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held on
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

later: Mr. XIFRA (Spain)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 56: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.81

1. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.81 on behalf of the sponsors, said that Bolivia had become a sponsor in addition to those listed.
2. The draft resolution was in line with many other resolutions adopted over the last two decades, as referred to in the first and second preambular paragraphs. The third preambular paragraph pin-pointed the problem confronting land-locked developing countries, namely, lack of access to the sea and remoteness and isolation from world markets. The fourth preambular paragraph referred to the right of those countries to free access to and from the sea and to freedom of transit, as provided in numerous resolutions dating back to the League of Nations.
3. Operative paragraph 1 reaffirmed an accepted principle of international law, that of the right to freedom of transit. Because co-operation among all countries was essential in tackling development problems, paragraph 2 called upon developed countries, other States, international organizations and financial institutions to provide assistance to land-locked developing countries. Paragraphs 3 and 4 drew attention to the fact that the assistance given so far had been inadequate, and urged the international community and international financial institutions to rectify that situation. Paragraph 6 was directed at involving the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy in the efforts to overcome the special problems relating to land-locked developing countries, and paragraph 7 recommended specific activities to alleviate those problems.
4. The sponsors hoped that the Second Committee would show its support by adopting the draft resolution without a vote.
5. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi) said that being land-locked was a major handicap for the economic and social development of developing countries, especially the least developed among them. The argument that assistance to the least developed countries was also beneficial to land-locked developing countries did not speak to the real problem. Such a manoeuvre demonstrated a wish to avoid action at the very time when action by the international community was needed. Another argument frequently heard was that bilateral negotiations could solve the problems of land-locked developing countries. Such an approach would make conditions in those countries even more difficult by creating additional problems on top of the existing ones. The respective positions of land-locked, transit and coastal countries were hardly such that negotiations among them could take place on an equal footing.
6. What the land-locked developing countries were asking was that the international community should speedily provide financial and technical assistance in dealing with the problem and, if the need arose, serve as an effective

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(Mr. Seburyamo, Burundi)

arbitrator. They felt that in UNCTAD resolution 123 (V), section III, the emphasis had been misplaced; what they were apparently being told was that integrated planning with their transit neighbours was a panacea for their problems. Any bilateral solution to the problem would be perpetually uncertain however; only the unanimous involvement of the international community in finding lasting solutions would ensure the prosperity of each of the land-locked developing countries. Those countries hoped that the Second Committee would reflect that view by adopting the draft resolution without a vote, and the sponsors were open to suggestions for improvements in the text.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.81 would be considered further at a later meeting.

Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.45

8. The CHAIRMAN recalled that draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.45 had been introduced and orally revised at the 44th meeting, and drew attention to the statement of financial implications in document A/C.2/34/L.57.

9. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.45, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

10. Mr. EVDOKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR, said that those delegations had not opposed the adoption without a vote of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.45, on the understanding that the action called for would be taken within the framework of the measures provided for in General Assembly resolution 33/197, on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and would not lead to additional expenditure from the regular budget of the United Nations.

11. Mr. TUMBA (Zaire) expressed thanks to the sponsors of the draft resolution and to all delegations for adopting it by consensus. The draft resolution was important because of the need for international action to complement efforts by the Government of Zaire to find a final solution to the country's particular difficulties with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets. Under present conditions, the transport sector could not contribute to the full development of external trade because costs were too high. In addition, of course, transport facilities could contribute to the rapid economic development of any nation.

AGENDA ITEM 66: EXAMINATION OF LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(continued) (A/C.2/34/L.61)

12. The CHAIRMAN recalled that draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.61, on health as an integral part of development, had been introduced at the 46th meeting, and announced that the following States had become sponsors: Botswana, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Chad, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Sweden and United Republic of Cameroon.

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13. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.61 was adopted without a vote.

14. Mrs. KALM (World Health Organization), speaking on behalf of the Director-General of WHO, expressed appreciation for the draft resolution. WHO welcomed the endorsement of the decisions adopted unanimously at the International Conference on Primary Health Care, and also by the World Health Assembly, on approaches and policies for reaching an acceptable level of health by all by the year 2000. It also welcomed the emphasis on the co-operation of Member States with each other and with WHO and the collaboration of other sectors. The Director-General would bring the resolution to the attention of the 1980 sessions of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly. In response to the request in paragraph 8, he would report to the Economic and Social Council in 1981 on the progress achieved in the formulation of the global health strategy.

