

ties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and its decision 40/438 of 17 December 1985 concerning the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy,

Concerned that the goals and objectives of the Strategy remain largely to be fulfilled,

Recognizing the crucial and urgent need for the reactivation of the economic and social development process of the developing countries,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with all the concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to provide information which would be appropriate for the preparation and elaboration of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000), including that which would be relevant for the assessment of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the above-mentioned resolutions;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the information requested above;

3. *Decides* to consider, at its forty-third session, appropriate further action for the assessment of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the preparation and elaboration of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

*96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987*

42/194. Raúl Prebisch Foundation

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the important and valuable contribution of Raúl Prebisch, first Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and former Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, to the United Nations system, in particular to development and international economic co-operation,

1. *Warmly welcomes* the establishment in Argentina of the Raúl Prebisch Foundation to promote the study of development issues, especially those which affect the developing countries;

2. *Invites* all States and relevant agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to support the activities undertaken by the Raúl Prebisch Foundation in the cause of development.

*96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987*

42/195. Consequences of the recent sharp fluctuations in the international financial and stock markets and the implications of those fluctuations for the development of the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the recent sharp fluctuations in the international financial and stock markets and the possible negative impact of those fluctuations on world economic stability, growth and trade and on the development process of the developing countries,

Convinced that strengthened multilateral co-operation has a central role to play in preventing such a possible negative impact and in promoting growth and development,

1. *Decides* to consider this question further in the light of the relevant discussions of the Trade and Development Board and other appropriate international organs and organizations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the appropriate bodies, to analyse in the *World Economic Survey 1988* the effects of these sharp fluctuations on growth and development, in particular in developing countries, and to draw this issue to the attention of the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

*96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987*

42/196. Operational activities for development

The General Assembly,

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, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and 41/171 of 5 December 1986 on operational activities for development,

Recalling further its resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system,

Reaffirming that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Emphasizing the need to keep under periodic review the structures and *modus operandi* of the organizations of the United Nations system in relation to their operational activities so as to ensure efficiency and responsiveness to the needs and priorities of the developing countries,

Deeply concerned that the targets for official development assistance spelt out in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade²⁷ have not been met, and stressing the urgent need to strengthen multilateral co-operation for development through, *inter alia*, increased voluntary contributions to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Emphasizing also the need for a significant, continuous, predictable and real increase in resources for operational activities for development to meet the growing require-

ments for development of the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Emphasizing further the need to increase the proportion of grants in overall official development assistance,

Considering that all countries should continue to make efforts to participate in operational activities for development in accordance with their financial and developmental capacities,

Reaffirming that, at the national level, the allocation of resources for operational activities must be based on the national development plans, priorities and objectives of the recipient countries, to which the assistance provided by the United Nations system should conform,

Reaffirming also that economic and technical co-operation among developing countries should be a significant dimension of operational activities for development and that technical co-operation among developing countries as understood in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,⁴¹ endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, is an important instrument in this respect, and taking note with appreciation of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its fifth session,⁸⁰

Reiterating that the activities of the resident coordinators in fulfilling their role relating to operational activities, as defined in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 41/171, vary according to the development needs and priorities determined by the recipient countries,

Mindful of the special needs of the least developed countries,

Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development to overcome their economic difficulties,

Deeply concerned about the falling share of developing countries in the procurement of equipment and services for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as reported,⁸¹

Stressing the urgent need for harmonized, flexible and simplified procedures for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in order to respond better to the needs of developing countries and particularly to reduce the administrative burden on Governments and facilitate their participation in these activities,

Noting with deep concern the shortcomings reported by the Secretary-General⁸² in the discharge by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, through its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities), of the responsibilities envisaged for it as the forum for the consideration by the organizations of the United Nations system of central matters relating to operational activities for development, particularly their co-ordination,

Noting with appreciation the important contribution made by the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Aware that a substantial part of world resources, human as well as material, continues to be diverted to armaments, with a detrimental effect on international security and on bilateral and multilateral co-operation, including the oper-

ational activities for development of the United Nations system,

I

Report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation: case studies on operational activities and follow-up action

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities of the United Nations system⁸³ and of the case-studies on the functioning of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,⁸⁴ undertaken in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/171;

