

**43/199. Operational activities for development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/171 of 5 December 1986 and 42/196 of 11 December 1987,

*Stressing* that the primary objective of the operational activities of the United Nations system is to promote the self-reliance of developing countries through multilateral co-operation and, in this context, emphasizing the need to maintain this multilateral character,

*Reaffirming* the exclusive responsibility of the Government of the recipient country for formulating national development plans, priorities and objectives, as set out in the consensus of 1970 contained in the annex to its 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,

*Emphasizing* the central role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as forums for overall policy guidance and co-ordination of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

*Reaffirming* 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 1970 and General Assembly resolution 32/197,

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

*Bearing in mind* the urgent and specific 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,

*Recalling* the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,<sup>44</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988 on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America,

*Reaffirming* the importance attached to the integration of women in United Nations development programmes, both as agents and as beneficiaries of development, calling on the funding and executing agencies to intensify efforts to increase the participation of women, especially those from developing countries, and reiterating its request to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, 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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Economic and Social Council;<sup>61</sup>

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;<sup>62</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/43/3/Rev.1).

<sup>62</sup> See A/43/426-E/1988/74 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 and 3.

3. *Notes* the encouraging result of the 1988 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and stresses the continuing need for a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis;

4. *Urges* all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development, in particular those countries whose overall involvement is not commensurate with their capacity;

5. *Requests* the Director-General, in the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, to report fully on the implementation thus far of Assembly resolutions 41/171 and 42/196, and to prepare his reports in a comprehensive manner, setting out the interrelationship among problems and factors where appropriate, identifying options available and putting forward his specific recommendations, including possible scenarios for their implementation;

6. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of recipient Governments for co-ordinating development assistance at the country level, stresses the need for improved functioning of co-ordination of the United Nations system at the country level, and requests the Director-General:

(a) To report on the action taken by governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, in response to paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 42/196, to review and rationalize their field office structures in order to enhance co-operation, coherence and efficiency, and to make comments on possible improvements in the field structure from those standpoints;

(b) In this context, to make specific proposals for enhancing the functioning of the resident co-ordinator system, including proposals on the inter-agency arrangements concerned, within the framework of the role of the resident co-ordinators described in Assembly resolutions 32/197, 41/171 and 42/196;

(c) In the context of subparagraphs (a) and (b) above, to make specific proposals on ways and means of achieving the objective of the provision to recipient Governments by the United Nations system at the field level of technical advice in a multisectoral and integrated manner, including the deployment of substantive and technical personnel, as envisaged in resolution 32/197 and stressed in paragraph 24 of resolution 42/196;

(d) To provide information on the roles of the United Nations Development Programme resident representative and the United Nations resident co-ordinator with respect to the field representation of the organizations of the United Nations system;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of flexibility, simplification and harmonization of procedures for operational activities of the United Nations system, so as to increase the responsiveness of those operational activities to the needs and priorities of recipient countries, to reduce the administrative burden on those countries and to allow them to better manage and co-ordinate external assistance; requests the Director-General to make specific proposals on those subjects in his report, as requested by the Assembly in resolution 42/196; reiterates the view that decentralization of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the field level should, within established principles of accountability, foster appropriate flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of developing countries; and renews its request for information on measures taken by organizations of the system in this regard;

8. *Requests* the Director-General to submit his recommendations on innovative, practical and effective measures to increase substantially procurement from develop-

ing countries for consideration during the triennial policy review to be undertaken in 1989, taking into account the need for the full implementation of the preferential arrangements for developing countries and making maximum use of national institutions and firms of those countries, as well as giving due regard to regional comparative advantage consistent with the principle of international competitive bidding and bearing in mind the need to take concrete measures to achieve equitable geographical distribution of procurement through the increased utilization of supply sources from developing and underutilized donor countries;

9. *Stresses* that technical co-operation among developing countries should become a widely used modality for development co-operation within the United Nations development system and in this connection draws the attention of the Director-General to the need for formulating specific proposals for consideration during the triennial review;

10. *Urges* all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate fully with the Director-General in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 41/171 and 42/196 and to provide all the information requested in those resolutions;

11. *Urges* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of operational activities, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity 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;<sup>44</sup>

12. *Emphasizes* the crucial importance of adequate preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, taking into account the priorities put forward by those countries themselves, and notes with appreciation decision 88/30 of 1 July 1988 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme,<sup>24</sup> in which the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme was requested, in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to assist the least developed countries to ensure that they are able to participate fully in the preparations, including preparatory meetings, for the Conference and in the Conference itself;

13. *Welcomes* Governing Council decision 88/50 of 1 July 1988, adopted in response to paragraph 34 of Assembly resolution 42/196, to initiate consideration by a group of experts of the successor arrangements for support costs from the standpoint of the best ways of meeting the requirements of developing countries;

14. *Invites* the Governing Council, when considering the successor arrangements for support costs, to take into consideration the possibilities of the new arrangements promoting coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of action by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system;

15. *Also invites* the Governing Council to examine the current practices in the designation of executing agencies for projects under regional, interregional and global programmes, taking into account the desirability of utilizing the services of relevant and competent United Nations organs and programmes;

16. *Further invites* the Governing Council to consider the following at its thirty-sixth session, in 1989, and to re-

port thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council:

(a) The question of holding its future sessions and the future sessions of its subsidiary bodies at United Nations Headquarters;

(b) The possibility of changing its name to "Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund";

17. *Welcomes* the review and assessment being conducted by the United Nations Population Fund of its experience in the field of population and requests that an appropriate summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

18. *Invites* States members of the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to address the issue of operational activities for development in the governing bodies of those organs and organizations, with a view to arriving at a co-ordinated and system-wide approach to this issue.

83rd plenary meeting  
20 December 1988

#### 43/200. United Nations University

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

*Having considered* the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1987<sup>63</sup> and its development in 1988, as presented by the Rector of the University on 25 October 1988,<sup>64</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the voluntary contributions made so far from Governments and other sources in support of the University,

*Also noting with appreciation* the continuing support of the Government of Japan for the overall development of the University, including the construction of a permanent headquarters building at Tokyo,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of Finland for the continued financial and other support it provides to the first research and training centre established by the University, the World Institute for Development Economics Research,

*Taking note* of decision 5.2.1 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and twenty-ninth session, held from 25 May to 10 June 1988,

1. *Welcomes* the achievements of the United Nations University in implementing programmes of research, advanced training and dissemination of knowledge, within the framework of the first medium-term perspective (1982-1987);

2. *Welcomes also* the consolidation of the overall University programme and the restructuring of the University Centre at Tokyo;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the World Institute for Development Economics Research has made considerable progress on the three research themes for its initial programme: "Hunger and poverty: the poorest billion"; "Money, finance and trade: reform for world develop-

<sup>63</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/43/31).

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, Second Committee, 22nd meeting, and corrigendum.