AGENDA ITEM 63: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued) (A/C.2/34/L.30/Rev.1)

15. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Committee) said that draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.30/Rev.1, on the establishment of a University for Peace, had no additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. The proposed activities of the International Commission would be financed by voluntary contributions. The Government of Costa Rica had indicated to the Secretariat its willingness to contribute the required extrabudgetary resources.

16. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) supported the draft resolution. As a national project and an educational idea initiated by the President of Costa Rica, the University for Peace recalled a venture of similar magnitude which had been implemented in Poland with great success, namely, the inauguration of the "Child's Health Centre" memorial hospital honouring millions of children killed in wars, especially the Second World War. Moreover, the idea of a University for Peace was a direct descendant of a new notion of international relations codified in the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, sponsored at the current session of the General Assembly by his country and many others. For those reasons, and as an expression of the fruitful and constructive relations his country was developing with Costa Rica, his delegation would fully support the draft resolution.

17. Mr. TUMBA (Zaire) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.30/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

19. Miss BARRINGTON (Ireland) said that the States members of the European Economic Community, on whose behalf she was speaking, had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution because they shared Costa Rica's desire to promote peace through education and research. They knew that there had been some disquiet with regard to the draft resolution because of doubts as to whether its underlying idea, laudable as it was, required the setting up of a new institution. Countries were aware that other bodies either within or closely associated with the United Nations system, particularly UNESCO and the United Nations University, could be regarded as having certain broad competencies in that area. In joining the consensus, the States members of EEC had been reassured by the representative of Costa Rica that the setting up of the proposed University for Peace would not have any financial

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(Miss Barrington, Ireland)

implications for the budget of the United Nations or the United Nations University. Similarly, joining the consensus should not be taken as implying that that involved a commitment by Member States to participate bilaterally in the financing of the University. The States for which she spoke also noted that the nature of any association between the new University and the United Nations University was to be determined by common agreement between the two institutions.

20. Mr. GREET (Australia) said that his delegation had been pleased to join in the consensus on the draft resolution, having duly noted the statement by the Secretary of the Committee on the financing of the proposed activities of the new University for Peace.

21. Ms. RAVN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that they had joined the consensus because they believed that it was possible to promote world peace through education and research. They were glad to note that the draft resolution had no financial implications for either the United Nations or the United Nations University.

22. Mr. PIZA ESCALANTE (Costa Rica) thanked all delegations for supporting the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.80

23. Mr. SUAREZ (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.80 on behalf of the sponsors, recalled that the United Nations Volunteers programme had become operational in 1971. By 30 September 1979 there had been 560 United Nations volunteers in the field serving in 71 countries, concentrated mainly in the least developed and the newly independent countries. The developing countries supplied over 70 per cent of the volunteers. The programme was also active in the promotion of youth participation in development and in domestic development services.

24. The draft resolution endorsed decision 79/24 of the Governing Council of UNDP, which recommended that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should establish a new target level of 1,000 field volunteers by 1983, subject to availability of funds, with the understanding that the quality of the programme would not be adversely affected by that expansion. The draft resolution requested the Administrator of UNDP to undertake appropriate administrative actions to achieve the proposed increase.

25. He announced that the Ivory Coast had become a sponsor of the draft resolution, which his delegation hoped would be adopted by consensus.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would take a decision on the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

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Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.74/Rev.1

27. Mr. CHANDLER (Barbados), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, said that there was an error in its title, which should read: "Assistance to Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent". The aims of the draft resolution were basically identical to those of the resolution which the Committee had adopted by consensus at the preceding session. The fact that two of the four countries mentioned - Saint Lucia and St. Vincent - had recently attained independence did not mean that their need for assistance had ceased. Independence was not in itself any guarantee that the economic difficulties facing countries in a colonial or semi-colonial situation would be eliminated. The sponsors hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

28. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while his delegation had been prepared to raise no objection to the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.74, the revised version contained in document A/C.2/34/L.74/Rev.1 was unacceptable. In the revised version, the sponsors had decided to group independent States and colonial Territories together in one draft resolution for the purpose of the provision of assistance. His delegation had informed the sponsors that it could not endorse such an approach. It was regrettable that the representative of Barbados had found it necessary to ignore the observations made by his delegation and others, but he hoped that the sponsors would take those difficulties into account and that it would be possible to arrive at a compromise text.

