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Agenda item 43

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Leandro I. VERCELES (Philippines)

1. The General Assembly, at its 1843rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 43, entitled "United Nations Conference on the Human Environment".

2. The Second Committee considered this item at its 1350th, 1351st, 1352nd and 1355th meetings, on 24, 25 and 27 November. At the 1350th meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

3. When considering the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/8065 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), the report of the Secretary-General (E/4828), the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment on its first session (A/CONF.48/PC.6), and the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly.[1/]

4. At the 1350th meeting, on 24 November, the Minister of Agriculture of Sweden, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1133/Rev.1), which read as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/8003), chap. IV, section F.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968 and 2581 (XXIV), of 15 December 1969,

"Noting with appreciation the steps that have been taken by a number of specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

"Stressing the need to pursue vigorously the preparations for the Conference,

"Having considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/8065 and Add.1),

"Taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session (A/CONF.48/PC.6),

"Taking note of Economic and Social Countil resolution 1536 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference,

"Aware that the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade calls for intensified national and international efforts to arrest the deterioration of the human environment and to take measures towards its improvement, and to promote activities that will help to maintain the ecological balance on which human survival depends,

"Reaffirming that environmental policies should be considered in the context of economic and social development, taking into account the special needs of development in developing countries,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to convene the second session of the Preparatory Committee at Geneva from 8 to 19 February 1971 and the third session in New York from 13 to 24 September 1971;

"2. Recommends that in the agenda for the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee a specific item or items relating to economic and social aspects be included in order to safeguard and promote the interests of developing countries with a view to adapting the national environmental policies to conform to their national priorities and development plans;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session for such comments, suggestions and recommendations as the Council may wish to make;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the progress of the preparatory work to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session after the third session of the Preparatory Committee."

5. Malta, Pakistan, the Philippines and Spain joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

6. At the 1355th meeting, on 27 November, Czechoslovakia withdrew as a sponsor of the revised draft resolution.

7. The representative of Sweden, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted an oral amendment proposed by the representative of Cyprus, to reword paragraph 2 as follows:

"2. Recommends that in the agenda for the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee a specific item or items relating to economic and social aspects be included in order to safeguard and promote the interests of developing countries with a view to reconciling the national environmental policies with their national priorities and development plans."

8. The representative of Chile, on behalf of the delegations of Brazil, Ceylon, Chile, Nigeria and the Sudan, introduced a new paragraph 3 to be inserted between operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, as follows:

"3. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee, in its global and comprehensive preparation for the Conference of 1972, consider, inter alia, the financing of possible action in this field with a view to ensuring that additional resources be provided to developing countries in the context of the protection of the environment."

9. The representative of Czechoslovakia proposed the deletion of the words "on which human survival depends" from the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

10. Cyprus and Greece joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

11. The Committee then voted on the draft resolution, as orally revised, and the amendments thereto, as follows:

(a) The amendment introduced by the representative of Chile (see paragraph 8 above) was adopted by 28 votes to 22, with 34 abstentions;

(b) The amendment introduced by the representative of Czechoslovakia (see paragraph 9 above) was rejected by 49 votes to 10, with 26 abstentions;

(c) The noneteen-Power draft resolution, as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 78 votes to none, with 10 abstentions (see paragraph 12 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968 and 2581 (XXIV). of 15 December 1969,

Noting with appreciation the steps that have been taken by a number of specialized agencies and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist in the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,

Stressing the need to pursue vigorously the preparations for the Conference,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General,[2/]

Taking note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment on its first session,[3/]

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1536 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970,

Taking note with satisfaction of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference,

Aware that the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade calls for intensified national and international efforts to arrest the deterioration of the human environment and to take measures towards its improvement, and to promote activities that will help to maintain the ecological balance on which human survival depends,

Reaffirming that environmental policies should be considered in the context of economic and social development, taking into account the special needs of development in developing countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to convene the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Geneva from 8 to 19 February 1971 and the third session in New York from 13 to 24 September 1971;

2/ A/8065 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 (English only).

3/ A/CONF.48/PC.6.

2. Recommends the inclusion in the agenda for the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee of a specific item or items relating to economic and social aspects (be included) in order to safeguard and promote the interests of developing countries with a view to reconciling the national environmental policies with their national development plans and priorities;

3. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee, in its global and comprehensive preparations for the Conference of 1972, consider, inter alia, the financing of possible action in this field with a view to ensuring that additional resources are provided to developing countries in the context of the protection of the environment;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session for such comments, suggestions and recommendations as the Council may wish to make;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the progress of the preparatory work for the Conference to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session after the third session of the Preparatory Committee.