



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (p) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
- (j) ENVIRONMENT
- (m) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- (g) FOOD PROBLEMS
- (e) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES
- (b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

- (a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

AGENDA ITEM 70: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(p) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.115

1. Mr. HADJEM (Algeria) said he wished to introduce, on behalf of the member of the Group of 77, draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.115 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The resolution was essentially a procedural one which reflected the major elements of the Programme of Action adopted in Paris by the Conference. Its purpose was to provide the necessary guidance to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action by calling upon the donor and other countries concerned to take the necessary measures to that effect as well as to ensure follow-up and control.

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.116

2. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.116 concerning the Multifiber Arrangement, noted that the existing Arrangement would expire at the end of the year and that it was important to make sure that trade in textiles continued in an orderly and equitable manner. Since the negotiations on the Multifiber Arrangement had been resumed since the resolution under consideration had been drafted, the text should be amended as follows: in the second preambular paragraph, the phrase "the principal aim" should be replaced by "one of the principal aims"; in the second line of the fourth preambular paragraph, "share in" should be replaced by "conduct of"; and, in the first line of the fifth preambular paragraph, the phrase "will soon be resumed" should be replaced with "are now in progress in Geneva". In operative paragraph 1, the word "forthcoming" should be replaced by "ongoing".

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.50/Rev.1

3. The CHAIRMAN introduced draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.50/Rev.1 entitled "The signature and ratification of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities". He drew attention to the seventh preambular paragraph and said that the blank spaces which appeared in place of the names of States which had signed the Agreement and those which had ratified, accepted or approved it, would be filled in before or at the time of the submission of the text at a plenary meeting.

4. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.50/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

5. Mr. SMITH (United States of America) said that his country had signed the Agreement on 5 November 1981 and would take steps to ratify it when a sufficient number of properly structured agreements relating to specific commodities had been signed. His country was generally in favour of the free play of market

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(Mr. Smith, United States)

forces but had co-operated with the international organizations in preparing agreements covering a wide range of commodities when it felt that the agreements were fair to both producers and consumers.

(j) ENVIRONMENT

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.110

6. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.100 regarding the study on financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ringnalda, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.32.

7. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.110 was adopted without a vote.

8. Miss EVANS (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the ten members of the European Economic Community, welcomed the fact that after lengthy discussions it had been possible to reach a consensus on the text of the draft resolution just adopted. The countries members of the Community intended to study carefully the proposals in the Secretary-General's report and to submit detailed comments on them. Their Governments attached great importance to the Plan of Action and would continue to make voluntary bilateral and multilateral contributions for that purpose.

9. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR, said that those delegations had not opposed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.110 because it was their policy to support the efforts of the developing countries to combat desertification. With respect to the Secretary-General's report (A/36/141) on financing the Plan of Action, they felt that the establishment of a fund financed from taxes on international trade and by other fiscal measures was unacceptable, as was the automatic funding of the Plan. Such measures were contrary to the provisions of the Charter which prohibited interference of any kind in the internal affairs of States, as well as to the principle of voluntary financing of international technical assistance projects. Those delegations would continue to help the developing countries to combat desertification to the extent that their resources allowed and with respect for the economic and social structures of the recipient countries.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1 and A/C.2/36/L.62/Rev.1 (financial implications)

10. Mrs. WALDER-BRUNDIN (Sweden) said that the provisions of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1 concerning a session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1982 were virtually identical with those of the original draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21. The amendments that had been incorporated related mainly to the agenda in the annex. The sponsors had also stressed that the session should be organized with a concern for economy.

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(Mrs. Walder-Brundin, Sweden)

11. She wished to be informed of the amendments incorporated in document A/C.2/36/L.62/Rev.1 on the financial implications of the draft resolution under consideration and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

12. Mr. SACH (Office of Financial Services) pointed out that a number of amendments should be entered in document A/C.2/36/L.62/Rev.1 setting out the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1. Subparagraphs (b), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph 8 and the corresponding entries in the table at the end of the same paragraph giving a summary of the additional provisions required to finance the public information activities, should be deleted. The figure given as the total of those provisions (\$82,800), should consequently be changed to \$43,000. Likewise, in paragraph 11, the figure corresponding to entry number 2, "Information programme", should be changed to \$43,000 and the figure entered as the total (\$702,000) should consequently be changed to read \$662,200. It had been possible to cover part of those expenditures, \$216,000, relating to the current biennium (1980-1981) out of existing resources. Consequently, the remaining expenditures for which it would be necessary to make additional appropriations related only to the biennium 1982-1983 and amounted to a net total of \$446,200.

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

14. Mr. DIMITRIEF (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1 by consensus, the aim of the draft resolution being to strengthen international co-operation, particularly in the field of the environment.

15. During its session of a special character in 1982, the Governing Council was to apply itself to a review of its past activity and to present information on its future action. The Soviet Union had, for its part, contributed to the preparation of the report on the state of the environment 10 years after the Stockholm Conference and wished to continue to take part in formulating the policies and action programmes of the United Nations in the field of the environment.

16. The session of a special character should be organized within the limits of the financial resources available to the Environment Fund and should not have any additional financial implications. The same applied to the public information programme for the session. The Soviet Union therefore reserved its position as to the attitude it would adopt in the Fifth Committee when the administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/36/L.62/Rev.1) of the draft resolution were considered.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.113

17. The CHAIRMAN introduced draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.118 entitled "Long-term trends in economic development" and invited the Committee to adopt it.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.118 was adopted without a vote.

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(g) FOOD PROBLEMS

Draft resolution relating to the target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1983-1984

19. The draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/85 was adopted without a vote.

(e) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

(b) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

20. The CHAIRMAN announced that India and Malaysia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.91 and that Angola, the Gambia and Mali were co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.107.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117

21. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya) introduced, on behalf of the Gambia, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan and the Sudan, draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies. That item having been included in the Committee's agenda for two years, the time had come to adopt a substantive resolution on the matter. The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had encountered numerous difficulties during the past decade and concrete measures for obviating them were proposed in the draft resolution. The key concepts were those of efficiency and speed, having regard to the roles to be played, on the one hand, by countries affected by natural disasters, i.e. those receiving assistance, and, on the other hand, donor countries and organizations. The sponsors considered that there should be closer co-operation between the various parties concerned in order to facilitate the co-ordination of relief at the national and international levels. It was not a matter of creating a new institution but of strengthening the role of the Office of the Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole by providing financial, material and human resources and improving operational skills in disaster relief.

22. The sponsors, convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system, and of the Office of the Co-ordinator in particular, to carry out those tasks efficiently and promptly, were hopeful that the draft resolutions would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 70: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.77 and L.114

23. The CHAIRMAN called the attention of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.114 entitled "Operational activities for development" introduced by

A/C.2/36/SR.44

English

Page 6

(The Chairman)

Mr. ter Horst, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, following informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.77.

24. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.114 was adopted without a vote.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.