29. Mr. CHANDLER (Barbados) agreed that the original draft resolution, which was no longer before the Committee, had dealt with colonies while the revised version referred to colonies and to independent countries. The report on which the new version was based (A/34/563) referred to Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent. He was sure that the sponsors would be prepared to consult with other delegations in order to arrive at an acceptable formulation.

30. He announced that Fiji had become sponsor of the draft resolution.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would take a decision on draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.74/Rev.1 at a later meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 70: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/CONF.81/16; A/34/587 and Add.1 and 2; A/C.2/34/L.79)

32. Mr. KANTE (Guinea) said that the result of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development must be not only to strengthen the technological and economic potential of developed countries and enable developing countries to apply science and technology in order to accelerate their economic development but also, and in particular, to oppose any use of science and technology for the purposes of the domination, enslavement or destruction of peoples.

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(Mr. Kante, Guinea)

33. Developing countries were aware that their deficiencies in the production of goods and in material construction did not derive basically from lack of capital, much less from a lack of raw material resources or energy potential, but principally from their great weakness in modern technology. To remedy that situation, the first stage in the establishment of a new international economic order must involve the acquisition of technology by the developing countries. Such technology could be acquired either by importing it from abroad or by developing specific techniques appropriate to precise needs. When importing technology, the developing countries must bear in mind the need to choose appropriate techniques and to adapt them to the level of development their countries had attained. However, the developing countries should not be content with imported technology alone, but must create their own scientific and technological capabilities. That required the training of personnel, which was the only way to help the countries concerned to transcend the need for foreign aid. Each society must adapt and assimilate technology in such a way as to ensure that it led to social progress.

34. Unfortunately, the peoples of developing countries encountered serious difficulties in their efforts to assimilate knowledge and techniques; while a desire for progress could be formulated rapidly, the conditions and wherewithal for achieving progress could not be instantly acquired. Those countries must therefore rely primarily on their own resources and create the necessary structural and institutional framework, which in turn required a radical reform of the educational system in order eventually to create the scientific and technological basis for economic development.

35. The acquisition of science and technology by the people remained one of the foundations of Guinea's economic policy. While recognizing the need for each country to make use of its own resources, his Government also considered it imperative for the developing countries to co-operate among themselves by introducing a collective strategy to consolidate their combined economic strength. Within that context, his delegation supported the idea of adopting an international code of conduct for scientific and technological exchange in order to ensure greater economic development and the systematic dissemination of information.

36. The developing countries acknowledged the special importance and urgent necessity of expanding and diversifying their economic, technological and scientific co-operation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, on the basis of mutual advantage and in conformity with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. His delegation was convinced that, in order to achieve the same goal at the international level, the developed countries must show greater readiness to implement the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. His Government remained ready to contribute to the establishment of a new order through a policy of broad international co-operation to promote the acquisition of all the technological and scientific knowledge which was truly necessary to ensure harmonious development.

37. Mr. Xifra (Spain) took the Chair.

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38. Mr. B. C. MISHRA (India), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the chief concern of the Group was to ensure that the Vienna Programme of Action was implemented fully, so as to promote at every level the use of science and technology for the development of the developing countries. Action by the General Assembly must be directed towards that end. Although more could have been achieved in Vienna and certain issues had remained unresolved, what had been agreed upon constituted a significant step forward in international co-operation in the field of science and technology for development.

39. The Group of 77 attached particular importance to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The new Committee would facilitate informed discussion on the follow-up to the Vienna Programme of Action, and would be able to provide appropriate guidance. The General Assembly must play a central role in that activity, and must give proper impetus at the political level to facilitate the Intergovernmental Committee's work and to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action.

