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New York

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AHSAN (Bangladesh)

later: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 71: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY  
(continued)

1. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya) said that since the first United Nations Conference on new and renewable sources of energy held in 1961, the international community had followed an irresponsible policy in the matter of energy, on the assumption that petroleum would continue to be abundant and modestly priced and that the potential of nuclear power was unlimited. However, the 1972 food crisis and the 1973-1974 energy crisis had clearly shown that all countries would have to reduce their dependence on petroleum and rely more on new and renewable sources of energy.
2. Kenya had therefore welcomed the General Assembly's decision in resolution 33/148 to convene a United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy. With regard to the preparations for the Conference, it was his delegation's wish that the Committee would adopt by consensus draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.18, introduced earlier by India on behalf of the Group of 77, which dealt mainly with procedural questions. Questions of substance, including invitations for the Conference, should be taken up at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 1980. The immediate action needed was to establish a preparatory committee of the whole for the Conference at the current session. That committee would be required to submit practical proposals to the Assembly, together with a report on the preparations for the Conference, including recommendations on the dates and agenda for the Conference.
3. The eight technical panels of experts established under General Assembly resolution 33/148 should play a major role in that process. In that connexion, his delegation noted with gratitude the recommendations of the Technical Panel on Ocean Energy and hoped that the work of the other technical panels would be equally successful. All the technical panels would have to co-operate with each other because of the interrelated nature of their activities. For example, questions relating to energy storage, transfer of technology, financial and institutional arrangements, information flows and experience, the environmental impact of the development and use of various energy systems, the production, processing and utilization of energy, the replacement of oil and gas and the marketing of new sources of energy would all have to be fully addressed in the early stages. Special attention would also have to be paid to rural energy supplies from local resources, with due account being taken of environmental concerns.
4. In view of the primary importance of new and renewable sources of energy to developing countries, it was essential to involve them fully in the preparatory stages of the Conference as well as in the implementation of the recommendations and decision which would emerge from it. It therefore was desirable that the Conference should be held in a developing country, and it was for that reason that the Government of Kenya had offered Nairobi as the venue. However, the significance of the Conference to developed countries should not be underestimated. The enthusiasm shown by them was clear evidence of their understanding of the devastating effects which a continued energy crisis would have

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

on their economies. Those countries should accordingly provide the financial and technical assistance for the development of new and renewable sources of energy which was necessary to ensure continued economic and social development in both developed and developing countries.

5. Another requirement was that the results of research undertaken in that field by some developed countries should be made available to all other countries. Developing countries, in particular, needed freer access to the specialized knowledge and technology of the developed countries in order to exploit their own energy resources. To that end they also needed the co-operation and assistance of international financial institutions and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations such as the British Commonwealth, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Organization of American States, the European Economic Community and the Arab Fund, which were doing useful work in the area of alternative sources of energy. He understood, for example, that the World Bank was carrying out a survey of the research institutes which were working in the field of energy.

6. Technical co-operation among developing countries should also have a prominent place in the work of the Conference in view of the important work being done in the field of new and renewable sources of energy in, for example, India, Sri Lanka, China, Brazil, Indonesia, the Niger, the Philippines and Kenya. There was also a need to undertake research and experiment in that field. He understood that UNDP intended to convene a meeting on that subject in Africa in 1980 and, while welcoming that move, he hoped that similar regional meetings would be held elsewhere in the world. Research and development activities oriented towards the needs and possibilities of developing countries should be encouraged.

7. If the industrial production of developing countries was to reach 25 per cent of world production by the year 2000, as proclaimed in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action, and if those countries were to meet the basic needs of their peoples, it was essential for them to have sufficient supplies of energy. It was therefore imperative to examine the contribution which new and renewable sources of energy could make to meeting their industrial needs, in particular in rural areas, which should be given special attention since that was where over half of the population lived. He also believed that research should be carried out on the possible social implications of the use of such sources of energy for the rural environment and on whether they should be decentralized. Scholarships should be granted for training nationals of developing countries with a view to strengthening the indigenous capacities of those countries in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. Furthermore, publicity programmes should be launched at both the national and international levels in order to educate both policy-makers and the public at large about energy problems.