2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to discuss in detail, at their next sessions, the conclusions and recommendations⁸⁵ of the report on the findings of the case-studies, and to submit their views to the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Welcomes* the announced intention of the Director-General to organize in early 1988 an informal discussion of the report's findings, with the participation of delegations, the authors of the report and the relevant programmes and agencies of the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* the Director-General to continue to carry out the tasks entrusted to him under resolution 41/171 and to ensure, in accordance with resolution 32/197, effective leadership of the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and in exercising overall co-ordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis;

5. *Takes note* of the comments provided by organizations of the United Nations system in response to elements of resolution 41/171;⁸⁶

II

Priorities, resources and guiding considerations for operational activities for development

6. *Reaffirms* that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system are undertaken at the request of developing countries and are designed to respond solely to their development needs and priorities as determined by them;

7. *Reaffirms* the central role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as forums for overall policy guidance and co-ordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizes the need to strengthen further the co-ordination functions of the Council in this respect;

8. *Affirms* the importance of the operational activities of the United Nations system in strengthening the capacities of recipient countries to plan and implement development policies and programmes in accordance with their goals and objectives, and recognizes the important role of the United Nations development system, in particular the

⁸³ A/42/326-E/1987/82, annex, and A/42/326/Add.3-E/1987/82/Add.3, annex.

⁸⁴ A/42/326/Add.1-E/1987/82/Add.1, annex.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, sect. VIII.

⁸⁶ A/42/326/Add.2-E/1987/82/Add.2, annex, and A/42/326/Add.4-E/1987/82/Add.4, annex.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39 and Corr.1).

⁸¹ See A/42/326/Add.3-E/1987/82/Add.3, annex, para. 25.

⁸² A/42/232-E/1987/68, para. 59.

United Nations Development Programme, in assisting recipient Governments, at their request, in determining and meeting their technical co-operation needs, including human resources development, institution building and transfer of technology, as defined by them;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation by the Committee of its decision of October 1986 to improve the overall functioning and efficiency of its subsidiary machinery for operational activities and on further measures to improve performance in inter-agency co-operation in this regard, particularly through a review of the work of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities);

10. *Emphasizes* that a substantial and real increase in the flow of concessional resources, particularly grants, on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, is important for the development process of developing countries, and calls for increased contributions from a broader range of countries in order to provide such resources;

11. *Reaffirms* the central funding and co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme in technical co-operation within the United Nations system in conformity with the consensus of 1970⁸⁷ and General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 35/81 of 5 December 1980, recommends to the inter-governmental bodies concerned that the need to preserve this role should be taken fully into account in the consideration of new funding arrangements for technical co-operation activities, and requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, an analysis of the issues relating to the implementation of the central funding concept;

12. *Affirms* that the functioning of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be guided, *inter alia*, by the following considerations, taking into account the particular development needs, priorities and policies of recipient countries:

(a) Developing countries have the primary responsibility for co-ordinating the operational activities for development of the United Nations system at the national level, and the main role of the United Nations system in that regard should be to reinforce and strengthen the capability of developing countries to co-ordinate international co-operation and assistance in accordance with their priorities and needs;

(b) The programming procedures for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be made more flexible within established principles of accountability so that they may correspond to the policies, procedures and objectives of recipient countries in order to permit the allocation of external assistance and co-operation in the context of a programme approach, either on a project-by-project basis or on a sectoral basis; this will also enable these countries to manage their programmes, to exploit substantive linkages among projects and sectors and to have a coherent and integrated approach;

(c) The United Nations system should improve its ability, at the field level, to respond to requests from developing countries for advice on developmental issues by, *inter alia*, enhancing its capacity for, and performance in, providing sectoral, multisectoral and integrated advice to

Governments at their request, through, *inter alia*, increased co-ordination among the organizations of the system and improved technical backstopping;

(d) To facilitate the task of developing countries in co-ordinating development co-operation and assistance, multilateral and bilateral donors concerned should endeavour to harmonize and simplify their rules and procedures in order to respond as fully as possible to conditions and practices in recipient countries;

(e) To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations system, the resident co-ordinators should receive the necessary support from the United Nations system and donor and host countries in order to discharge their functions in accordance with the needs, priorities and objectives of the recipient countries;