40. In line with the agreement reached in Vienna that an independent entity should be established within the United Nations Secretariat for the subject of science and technology for development, the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/587 and Add.1 and 2) suggested establishing a new and organizationally distinct secretariat within the United Nations Secretariat. It was no longer sufficient for the critical issue of science and technology to be tucked away in the recesses of the large United Nations departments. New structures should evolve as the need for them was felt.

41. The function of the secretariat, if it was to assist the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation effectively in his over-all task of co-ordination, could not be confined to substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Committee. The Vienna Programme of Action clearly stated that the Director-General should have responsibility for co-ordinating science and technology at the secretariat level within the United Nations system. He would obviously require substantial assistance, which could best be achieved by placing him directly in charge of the new secretariat entity for science and technology. The new entity should not, however, be incorporated in the Director-General's present office, which would have the undesirable effect of unbalancing that office. The Secretary-General's proposals were largely in line with that approach.

42. The report of the Secretary-General left open the question whether the head of the new body should be an Assistant Secretary-General or an Under-Secretary-General. The Group of 77 firmly believed that he should be an Under-Secretary-General, because anyone of lower rank would not have adequate access to the appropriate levels of the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, and thus would not provide effective support for the Director-General. Appointing a lower-level officer would only increase the burden on the Director-General and unbalance his over-all co-ordinating function within the United Nations system as a whole. The Group of 77 expected that the head of the new body would be a national of a developing country, so that he would be fully conversant with the real problems of the developing countries in the field of science and technology.

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(Mr. B. C. Mishra, India)

43. Arrangements for the Interim Fund should be included in any resolution on the subject adopted at the current session of the General Assembly. The Group of 77 would accordingly be presenting an annex to the draft resolution it had already submitted on science and technology for development, closely based on the prospectus for the Interim Fund as it appeared in the report of the Secretary-General. It was to be hoped that that arrangement would prove durable, flexible and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

44. The field of science and technology for development was vast, and a good start had been made in the Vienna Programme of Action. It was to be hoped that a foundation would be laid during the current session of the General Assembly for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

45. Mr. MESTIRI (Tunisia) said that the Committee's discussions on item 70 were the outcome of a long and sometimes difficult process initiated by the United Nations to establish a basis for a greater collective effort to strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of the developing countries and to redefine international relations in that vital area.

46. The Vienna Conference had achieved a measure of success, despite the limitations of some of the agreements arrived at and the regrettable fact that agreement had not been reached on a number of important aspects. In particular, some participants had found it difficult to accept most of the proposals made by the Group of 77 on the question of the transfer of technology. A possibly unique opportunity to take a decisive step forward in strengthening international co-operation and understanding had thus been lost.

47. The main objective now should be to follow up the decisions and recommendations adopted at Vienna. They were not merely of an institutional or financial character, but also concerned scientific and technological policies, at the national, regional and international levels, whose purpose was to bring about a rapid narrowing of the gap between developed and developing countries. They were also concerned with the restructuring of international relations in the field of science and technology. The Vienna Programme of Action was a unified package whose implementation must be regularly evaluated and whose principal provisions must be reflected in the new International Development Strategy for the 1980s.

48. At the same time, the institutional and financial aspects were crucially important for the success of the Programme of Action, particularly for activities at the national level. He had been sure that the participants in the Vienna Conference had arrived at the compromise formulae eventually adopted in full knowledge of the facts and with the firm intention of adhering to the commitments they had undertaken. He was therefore greatly surprised to see that certain provisions were being interpreted in various ways which were totally at variance with the spirit and letter of the text adopted.

49. There could be no doubt about the nature of the relations which the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should

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(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

maintain with the new secretariat for science and technology. Nor could there be any doubt that the Intergovernmental Committee would be an organ of the General Assembly. With regard to the financial arrangements, it was similarly beyond doubt that, whether interim or long-term, they were of a separate order and could not be identified with certain existing institutions. The administrative role envisaged for UNDP in the interim period could not affect their status or diminish the guiding role of the Intergovernmental Committee under the authority of the General Assembly. That being so, some of the provisions of the initial prospectus for the Interim Fund were quite astonishing. The Conference had clearly defined the criteria for allocating resources both in the interim period and in the long term. It had also identified specific fields of activity which were not necessarily those of UNDP.