8. Consideration of financing would form an important part of the preparatory process for the Conference. Bilateral and multilateral sources of assistance should be approached for contributions for financing of research projects on new and renewable sources of energy; the World Bank, for instance, might be requested

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

to co-ordinate assistance provided in that field. The preparations for the Conference needed to be intensified and to that end additional staff should be recruited to strengthen the Conference secretariat. With regard to the duration of the Conference, at least three weeks should be allocated for the consideration of substantive items and one week for pre-conference consultations to clear up procedural matters. Finally, the Conference should produce a global plan of action in the field of energy. In the meantime, the preparations for the Conference would enable countries to take stock of their energy situation and to embark on programmes calculated to solve their energy problems through increased use of new and renewable sources of energy.

9. Mr. VILLEGAS-MORENO (Colombia) said that the growing scarcity of petroleum, which was of concern to all mankind, had particularly alarming short-term implications for developing importing countries. According to the World Bank the petroleum imports of 79 developing countries had cost \$14.4 billion in 1975 and the cost would exceed \$38.5 billion in 1985. Although the petroleum production of those countries was expected to increase faster than their consumption, their deficit was bound to worsen in absolute terms. It was imperative to solve that problem because the countries concerned would otherwise be forced either to reduce their energy imports, and thereby slow down their development and lower the level of living of the population, or to suspend all imports as a result of insolvency. The international community must therefore adopt an appropriate strategy within the framework of the new international economic order. Furthermore, since development was heavily dependent on energy supplies, it would be logical, given that the right to development was universally accepted, to recognize the existence of a right to energy. His delegation therefore supported the plans outlined by the Secretary-General in his report (A/34/585) and the measures proposed by the Group of 77 in draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.18, and it hoped that on that basis the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would be able to provide effective solutions to the energy problem.

10. His Government was happy to place at the disposal of the technical panels of the Conference the results of the work carried out by the Las Gaviotas Centre in Colombia. That Centre, which specialized in the development of technology adapted to the economic and social circumstances of third-world populations, was financed by the Netherlands and Colombian Governments and by the United Nations. It also had funds of its own and benefited from the co-operation of the Colombian private sector. Its short-term function was to develop less costly systems than the traditional ones for supplying schools and health centres in rural areas with water and energy. The technological department of the Centre was concentrating primarily on research into solar, wind and biomass energy, small water-supply systems, the exploitation of natural forests and the development of the Orinoco basin for agriculture and forestry. That research had led to the development of a number of devices and machinery (solar water heater, solar water purifier, hydraulic microturbine, hydraulic ram, hydrostatic pump, double-acting windmill, process for manufacturing methane from organic wastes, manioc mill, trickle irrigation system, manual sugar-cane mill, mass production of which would begin in December 1979. The experiment, though limited, had proven that indigenous technology could be developed which made full use of local resources and met the needs of users, while protecting the environment.

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11. Mr. GORITZA (Romania) said that the decision to convene the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy testified to the importance which Member States attached to energy problems and to their will to solve them through international co-operation, in the knowledge that the current economic and energy crisis was becoming worse and creating difficulties in all countries, particularly the developing countries. The aim of the Conference should be to adopt far-reaching measures which would ensure the long-term rationalization of energy production and consumption on an equitable basis for all, with a view to reconciling technical and socio-economic progress and providing sound foundations for the energy market by reference to purely economic considerations.
12. The orientation of the forthcoming Conference seemed to be on those lines, to judge from the current preparations, and in that connexion he welcomed the establishment of the expert panels which were to analyse the current status of various technologies and prospects for utilizing them, particularly in the developing countries, through international assistance. He reaffirmed the importance which his Government attached to energy questions, and endorsed the Secretary-General's statement that the success of the Conference depended on active participation by all Governments in its preparation.
13. Mr. BASSIN (Finland) said that the objective of the Conference should be to produce technological solutions to real problems, and he hoped that those considerations would not be overshadowed by other institutional or financial issues, as had happened at so many recent United Nations meetings. As its contribution to the Conference, Finland had undertaken to finance a comprehensive study on the prospects and potential of peat, an area in which it had valuable experience, and within a week his Government was to establish a national preparatory committee in accordance with the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report.
14. Like the Secretariat, he hoped that the timing of the financing of demonstration projects would be thoroughly examined before any action was taken. However, he welcomed the regional and subregional preparations, in which there was good potential for technical and economic co-operation among developing countries. He associated himself with the remarks made by Sweden on the importance of environmental, social and cultural aspects in the search for new sources of energy; in his view, however, short-term economic costs and benefits should not be the only determinants in the process. In conclusion, he said that he had some doubts as to the time-table for the preparations reflected in draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.18, particularly with respect to the reports of the technical panels.
15. Mr. ROCHE (Canada) said that concentration on new and renewable sources of energy could have a positive effect on millions of people in the developing countries. While energy might seem to be a global economic problem, its bearing on development was clearly demonstrated by the enormous disparities between consumption in the developed countries and in the developing countries. Furthermore, the high cost of distributing traditional energy had often forced developing countries, particularly in rural areas, to use non-commercial energy to the detriment of the vegetation cover in those regions. Accordingly, while the energy crisis was having an impact in developed countries and leading them to turn

