



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)
later: Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.2/36/L.30)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft decision A/C.2/36/L.30 "Economic Commission for Africa: regional institutes for population studies". He had been informed that, following consultations among delegations, it had been agreed that it would be best to transmit the draft decision to the Fifth Committee which was considering Economic and Social Council decision 1981/189 endorsing the statutes of the ECA Regional Institute for Population Studies. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (A/C.2/36/L.24, L.25, and L.55) (continued)

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.24 in specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries. The delegations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Zaire, Mongolia and Niger had become co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

4. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation was unable to accept operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. Questions of access to and from the sea and freedom of transit were best dealt with bilaterally in a spirit of good-neighbourliness. Pakistan, which recognized the structural and geographical difficulties of the land-locked developing countries, wholeheartedly supported all international measures to facilitate the development of those countries. He pointed out, however, that the transit countries, some of which were among the poorest in the world, also required assistance and co-operation from the international community in their efforts to overcome their obstacles and develop their infrastructures, in accordance with their development plans and priorities. Operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 7 should therefore have taken account of the needs of the transit countries. His delegation would vote against paragraph 1 and would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

5. Mr. DHARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahariya) said that his country sympathized with the difficulties of the land-locked countries, which impeded their access to international markets and their economic and social development. It had been one of the first countries to contribute to the Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries and had also co-operated with those countries bilaterally. It was, however, unable to support paragraph 1 which covered important legal matters being dealt with by the Conference on the Law of the Sea. The issues in question affected the sovereignty of transit countries and should be dealt with bilaterally. His delegation would therefore vote against paragraph 1.

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