50. He had given those examples in order to draw attention to the risks involved in questioning agreements which had been arrived at with so much effort. He hoped that the Committee would find it possible in the course of its discussions to re-establish the necessary atmosphere of confidence for continuation of the dialogue.

51. Mr. CORRÊA DA COSTA (Brazil) said that, ever since the preparatory process, his Government had assigned the highest priority to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, given its major role in the efforts to establish the new international economic order, as well as its aim to create new mechanisms which might help the developing countries to surmount the prevailing inequities and injustices. Attention to national aspirations and conditions was not inconsistent with international co-operation, which could bring about real benefits for all mankind. Brazil had always acted in pursuance of mutually advantageous co-operative mechanisms in the search for access to sophisticated technology, notwithstanding the frequent barriers. At the same time, however, it had never left aside the development of endogenous technology. The acquisition of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and research for alternative sources of energy were examples of its efforts at the national, bilateral and international levels.

52. Although the Conference had produced some favourable results, a number of the reasonable demands of the developing countries had not been met. Nevertheless, the Vienna Programme of Action afforded a fair basis for future work. Important and crucial measures should be taken by the General Assembly for the implementation of the Conference's recommendations and decisions.

53. His delegaton wished to focus attention on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development and secretariat support for such activities. The importance and specificity of science and technology had guided the decisions of the Conference, which had acknowledged that the urgent need to cope with the problems involved would require a set of measures to produce structural changes in the present situation. In that context, and on the basis of the letter and spirit of the Vienna Programme of Action, a new distinct organizational entity for science and technology for

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(Mr. Corrêa da Costa, Brazil)

development should be established at the highest possible level within the United Nations Secretariat. It should be placed directly under the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and should be responsive to the needs of the Intergovernmental Committee to be established. The interdepartmental consultative arrangements referred to in document A/34/587/Add.1, paragraph 15, should in no way hinder the co-ordinating mandate of the Director-General. "Horizontal" responsibility belonged to the Director-General, and the other units of the system could not but perform sectoral tasks. In providing the staff immediately required, the Secretary-General should be asked to draw upon the officers who had served so well in the secretariat of the Conference.

54. Since everyone acknowledged both the need for substantial additional resources and the fact that such resources should be available on a predictable, assured and continuous basis, another important decision adopted by the Conference related to the global financial arrangements and the establishment of a financing system for science and technology for development. While the results of the Conference in that respect had not met the expectations of the developing countries, a first step had been taken. His delegation hoped that in the near future it would be possible to make further progress towards the establishment of long-term arrangements. Meanwhile, the Interim Fund referred to in paragraph 117 (c) of the Programme of Action (A/CONF.81/16), chap. VII) would be a measure of the will to fulfil the commitments agreed to at Vienna.

55. Those and other points of major importance to the developing countries were duly reflected in draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.79, of which Brazil was a sponsor and which embodied the positions of its Government in relation to the different issues before the Committee. The General Assembly would have to adopt it as a matter of priority if the agreements reached at Vienna were not to be jeopardized. His delegation hoped that the proposals of the developing countries would meet with a positive response. Co-operation among all members of the international community was the only way to change the present pattern of inequalities, which generated unnecessary tensions.

56. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had been able to adopt by consensus a Programme of Action containing recommendations for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries, restructuring the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations and strengthening the role of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development.

57. A situation in which 95 per cent of all research and development capacities were concentrated in the developed countries while the developing countries, where the majority of the world's population lived, had only 5 per cent of those capacities was clearly intolerable. Fundamental structural changes were urgently needed to narrow that gap. That was why the Second Committee should consider the recommendations contained in the Vienna Programme of Action and take the necessary decisions for their implementation.