(Mr. Roche, Canada)

more towards international partnership, the needs of the developing countries had first claim, and the main concern of the participants at the Conference should be to improve the situation of the poorest, particularly in rural areas.

16. In practical terms, therefore, the Conference would have to chart a course for the development and deployment of cost-effective energy technologies in the rural sector. Those technologies were beginning to be known and to be commercially viable, notably in the case of two forms of renewable energy, photovoltaic cells and solar energy, which would have to be exploited in the future even while making better use of available energy by adapting the tools and equipment in use in developing countries. Access of those countries to energy research and development would not only counter existing domination of scientists and researchers in developed countries, but would also, more importantly, provide local training for researchers who would be aware of both modern technology and the problems of traditional societies, and would be distinguished by their familiarity with conditions in developing countries. The rate of application of those new energy technologies, depending largely on local resources, would, of course, be determined by the initiative of the politicians of those countries.

17. However, the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy should also enable the industrialized countries to move towards safe and sustainable growth. Those countries must begin preparing now for the transition to reliance on renewable energy sources, in the knowledge that world oil resources would soon no longer meet their needs. There were quite serious obstacles to such a shift, since there was no blueprint to produce a framework for an essentially new kind of co-operation. The 1981 Conference should none the less be the catalyst for all the projects and ideas of the new age, and that in itself would result in significant gains for both rich and poor.

18. Canada would help in every way possible to ensure the success of the Conference. The Canadian International Development Agency was currently assisting UNITAR in organizing a conference on long-term energy sources and, more generally, Canada was prepared to share its experience in the energy field. The preparatory work undertaken so far, both within and outside the United Nations system, had been of high quality. Energy was at the heart of the North-South issue, and it was only by diversifying the sources of energy that the world could move out of the entanglements of a period when a source of the energy needed by nearly everyone was controlled by so few.

19. Mrs. FARNUM (Guyana) said that preparations at the national and regional levels were hampered by a lack of time and financial resources, which might impair the results. However, such obstacles could be overcome. While welcoming the establishment of expert regional groups, she feared that their specialization might prevent them from fully taking account of differing national interests and priorities in a region. However, she placed great hopes in the designation of national focal points to make assessments in the various countries.

20. There were also constraints on the preparations in the developing countries generally, owing to a lack of qualified personnel and adequate financial

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(Mrs. Farnum, Guyana)

resources. On that point, Guyana suggested that assistance should be offered to the developing countries through the regional commissions, an approach which would also help to overcome another constraint, that of time. In view of the time schedules that had been set, it would probably be difficult to launch the proposed demonstration projects. Her delegation supported the idea that the preparatory body for the Conference should be the Committee on Natural Resources, and would like its meetings to be open to all Member States. She urged those responsible for the Conference to give serious consideration to the scheduling of the preparatory meetings. Lastly, she expressed appreciation to the organizations of the United Nations system for the assistance they had already given to the developing countries.

21. Mr. SCHWEISGUT (Austria) said that energy was indeed one of the areas where interdependence was apparent and where it was essential for all countries, North and South, West and East, that balanced, equitable and viable solutions should be reached. His delegation noted with satisfaction that, given the global nature of the energy problem, all the proposals aimed at finding solutions - in particular the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a World Energy Institute and the ideas put forward by the President of Mexico in his address to the General Assembly - were intended to be realized within the framework of the United Nations, which was the suitable forum to deal with energy on a world-wide scale with the participation of all States.