13. *Urges* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the existing subregional economic groupings, as appropriate, to provide increased support, as a matter of priority, to African countries in the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the priority themes of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;⁶⁰

14. *Urges* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to place priority emphasis on the full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries²⁸ and the recommendations of the mid-term review of its implementation;⁸⁸

III

Programming

15. *Requests* the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of other organizations of the United Nations system, to assess the constraints on the use of the United Nations Development Programme's country programme and programming process as a frame of reference for the operational activities of the United Nations system, to consider the nature, scope and feasibility of a wider, more effective process in terms of improved coherence of action and effective integration of the various sectoral inputs of the United Nations system, to identify the grant organizations and resources that such a process might take into account, and to report thereon for the next triennial policy review of operational activities for development, in 1989;

16. *Welcomes* as a potentially significant contribution towards improved coherence and co-ordination the joint and collaborative programming of activities undertaken by the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, and requests the Director-General, in co-operation with the executive heads of the organizations that are members of the Group, to inform the Economic and Social Council of the nature and scope of their joint and collaborative activities and to comment on the possibility of more systematic exchanges at the headquarters level among those organizations on a broader agenda;

17. *Reiterates* the importance attached to the integration of women in United Nations development programmes, both as agents and as beneficiaries of develop-

⁸⁷ Resolution 2688 (XXV), annex.

⁸⁸ Resolution 40/205, annex.

ment, calls upon the funding and executing agencies to intensify efforts to increase the participation of women, especially those from developing countries, and requests the Director-General, taking into account the requirements of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/86 of 8 July 1987 in this regard, to report on such efforts and on the establishment of mechanisms for generating baseline information and measuring results;

18. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system that provide grant assistance for technical co-operation to report to the Economic and Social Council on the content and nature of their current and prospective co-operation with the World Bank, including the criteria for the selection of the Bank as an executing agency and also indicating whether project agreements for World Bank-executed projects differ in character from those for projects executed by other United Nations agencies;

19. *Requests* the Director-General to examine in detail urgent measures that can be taken to ensure further flexibility, simplification and harmonization of procedures for programme and project formulation, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to adapt them to the needs and priorities of developing countries, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council;

IV

Organization at the field level

20. *Considers* that decentralization of operational activities at the field level should, within established principles of accountability, foster appropriate flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of developing countries, and requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to provide information on the measures taken by organizations of the system in this regard;

21. *Urges* funding and executing agencies to consider additional measures to ensure that expertise for all aspects of the project cycle, particularly project execution, is of the highest standard of quality and that project inputs are provided on a timely basis;

22. *Invites* Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to avail themselves, as envisaged in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 41/171, of the services of the resident co-ordinators and to solicit the views of the resident co-ordinators in considering projects to be funded or implemented by the United Nations system;

23. *Also requests* the Director-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to assess the resources required by the resident co-ordinators to carry out their increasing responsibilities, taking into account differing national situations;

24. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system urgently to review and rationalize their field office structure to enhance co-operation, coherence and efficiency through, *inter alia*, increased sharing of facilities and services, and in this connection:

(a) Expresses the need for such a review to take full account of the need for the provision, at the field level, of ongoing technical advice by the organizations of the United Nations system in accordance with the needs identified by developing countries;

(b) Emphasizes that this advice should be offered in an integrated and multisectoral manner, as envisaged in resolution 32/197;

(c) Requests the governing bodies to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988;

(d) Also requests the Director-General to report periodically to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on developments related to the field office structure of the United Nations system;

25. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review the inter-agency arrangement concerning resident co-ordinators, with a view to enabling them to discharge better their leadership role and functions, and requests the Secretary-General to formulate specific proposals for the consideration of the Committee in that regard and to report orally to the Economic and Social Council;

26. *Requests* the Director-General to report on the progress made in the review undertaken by the member organizations of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the structure of their field offices, and invites other organizations of the United Nations system to participate in this review process;

V

Procurement and project execution

27. *Requests* the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to consult with recipient countries and the relevant funding and executing agencies of the United Nations system and to make recommendations for innovative, practical and effective measures to increase substantially the procurement from developing countries in the operational activities of the United Nations system, taking into account the need for the full implementation of the preferential arrangements for these countries and making maximum use of national institutions and firms, and giving due regard to regional comparative advantages, consistent with the principle of competitive international bidding and maximum effectiveness;