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(Mr. Bangura, Sierra Leone)

58. His delegation welcomed the recommendations concerning the establishment and functions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. It strongly suggested that the Intergovernmental Committee should meet in two sessions, each of two weeks' duration, beginning in the first quarter of 1980, with a view to settling the issues on which agreement had not been reached at the Conference. His delegation believed that the Advisory Committee to the Intergovernmental Committee would help the latter to discharge its functions more efficiently. It supported the suggestion in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report (A/34/587) that the Advisory Committee should be small in size and consist of experts from various professions, whose selection should be based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

59. His delegation fully endorsed the role of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, as specified in paragraph 103 of the Vienna Programme of Action. It was in that spirit that it supported the establishment of a new distinct organizational secretariat for science and technology for development, which should be directly under the Director-General. The location of that secretariat in New York would be particularly important, since there were more Governments represented at United Nations Headquarters than anywhere else. The secretariat should be headed by an Under-Secretary-General, and the General Assembly should allocate the necessary resources, drawing to the fullest extent possible on resources already existing within the United Nations, including the posts and budgetary resources of the Office for Science and Technology, which should be absorbed in the new secretariat. There should be a sufficient number of senior officials at the Principal Officer level for the co-ordination of science and technology activities at the regional level, particularly in Africa, where the research and development infrastructure was weakest. A strong secretariat would enable the Director-General to provide the necessary substantive support to the Intergovernmental Committee.

60. His delegation also endorsed paragraph 117 (c) of the Programme of Action, concerning the target for voluntary contributions, and hoped that the establishment of the interim arrangements would not prejudice the ultimate decisions with regard to long-term arrangements for financing the implementation of the Programme on a more predictable and assured basis.

61. Sierra Leone would support draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.79.

62. Mr. EL HASSAN (Sudan) observed that the world had become and would increasingly be a smaller place. Even in that well-integrated and supposedly interdependent world, however, glaring inequalities in social and economic development existed. In a world increasingly dependent on science and technology, the elimination of existing inequalities between developing and developed countries in the field of science and technology was a part of the process of eliminating inequalities in economic development. The application of scientific and technological knowledge for the development of developing countries was the central factor in the establishment of a just and equitable international economic order. The dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge, left in the past to uncontrolled, unreliable and sometimes irresponsible agents, should now be

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(Mr. El Hassan, Sudan)

spearheaded by the United Nations. The role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology should therefore be strengthened through the creation of institutional arrangements and through the provision of substantially increased financial resources. That would bolster the indigenous scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries and enable them to utilize existing and new technologies to achieve economic and social development.

63. His delegation called upon the Second Committee and the General Assembly to endorse the Vienna Programme of Action, and hoped that all Governments would take effective action to implement it. It supported the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, in which all Member States should participate as full members. The Intergovernmental Committee should have the support of a distinct secretariat, headed by an Under-Secretary-General. It should establish a small intergovernmental group, selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to provide expert advice to it on the operation of a financing system for science and technology. His Government was keenly interested in the proposed group of experts and intended to nominate one of its nationals for membership. It believed that the financial arrangements recommended by the Conference, including the Interim Fund, should be accepted by the General Assembly as an indivisible whole.

64. His delegation believed that science and technology would play in the future a central role in all human activities. Developing countries should be allowed to benefit equally from the fruits of scientific and technological knowledge. The only way to accelerate that process was to entrust it to the United Nations, which would mean making substantial resources available to the Organization. Warnings of possible duplications within the United Nations system clearly ignored the central role of science and technology in the development of developing countries and in the establishment of the new international economic order. To ensure co-ordination and avoid duplication, it was essential to establish new machinery that would be more responsive to the needs of developing countries, would reflect the importance of the role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology and would be in harmony with other United Nations institutional activities, which were and should be integrated and complementary.

65. Mr. Murgescu (Romania) resumed the Chair.

66. Mr. DA COSTA (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development) said that the general impression emerging from the debate was one of cautious satisfaction with the results of the Conference. There was some concern within the Committee that certain issues on which a consensus had been reached at the Conference were being unexpectedly reopened. The administrative question was a case in point. Some delegations appeared to be under the mistaken impression that the issues referred to in paragraph 103 of the Vienna Programme of Action (A/CONF.81/16, chap. VII) had not been settled at the Conference. That paragraph reflected a compromise worked out during the informal

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(Mr. da Costa)

negotiations at the Conference and was not open to reinterpretation. It was incorrect to say that the administrative arrangements recommended would be contrary to the spirit of restructuring. The arrangements suggested by the Secretary-General of the United Nations were adequate and would truly reflect the importance and specificity of science and technology for development.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.