22. Being fully aware of the urgent need to develop alternative sources of energy in order to reduce reliance on oil and natural gas, Austria had from the beginning supported the idea of convening a United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and was prepared to contribute actively to its success. As early as 1972, scientists and experts had convened in Vienna to discuss ways of promoting research and development in that vital field. Two years later, the Austrian Government had approved a research plan with emphasis on energy conservation and exploration of new and renewable sources. Considerable progress had since been achieved in Austria in research on solar energy, biomass, wind and geothermal energy, hydropower, fuel-wood and charcoal. Austria was ready to share its experience with other Member States.

23. He was pleased to see that similar research was also being undertaken in a number of developing countries, such as Brazil, India and China. There could therefore be no doubt that new and renewable sources of energy constituted an area where co-operation among developing countries could assume particular significance and his delegation sincerely hoped that the Conference would become a starting-point for global co-operation in that field. However, if that was to be the case, it would be necessary to speed up the preparatory process for the Conference, which was scheduled to be held in 1981. The fact that the second of the eight technical panels had convened in Geneva only the previous week already constituted a considerable delay in the planned schedule. All countries in a position to do so should contribute to the work of the panels, whose recommendations would be of great importance to the outcome of the Conference, and Austria had therefore nominated experts in the fields of solar energy, biomass, hydropower and geothermal and wind energy to take part in their work.

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24. Mr. Murgescu (Romania) took the Chair.

25. Mr. ANGUIANO (Mexico) said that, despite the complexity of the subject, energy had become so urgent and acute a problem for the world as a whole, and for the developing countries in particular, that it was important to explore and develop new and renewable sources of energy as soon as possible. At the current stage of the preparatory work for the Conference, one of the most difficult and most important tasks was to collate all the work that had been done, particularly that reflecting regional and subregional interests in the energy field. Unrealistic projects and ones which could be completed only in the very remote future and would require disproportionate financial and human investments must be ruled out. It was therefore essential that studies by regional secretariats should have the support of Member States and of the technical panels which had been set up to study the various energy sources. The Mexican Government had expressed its desire to take part in the panels on geothermal power, solar power and biomass conversion. Mexico, which was seeking to break new ground in those areas, also wanted to co-operate at the regional level in studying Latin America's energy potential in terms of other sources of energy. His delegation was conscious of the need to devise means of promoting the access of developing countries to new and renewable sources of energy. It had therefore decided to support the decisions of the Group of 77 embodied in draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.18.

26. The Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would have to refer, explicitly or implicitly, to the traditional non-renewable sources of energy, since all forms of energy, conventional or unconventional, old or new, were necessarily linked. A comprehensive energy policy must be self-consistent and must take into account the particular constraints on each form of energy. It would therefore be necessary to be realistic and never lose sight of the broad picture, lest so important an event as the Conference should be turned into a technical meeting without practical aims. In other words, the prospects of international co-operation to increase the production of hydropower or solar, thermal or biological power must be set against the background of the prospects for the use of hydrocarbons, nuclear energy and other non-renewable forms of energy.

27. Mr. MONTGOMERY (United States of America) said that the global energy problem affected all nations and required the effective and active co-operation of all of them, producer and consumer, developed and developing. The United States Government had on several occasions emphasized the great significance it attached to the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and welcomed the fact that it was to be held in Nairobi, which was especially fitting in view of the particular importance to developing countries of the issues involved. The United States was already expanding its programmes to develop new energy technologies with a view both to its own needs and to those of developing countries. The United States Department of Energy's budget for the development and application of new technologies amounted for 1980 to almost \$800 million in direct funding, and the United States Congress was considering a much enlarged programme for the development of such alternatives as synthetic fuels and solar energy, which would make tested technologies available to the world community. The United States Agency for International Development, which provided bilateral assistance to

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(Mr. Montgomery, United States)

developing countries, had established programmes involving training, analysis of the energy needs of developing countries and support for experimental programmes and projects relating to selected new and renewable energy technologies. The Department of Energy also managed a programme of comprehensive energy assessments in collaboration with developing countries and was involved in other co-operative energy activities in 11 developing countries.

