



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Teixeira da Motta', written over several horizontal lines.

STATEMENT BY

MR. JOAO TEIXEIRA DA MOTTA

TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro
ON 4 APRIL 1979

Portugal, as members of this Committee are well aware, is a country at an intermediate level of economic development. We are neither a highly industrialized country nor can we be described as an exporter of raw materials or a "developing country stricto sensu" albeit several developing countries have GNP per capita higher than the portuguese.

Thus, we are directly interested on questions of development and it was as a proof of our concern that we spoke at length on these matters during the general debate of the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly.

① // Our concern arises from the fact that although the two previous Development Decades have failed in achieving their goals, and the economic gap between developing and developed nations and within nations has widened, no alternative methods have yet been seriously considered by which the shortcomings of the prevalent Development ideology can be avoided.

a) b) And yet, besides other cogent reasons that can explain the failure of the previous Decades, one must recognize that perhaps the singlemost reason for that, has been a narrow concept of development, stemming from outdated and unadapted economic theories of production, that tends to limit it to a mere increase in economic production, instead of seeing it as a cultural process in which such necessary growth is to be inserted.

c) Indeed, development is not a process per se, isolated from human reality and its planetary environment. It is a continuous multi-dimensional phenomenon the goals of which are to serve Man by releasing its creative potentialities and fulfilling its material and spiritual needs. It is a liberating process that should enable Man to fulfill

himself both socially and as an individual. Seen from this perspective, one can better understand the shortcomings of present patterns of maldevelopment (including the mixed blessing of the "green revolution"), which, inter alia, have enhanced inequalities and generated unemployment and social disruptions.

Development is thus a means, and as such it has to be judged by its fruits, both in so called developing and developed societies. Thus we would avoid what Pope John Paul II has called "the uncontrolled development of technology outside the framework of a long-range authentically humanistic plan", which gives rise to the question "in this context is man, as man, developing and progressing or is he regressing and being degraded in his humanity?".

This initial consideration immediately implies a number of others that - without denying the complexity of the problem - can be considered as defining in more concrete terms the attributes that appear to us to qualify a true, comprehensive and sound development.

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a) First, it has to become an endogenous process, which cannot be imposed or forced either by external elements or by internally highly bureaucratic central points of decision; that can only happen if it is perceived as a need of the peoples themselves for their own development and requires their active participation both at a democratic decision making level and at its implementation. It has therefore to put a stronger emphasis on the community level.

b) Second, it has to be understood and inserted in its cultural and societal framework, and envisaged as development of the society as a whole. That requires the acknowledgement that there are different paths of

development that respect and issue from different cultures and call for genuine patterns and lifestyles that maintain national cohesiveness and preserve cultural identity. Such cultural systems may provide moral incentives and rewards and indeed put a premium on certain types of lifestyles.

c) Third, it has to be stressed that development should aim at fulfilling needs rather than abstract increases in production. Thus, a type of development that is more demand and consumption oriented is, in many cases, the appropriate strategy.

Fourth, it has to naturally acknowledge the need for social development and for such institutional and administrative changes that will lead to the removal of the obstacles that impede the full emancipation of the populations, thus enabling them to directly participate all along the process, including the equitable partaking of the fruits of progress.

3 In this context, the report of the recent meeting of the Commission for Social Development, by stating that "the need for social development is the distinctive problem that confronts the international economy in the third development decade" clearly puts the emphasis on the approach which we would like to be adopted by this Committee. That report, with which we fully agree, should be a very important element for our deliberations both on the principles and objectives of the Strategy, its Preamble and should in fact pervade the whole of the text. In this respect, we would like to reaffirm the urgent need for the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and for its provisions to be fully reflected in the new Strategy.

✓ pode arranjar - me este relatório? ↓ temos??

Fifth, it has to proceed through environmentally sound and sustainable paths, in which Nature is not considered an adversary to be mastered and exploited but rather the framework and partner without whose cooperation no form of development can succeed. This ecodevelopment would thus break the artificial dichotomy nature-culture transforming it into an alliance. Concomitantly the underlying causes for environmental degradation would have to be tackled.

Sixth, self reliance has been a catchword and an ambiguous concept. At this stage it is becoming necessary to demystify it, by giving it a more concrete meaning and by operationalizing it.

For us it seems to be one of the main pillars of Development and a necessary condition for sound global relations.

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To concretize it, we would like to link it to some factors which although of an "independent" nature are related to it in many different ways.

a) The first is the reliance on local natural and human resources and on the type of development that the country's cultural and natural environment best provides; this implies "inter alia" the variables of energy production and use and a stress on food production.

