integration of the operational activities of the United Nations system with national programmes would enhance the impact and relevance of those activities,

Reaffirming also the responsibility of developing countries to co-ordinate development co-operation, including the determination of local co-ordination arrangements,

Reaffirming further the responsibilities of the resident co-ordinators on behalf of the United Nations system with respect to co-ordination of operational activities carried out by the United Nations system at the country level in accordance with their mandate,

Reaffirming the important contribution of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in support of the overall economic and social development of developing countries,

Reiterating its desire for a coherent and co-ordinated United Nations system in the field of operational activities for development and for effective leadership by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the co-ordination of the various components of the United Nations system and in exercising overall co-ordination within the system, as set forth in resolution 32/197, as well as its call for full co-operation with the Director-General by all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

Noting the steps being taken by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, through the joint consultative group on policy to enhance their collaboration in programming and implementation,

Welcoming the decisions of the governing bodies of the relevant United Nations organizations to strengthen their efforts in response to the emergency situation in Africa, and welcoming the co-ordinated response of the United Nations organizations in support of relief operations in Africa and the co-ordination of such assistance through the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, as well as the related arrangements at the country level,

Recognizing, in this regard, the need for additional financial resources to meet the urgent development needs of African countries,

Emphasizing the need for a significant, continuous and real increase in resources for operational activities to meet

the growing requirements for development of the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments of both developed and developing countries that, at the 1985 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,¹²⁵ announced increased contributions for operational activities for development for the year 1986, as well as to those Governments that have consistently maintained their contributions at a high level,

Having examined the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system,¹²⁶

1. *Requests* the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, within a general framework of broad objectives of operational activities in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197, to include the following in his report for the 1986 comprehensive policy review, in addition to the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 38/171 and the issues identified in paragraph 3 of the report of the Director-General for 1985¹²⁶ and to make recommendations, as appropriate, thereon:

(a) Measures to strengthen the existing mechanisms within the United Nations system, with a view to furthering the coherence and co-ordination of operational activities;

(b) An analysis of the relationship between the increasing responsibilities of the United Nations Development Programme in the area of co-ordination and its essential role in the provision of technical co-operation;

(c) An analysis of changing requirements for technical co-operation through multilateral channels and the responsiveness of the United Nations system to them;

(d) Further analysis of programme delivery and administrative and support costs;

(e) Developments regarding joint technical co-operation needs assessments;

(f) Steps taken by United Nations organizations engaged in operational activities to promote the participation of women in development;

(g) An analysis of the response of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries in the strengthening of their co-ordination capacity;

(h) Actions taken to increase programme effectiveness through, *inter alia*, evaluation;

(i) Efforts undertaken to expand the geographical distribution of the sources of supply, including in underutilized donor and developing countries, for the operational activities of the United Nations system;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the round-table country review process and other mechanisms for co-ordination at the country level in facilitating the effective implementation of the development programmes in the countries concerned;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for the year 1985¹²⁷ and the decisions contained therein;

4. *Reaffirms* the central funding role of the United Nations Development Programme in the field of technical co-operation for development;

5. *Calls upon* all States to make every effort to attain the planned funding levels for operational activities for development by the various organizations of the United Nations system, and urges the successful completion of the

¹²⁵ See A/CONF.132/SR.1 to 3 and corrigendum.

¹²⁶ A/40/698 and Corr.1, annex.

¹²⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 11 (E/1985/32 and Corr.1).*

current negotiations on the replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to enable it to maintain its effective contribution to agricultural and food development, as well as the early consideration and completion of the eighth replenishment of the International Development Association at an adequate level;

6. *Expresses its deep concern* about the shortfall of resources of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the impact on its ability to carry out its planned programmes, and urges all countries to continue and increase their support for the Fund;

7. *Requests* the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to report on the results of the efforts to increase collaboration between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Development Programme;

8. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, in discharging its responsibilities as defined in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, to assist the Assembly in establishing overall strategies, policies and priorities for the system as a whole in respect of operational activities, and to formulate suggestions and recommendations at the time of its consideration of the 1986 comprehensive policy review;

9. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, where possible, to provide the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986 and the General Assembly at its forty-first session at the time of the 1986 comprehensive policy review of operational activities, their views on the system-wide policy issues affecting operational activities identified by the Assembly in its resolution 38/171 and in the present resolution, and also invites the organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the preparation of his report for that review.

*120th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/212. International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Volunteers programme,¹²⁸ and the relevant decision of the Governing Council,¹²⁹

Considering that volunteer service, including that of the United Nations Volunteers, is making an important contribution to socio-economic development activities,

Recognizing the desirability of stimulating the work of all volunteers both in the field and in organizations — multilateral, bilateral or national, non-governmental or government-supported — and of giving encouragement to those volunteers, many of whom engage in volunteer service at considerable personal sacrifice,

1. *Invites* Governments to observe annually, on 5 December, an International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, and urges them to take measures to heighten awareness of the important contribution of volunteer service, thereby stimulating more people in all walks of life to offer their services as volunteers, both at home and abroad;

2. *Invites also* specialized agencies, other organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental

organizations that provide, are affiliated with or benefit from volunteer service to undertake and promote activities to stimulate greater awareness of the contribution to their work made by volunteers;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote world-wide publicity on the important role of volunteer service.

*120th plenary meeting
17 December 1985*

40/213. Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Referring to its resolutions 33/135 of 19 December 1978, 35/80 of 5 December 1980, 37/228 of 20 December 1982 and 39/219 of 18 December 1984 on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Desiring to promote full implementation of the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade concerning the important role of qualified national personnel in the achievement of the development goals of the developing countries,¹³⁰

Reaffirming the crucial role of human resources in the socio-economic development process of developing countries,

Taking into account the increasing importance of United Nations activities in the field of human resources development as they are envisaged in future years,

Recognizing that the training of qualified national personnel is an important and integral part of human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries;¹³¹

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the provisions of its resolution 37/228;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the further implementation of its resolution 39/219;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the need for an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to all aspects of human resources development, in particular the training of qualified national personnel, in the programmes of work of the United Nations and the organizations of its system;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the Governments of Member States, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 39/219, on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries, and to submit a progress report, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the

¹²⁸ DP/1985/44, chap. II.

¹²⁹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 11 (E/1985/32 and Corr.1), annex I, decision 85/23.

¹³⁰ Resolution 35/56, annex, para. 47.

¹³¹ A/40/549 and Add.1.