

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/5387  
26 July 1973  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-fifth session  
Agenda item 24

Dual distribution

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE  
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee

1. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council, by adopting resolution 1720 (LIII) of 20 July 1972, endorsed the observations and suggestions contained in the report of its President on the item (E/5187). One of these suggestions was to the effect that, guided by such decisions as might be taken by the Council, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee should maintain contact with each other on the question.
2. At its 886th meeting, on 23 August 1972, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the item, by paragraph 12 of which it requested its Chairman to continue his consultations on the item with the President of the Council. 1/
3. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2980 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972, in paragraph 10 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. At its 1859th meeting, on 4 July 1973, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of its Bureau, decided, bearing in mind resolution 1621 (LI), paragraph 4, which provides that pending the enlargement of the membership of the Council, all substantive items should be allocated to the sessional committees, "to authorize the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee, to which item 24 is allocated, to work out arrangements for the consultations envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2980 (XXVII) and prepare the report called for in that resolution for the Council's approval. At the same meeting, the Council, on the recommendation of its Bureau (E/1973/Rev.1), decided that the item should be taken up between 30 July and 3 August.

1/ A/6723 (Part V), para. 16.

5. On 12 July 1973, the Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Council that, owing to the scheduled resumption of the Committee's plenary meetings in late July, it would not be possible for him to be present at the meetings of the Council, during the above-mentioned period and that accordingly the Special Committee had agreed to request its Vice-Chairman, with the agreement of the President of the Council, to represent the Committee Chairman for the purpose of the consultations.

6. In the light of the foregoing, the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations on the question on 25 July 1973.

7. The Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee informed the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee that the Special Committee had established at the outset of its current session a working group to follow the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2980 (XXVII) and other related United Nations resolutions. On the recommendation of that group, the Special Committee had dispatched in June a special mission for the purpose of holding consultations with the executive heads of certain specialized agencies at their respective headquarters. The Special Committee expected to consider the item in August when the reports of these two bodies became available. The Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee expressed the hope that the expanded activities of the Special Committee as outlined by its Vice-Chairman would contribute further towards the full and expeditious implementation by the organizations concerned of the various United Nations decisions and that, in particular, the working group would provide an opportunity for a constructive dialogue with the organizations concerned directed, inter alia, towards the elimination of any constraints which might be inhibiting progress, particularly as regards assistance to colonial peoples not falling within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as the populations of the liberated areas of the territories concerned and their national liberation movements.

8. The Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee informed the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee that in February 1973, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had, under the terms of Council resolution 1651 (LI), given further consideration to the item relating to the implementation by non-governmental organizations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and that subsequently the Council at its fifty-fourth session adopted, on the basis of the report of the Committee (E/5257), resolution 1740 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, in which it inter alia requested that the Committee continue to explore ways of engaging these organizations actively in the implementation of the Declaration. The Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee also informed the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had continued its consideration of the question during the period under review and that, as reflected in its latest report to the Council (E/5289)(part I), paragraph 53), informal consultations between representatives of the organizations within the United Nations system and representative of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), including its Assistant Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, had taken place in October 1972 and March 1973, with a view to establishing arrangements for closer co-operation regarding the implementation of the various resolutions on decolonization by the organizations concerned. The Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee recalled that the Chairman of the Special Committee had taken an active part in the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental

Organizations and that, as a related development, the Special Committee had sent its delegation in March this year to consult with a number of concerned organizations at their headquarters with a view to seeking their co-operation in the implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions. He expressed the hope that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would take the report of the Committee's delegation (A/AC.109/L.877) fully into account in its consideration of the related item. He also expressed satisfaction at the increased level of collaboration between the organizations concerned and the OAU General Secretariat and hoped that consultations would be continued in the future on a regular basis, as appropriate. The Special Committee considered it most essential to secure the close co-operation of OAU in the attainment of the objectives of the Organization in this regard. It was for that reason that the Committee had decided to associate OAU closely in the work of the working group and the special mission referred to in paragraph 7 above.

9. It was noted that since the consultations held in June 1972 between the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee, progress had been maintained in the field of refugee assistance through the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which is assisting some 550,000 refugees in close co-operation with several agencies and organizations and with programmes of the United Nations system, as well as with the OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees. While noting that several agencies had introduced greater flexibility in that regard, the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee shared the views expressed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that the flow of assistance to refugees could be further expanded if, in active co-operation with OAU, the Governments of the countries of residence were to assign priority to projects carried out in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system which would be beneficial to the refugees and if the Governments could grant all refugees the legal status provided under the Convention relating to the status of refugees of 28 July 1951, the Protocol relating to the status of refugees of 31 January 1967 and the OAU Convention governing specific aspects of the problem of refugees in Africa (1969).