28. However, multilateral efforts would also be required to meet global needs; from that standpoint, the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy could accomplish a number of valuable objectives. It could demonstrate concretely the mutual interest of developed and developing countries in co-operating in the development of new sources and improved methods of using energy; it could underline the urgency of bringing alternatives to oil and natural gas into use; it could review the state of the art of technologies and research; it could encourage all developed and developing countries to make alternative energy development a priority field of co-operation and investment in forms of energy, with special attention to the needs of developing countries; it could seek to agree on a realistic goal for the global use of new and renewable sources of energy by the year 2000; and it could draw up a plan of action for intensified and co-ordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels. Only 20 months remained before the scheduled date of the Conference. If the Conference was to be successful, major efforts would have to be made in the intervening period by the Secretariat, by the various agencies of the United Nations system and by Member States. His delegation agreed that the Committee on Natural Resources should serve as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, for which purpose the Committee would of course have to be open to all Member States. There would also have to be greater co-ordination between the many United Nations agencies and other multilateral organizations currently dealing with energy problems. While his delegation welcomed the various steps that had been taken in that direction, it regretted that the Conference budget submission for 1980-1981 had not been prepared in time for careful review before the present debate; however, it intended itself to review that document carefully.

29. Mr. NISAI (Iraq) stressed the importance of the question of new and renewable sources of energy, particularly for the developing countries, since it had become apparent that some traditional energy sources were not inexhaustible and must be used in a rational manner. However, despite the warnings of the oil-producing developing countries on the need to find new sources of energy and to use existing sources sparingly, very few countries had adopted a rational energy policy. On the contrary, the imperialist countries were stepping up their unfair campaign against the oil-producing developing countries, which even involved threats of force and military occupation or economic warfare against the OPEC countries. Moreover, monopolies had taken advantage of the situation to realize incredible profits at the expense of both producers and consumers, and in particular of the developing countries. The OPEC countries had shown their good will towards the rest of the world by agreeing to increase their production more than was justified by their own development requirements, solely in order to meet the needs of the international community. However, as the President of the Republic of Iraq had stated in

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(Mr. Nisai, Iraq)

substance at Havana, the energy problem could not be solved unilaterally; the industrial consumer countries must also assume their responsibilities by taking account of world needs as a whole, instead of simply their own needs.

30. As the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/585) indicated, the success of the Conference required the co-operation of all countries. In particular, the advanced industrial countries which possessed most of the technologies and resources had a moral obligation to make them available to the developing countries so that they could develop their own new and renewable sources of energy. In addition, Iraq advocated the establishment of an accelerated time-table for exploring of new sources of energy and the adoption of measures to prevent any adverse impact of new technologies on the environment. It also wished to reaffirm the importance of genuine co-operation among developing countries in that field with a view to attaining the ideal of collective self-reliance. Lastly, his delegation regretted that representation in the eight technical panels created under General Assembly resolution 33/148 was not better balanced, and it urged that the expert panels should be open to all countries so as to ensure better representation of the developing countries and enable them to participate in the work of the panels.

31. Mr. YU Mengjia (China) said that the rational use of new sources of energy was of great importance both to the protection of the human environment and to the economic development of many countries. In recent years the energy problem had become increasingly acute, owing to the irrational international economic system, the waste of energy by some developed countries and the deterioration of the economic situation in some developing countries.

32. The Chinese delegation was ready to co-operate actively in the preparatory work for the Conference and hoped that, through the preparatory work and the Conference itself, it would be possible to sum up the experience acquired in various technologies for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, and to evaluate their economic effects and the prospects for their rational use. The Conference should also formulate practical measures for the provision of financial assistance and the transfer of technology to developing countries. The competent organs of the United Nations system should assist in the preparatory work for the Conference and should strengthen publicity.

33. The Chinese Government attached great importance to the search for and development of new and renewable sources of energy and had already carried out work in that field, for example by building small-scale hydroelectric stations and studying the possibilities of biomass conversion, particularly for the production of methane. Solar energy was also being used in China, and research was being conducted on the use of wind power and geothermal energy. China was ready to expand exchanges in the field of technology with other countries and, in co-operation with the United Nations system, had already organized training courses on methane; it had also sent representatives to a number of countries to exchange ideas and information on various sources of energy.