Second, the active promotion of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, through means such as new and more flexible forms of integration and creation of multinational companies.

b) It might entail a selective delinking in some areas. Also, a reorientation of production (namely of food) to the internal market leading

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Fifth, self reliance should be fostered not only at the national (and collective level) but also at the intermediate and individual levels, through the stimulation of communities organizations and grass roots movements and the reliance, through education, on one's own capabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

The myth or unrational belief in linear progress (and that of an unique path of development) has been rightly denounced; the conditions and factors that led to XIXth century industrialization cannot be recreated. By the same token, the growing interdependence of nations has destroyed any dreams of autarchy for specific nations or groups of countries.

The problems of world development in our age, present a challenge for the creative capacity of humankind, a probing of its "inner limits". Now, for the first time in History, there is a conscious international effort for a global undertaking. Such an undertaking requires a full partnership of the actors which can only be achieved if externally there is great progress towards the achievement of the goals of the New International Economic Order and if internally, such decisions are taken which will produce a higher measure of self reliance and less dependency and vulnerability to external factors.

But such an undertaking requires also a more clear elaboration on the emerging system of rights and duties of States, which the Charter - with the positive vote of my country - has begun to codify.

In this respect, it is not perhaps inappropriate to wonder whether there has not been too much stress on the affirmation of rights rather than

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the on/exercices of duties. We would see such duties in many directions, from States to the International Community, horizontally from States to States, internally from States to their citizens and on an individual basis, from people to people, since, to a great extent, development is an individual responsibility. On the other hand, in terms of time the responsibility for future generations has again and again to be reminded. It appears to us that without a clear perception of these duties or if any of them fails to be exercised, a true and comprehensive development cannot proceed.

From the acceptance of these various types of duties and the concept of Development with the human being ^{as its} goal, it flows that there is a need to change structures and relations at two levels.

On the international, the N.I.E.O. has to emerge, bringing with it a new and more just type of relations among States. For some countries, it will entail relinquishing a defense of the status quo, to be superseded by more enlightened, forward looking, longer term and internationally minded approaches, which will facilitate the progressive democratization of the international decision making process and provide, inter alia, increased resources for assistance. For others, it will require a much stronger emphasis on self-reliance.

But the N.I.E.O. has to be necessarily complemented by a new internal order. This, for some countries, will entail - within the framework of their nationally developed plans and respect for their sovereignty - certain measures aiming at the national implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, thus geared towards fostering social development, reorganization of rural structures including conditions of ownership, taking also into consideration the need for higher efficiency.

Policies designed to avoid the destruction of the rural milieu and revitalize it, such as measures of regional development, to which my country is paying particular attention, are therefore necessary, bearing in mind the need to promote a balanced evolution which will correct the excesses of urbanization and could provide for resettlement schemes, creation of cooperatives - a field in which my country is currently being assisted by UNDP through I.L.O. -, integration of youth and women in the process of development, ^{and} village industrialization. Priority could be given to food production and distribution (since indeed the scenarios for this sector presented to us by the Secretariat show a formidable challenge requiring a determined will to overcome these constraints) and the choice of life styles that are in harmony with their culture thus avoiding the borrowing of foreign models and the indefinite multiplication of needs. In this last connection, attention should be paid to possible contradictions such as the need to stimulate savings and capital formation which is counterveiled by an increasing pressure, ^{to} through advertising, the purchase of consumer goods.

For other countries, the internal counterpart will consist of measures, which in fact will help them to overcome their present structural malaise, the signs of which are clear, that could include changes in the productive structure and internal measures of different sorts designed to avoid protectionism. It could provide for a careful study of a selective type of growth, including, in these beginning of a post industrial era, the fostering of the already dimly perceptible shift towards what has been called the "quaternary sector", composed of non commercial services. It could also encourage an orientation towards lifestyles where over consumption and waste will not be so pervasive and a more prudent and rational use will be made of resources.

Mr. Chairman,

Humanity is now at crossroads. The choices that the United Nations are making at this/^{time}are important. They will affect the lives of millions and of the future generations.

It is being said that we are in a period of transition, of a crisis of civilization, of a search for new values.

By drafting a major document like this and by its follow up, we can help this transition and contribute to the finding of such values.

We would daresay that besides analytical knowledge what is clearly required of us is vision. A vision that gives a meaningful direction to the efforts to be pursued in the Strategy for the 1980's and beyond. It appears to us that such vision has to be based on the perception of the essential unity of Mankind, which has to be revealed and requires that all external barriers be removed.

In that context, Development and the implementation of the Strategy will be seen as a natural human act, a display of solidarity and self-help and not of charity. On the international level, with which we are here more concerned, it calls for a genuine global undertaking of shared responsibilities and mutual commitments.

Thus, reverting to the need for values - and in this connection we would like to express the imperative need to reconcile technology with cultural values and the fact that, as John Paul II said, "the development of technology demands a proportional development of morals and ethics" - we

will have to find and elaborate on the leitmotives that will focus attention and mobilize efforts, both in developing and developed nations, we will have to anchor the right as in peoples' minds, so that a new cycle - the birthpangs of which we are witnessing - can begin.