10. It was also noted that the question of the provisions of assistance to colonial peoples who did not fall within the mandate of UNHCR, in particular the populations in the liberated areas and their national liberation movements, had continued to engage the attention of agencies concerned, especially in the field of education and training. For example, the General Conference of UNESCO, at its seventeenth session, had called for further intensification of activity by UNESCO in this regard, since the initiation in 1972 of the programme of assistance, totalling \$353,600 within the UNDP framework. Furthermore, the Executive Board of UNESCO, during its session held in May this year, requested the Director-General to make every effort to expand UNESCO's assistance to the liberation movements recognized by OAU in their struggle against colonialism. Likewise, FAO had worked out, in consultation with OAU, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Frente de Libertacao de Mocambique (FRELIMO), a project, at the cost of some \$350,000, for strengthening the agricultural component of the training programme at the Mozambique Institute at Bagamoyo, the United Republic of Tanzania. Consultations had also been held by other agencies with OAU and the host governments concerned in developing practical programmes of assistance for the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements. While the initiatives taken by these agencies were to be encouraged as a modest beginning, it was felt that these programmes of assistance were far from being adequate to meet the critical and urgent needs of the populations of the liberated areas and their national liberation movements. Both the Chairman

of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee believed that if these needs were to be effectively met - and indeed they should be met without any further delay - such assistance programmes should be co-ordinated at all levels in order to ensure the maximum utilization of the existing resources. At the same time, it was essential that all governments should intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions, in particular by taking steps with a view to making additional resources available on a priority basis for the desired programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned. They also considered that, since at present it was essential to have requests from governments before projects could be carried out, OAU could continue to play an important role in that regard by stimulating the interest of these governments in sponsoring appropriate projects beneficial to the peoples concerned and the national liberation movements. It would also be helpful if OAU could consult the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) on possible forms of support over and above its present lending operations, which the Bank might be able to render to the governments concerned for the purpose of assisting these peoples. Further, they considered that the formulation of the desired programmes of assistance within the UNDP framework would be greatly expedited if UNDP would assume the financial responsibility for the counterpart obligations normally required of the sponsoring governments in respect of projects beneficial to the peoples concerned. It was therefore desirable that the Governing Council of the UNDP should address itself to this question. Likewise, they expressed the hope that the negotiations between OAU and UNDP on the draft agreement for mutual co-operation (DP/L.214) would soon be brought to a mutually satisfactory conclusion, bearing in mind that the possibilities of additional assistance, both in the financing of projects and in the identification of needs, the formulation of the necessary governmental requests could thereby be increased.

11. The Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee noted that several agencies had taken further steps to withhold financial, economic, technical and other assistance from the Governments of Portugal and South Africa and the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and to discontinue collaboration with them until they renounced their present policies. It was noted for example that, at its seventeenth session, the UNESCO General Conference had ~~reaffirmed~~ reaffirmed its previous decision not to accord any assistance to those régimes and not to invite them to participate in any UNESCO activity until such time as they desisted from their policy of colonial oppression and racial discrimination. The ICAO Assembly, at its nineteenth extraordinary session, had also resolved that so long as the Government of Portugal refused to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other related resolutions, Portugal should not be invited to attend any meetings convened by ICAO, except as provided in the Convention. By the same decision, no ICAO documents or communications would be furnished to Portugal except in cases where the Convention specifically so provided. The Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee believed that the immediate withdrawal of assistance from and the cessation of collaboration with those régimes represented a logical sequel to the recognition by the United Nations of the legitimacy of the struggle for liberation being waged by the colonial peoples and considered therefore that such assistance and collaboration have the effect of aiding and abetting the colonialist policies of those régimes. The Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee recalled, in the same context, that the position of ILO concerning the Application of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations

Convention, which the Chairman of the Special Committee and the President of the Council regarded as requiring clarification (E/5187, paragraph 10), still required clarification. As he understood it, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations continued to treat the Territories under Portuguese domination as integral parts of Portugal, as the Convention under reference was intended to apply to "indigenous and tribal populations" in independent States rather than in dependent Territories and aimed, among other things, at the progressive integration of those populations in the "national" community. The hope was expressed that appropriate steps be taken forthwith by the agencies concerned, including ILO, to refrain from any action which might imply recognition of the legitimacy of these régimes colonial domination of the Territories.

12. With respect to the implementation of paragraph 7 of resolution 2980 (XXVII) concerning the representation of the colonial territories in Africa by their national liberation movements, the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee noted with satisfaction the concrete steps taken by UNESCO and ILO in that regard. They recalled that in November 1972, the UNESCO General Conference had decided to associate the liberation movements concerned with its activities and that, in May 1973, its Executive Board had decided to invite representatives of the liberation movements recognized by OAU to participate as observers in such deliberations of the Executive Board as might be of concern to them. The ILO Governing Council in February 1973 had set up a representative tripartite delegation of six of its members, charged with the responsibility of discussing with the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU at Addis Ababa ways in which ILO could best implement those provisions of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution. At its extraordinary session in June 1973, the ILO Governing Council had decided to invite representatives of the liberation movements of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde and Mozambique, to participate in sessions of the International Labour Conference and the African regional conferences of that Organization. In the light of these developments and inasmuch as the United Nations bodies which had so far taken action in this regard (i.e. the Security Council, the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, the Special Committee of 24 and the Economic Commission for Africa) had proceeded in a pragmatic fashion within the general framework of existing procedural and constitutional arrangements. The Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee considered that, pending such time as the concerned agencies governing and legislative organs could examine the need to amend their relevant instruments, recourse should be had to the adaptation and extension as necessary of present practices and procedural arrangements.

13. Bearing in mind the need to keep the matters raised above under review with a view to the full and speedy implementation of General Assembly resolution 2980 (XXVII) and other relevant United Nations resolutions, the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee agreed that it was desirable for the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the Special Committee, to continue to give consideration to the item at their future sessions. In conclusion, they concurred that, subject to any directive which the General Assembly might give at its twenty-eighth session and guided by such decisions as might be taken by the Council and the Special Committee, the presiding officers of the two bodies should maintain contact with each other on the question on a continuous basis.