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34. Mr. KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka) said that he was encouraged to note that two of the eight technical panels set up in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/148 had already met; his delegation supported the proposal made by the Ocean Energy Panel to prepare guidelines to assist Governments in the assessment of their resources in that field. The small-wind machines, which would be studied by the Panel on Wind Energy, were of great importance to the economies of developing countries.

35. On the other hand, it was regrettable to note that Member States were not well informed on the progress of the preparations for the Conference. In that regard, he supported the proposal contained in paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.18 requesting the Secretary-General to organize a programme of public information activities designed to ensure world-wide awareness of the importance of the Conference, as well as the suggestion in paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/585) concerning a wide range of information activities, including the publication of a newsletter, a monograph series, scientific articles, radio programmes and the production of films, etc.

36. Since most developing countries lacked trained personnel for the development and exploitation of new and renewable energy sources, training programmes should be undertaken in developing countries in order to enable them to make effective use of the available technology. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the proposal to convene for representatives from developing countries regional or interregional symposia and workshops on the various aspects of new and renewable sources of energy as well as the proposal to start demonstration projects on energy sources in interested developing countries to assist them in experimenting with different techniques for developing and utilizing their energy resources. The World Bank could play a useful role in that field by providing the necessary funds. Lastly, his delegation supported the suggestion made by the representative of Sweden that the Preparatory Committee could undertake case studies of the situation in a few selected developing countries with regard to new and renewable sources of energy.

37. Mr. DAVENPORT (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Economic Community, said that the item under consideration was of critical importance to the entire international community. The European Economic Community had always felt that that problem should be solved through the participation of all countries, and for that reason it noted with satisfaction the convening of the Conference, while pointing out that its success would depend on its careful preparation. Although the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/585) contained very useful information on the current state of preparations and some suggestions on future activities, it was regrettable to note that the preparations had undergone certain delays. Fortunately, the question of the composition of the technical panels planned for the Conference had finally been decided and a certain number of background documents had been prepared. Hopefully, the appointment of members to the secretariat of the Conference would soon be completed, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/148.

38. The European Economic Community had studied with great interest the proposals made by the Secretary-General for enhancing the readiness of developing countries

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(Mr. Davenport, Ireland)

for the Conference. The members of the Community, who had joined the consensus on resolution 1979/66 of the Economic and Social Council on that question, were also prepared to fully support the efforts to achieve that end. With regard to the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference, the Community felt that the Committee on Natural Resources, which had the necessary technical expertise, should be designated for that task, and that it was unnecessary to set up a new body.

39. He stressed that the future Conference would have particular importance for developing countries, since it was in those countries that the need to develop new sources of energy was most acutely felt and that the potential in that field was the greatest. Moreover, those sources of energy could be developed by taking advantage of the natural and climatic situations of those countries without requiring large capital resources, a point which was particularly relevant to the needs of the developing countries.

40. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that, although the Member States had been informed of the preparations for the Conference by the two reports of the Secretary-General (E/1979/98 and A/34/585), and further information had been added orally by the Secretary-General of the Conference, his delegation, nevertheless, would have preferred to receive more information. That state of affairs was perhaps due to the fact that the establishment of the preparatory committee had been postponed until the current session, and he recalled that his delegation had already voted in favour of the establishment of that Committee during the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1979. It was regrettable to note that the organs, organizations and institutions of the United Nations concerned still did not seem to have co-operated in a practical manner in the preparations for the Conference, as they had been requested in accordance with resolution 33/148. On the other hand, it was encouraging to see that the technical panels had finally been formed and that two of them had already met; his delegation, however, was not satisfied with the choice of experts and felt that the principle of equitable geographical distribution had not been followed in that respect, since Italy had submitted a list of qualified experts, of which only one had been chosen.

41. Information on the financial implications of the Conference had been circulated to date in document A/34/6 and in the statement of the Secretary of the Conference; although that information was not complete, it could already be concluded that the personnel and resources available to the secretariat of the Conference were insufficient. His delegation wished to be reassured on that matter. He recalled that his country was prepared to co-operate fully in the preparations for the Conference and had already established a national committee to deal with the matter; he looked forward to the visit of Mr. Gherab to Rome in January for the meeting of the Technical Panel on Fuel Wood and Charcoal. Lastly, with the exception of certain minor points, his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.18 submitted by India, and reserved the right to comment on that matter at an appropriate time.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.