28. *Considers* in that respect that the data base for assessing procurement trends system-wide needs significant improvement and requests the Director-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, to develop proposals for common practices within the United Nations system for the compilation and reporting of procurement information related to operational activities, including information on the sources of experts, training, services and equipment;

29. *Affirms* that all countries should have equal opportunities in and access to the procurement process of operational activities of the United Nations system and that the flow of information on procurement opportunities, including competitive international bidding, and on countries' capacities and offers should be facilitated as appropriate and that the information should be made available to all interested countries, all of which would facilitate obtaining the desired increase in the procurement from all sources, including under-utilized donor countries;

30. *Requests* all organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide full support for the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Unit so as to enable it to provide more comprehensive and reliable in-

formation on the procurement activities of the United Nations system;

31. *Considers* that the technical capacities of the United Nations system in the field could more fully be brought to bear in support of the modality of government execution of projects, and requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its thirty-fifth session to consider what further support can be offered to Governments and what further flexibility may be called for to facilitate government execution of projects;

32. *Requests* United Nations funding organizations, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to adhere rigorously to established criteria and procedures in the selection of executing agencies to be recommended to recipient Governments so as to ensure the provision of technical expertise and appropriate project support, including technical backstopping, as well as the reliability and accountability of the executing agencies;

33. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to examine modalities for enhancing the implementation of its inter-country programme, taking fully into account the technical skills and capabilities existing within the United Nations system and in other appropriate organizations and bodies and also taking into account the different characteristics of each region;

34. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, given the expiry in 1991 of current arrangements for project support costs, to begin considering successor arrangements designed to ensure enhanced project quality and maximum cost-effectiveness, with a view, *inter alia*, to ensuring the full utilization of technical and managerial capacities at all stages of the project cycle;

35. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to provide information to its field offices on programmes promoting or facilitating technical co-operation among developing countries offered by various developing countries;

36. *Requests* the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to report on the implementation of the present resolution, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987

42/197. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/172 of 5 December 1986,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,⁸⁹

Recognizing the continuing importance and relevance of the mandate of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,

Recognizing also the need for all Governments to contribute or increase their voluntary contributions, as appropriate, to the Institute,

Noting with concern the continuing lack of a sufficiently broad base of donor countries supporting the Institute,

Noting with regret that the 1987 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities was unable to

provide the General Fund of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research with the level of resources required to maintain its current programmes and institutional structure,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 41/172;⁸⁹

2. *Reaffirms* the continuing validity and relevance of the mandate of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

3. *Stresses* that the Institute makes an important contribution to the work of the United Nations and that every effort should be made to continue its activities;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to restructure the Institute as follows:

I. PROGRAMME

A. Training

1. Training shall henceforth be the main focus of the activities of the Institute, and that focus should be duly reflected in the budget allocations;

2. The core training programme financed from the General Fund shall concentrate on training for international co-operation and multilateral diplomacy at various levels, primarily of persons from developing countries;

3. The core training programme for 1988 and subsequent years financed from the General Fund, as set out in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General,⁸⁹ shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees in the context of its programme and budget preparations and may be adjusted in the light of the financial resources available to the Institute; the Board of Trustees shall also, in accordance with the statute of the Institute, consider and approve any new programmes that may be proposed by the Secretary-General or Governments through the General Assembly;

4. Training programmes designed and conducted by the Institute for other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies shall not result in any financial obligations for the General Fund and shall be carried out on a fully reimbursable basis;

5. Training for economic and social development and any other training activities shall be funded from special purpose grants;

B. Research

6. Research shall remain a function of the Institute, bearing in mind that the main focus shall be on training, as outlined above; for the present, funding for research from the General Fund shall not exceed the present ratio of 13 per cent of the annual budget;

7. Current and ongoing research projects financed from the General Fund shall be concluded as soon as possible; if the long-term continuation of a project is envisaged, the appropriate United Nations body should consider financing it, or a special purpose grant should be sought for its execution;

8. Research and study falling within the mandate of the Institute may be financed from special purpose grants on a full-cost basis;

9. Research-cum-training in negotiating techniques, international law and economic and social development shall be funded from special purpose grants;

⁸⁹ A/42/694 and Corr.1.