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**GENERAL  
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SECOND COMMITTEE  
47th meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 10 December 1981  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Chairman: MR. VERCELES (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/C.2/36/L.119 and L.146)

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.146 had no financial implications. If he heard no objections, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.119 had been withdrawn by the sponsors and that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.146 without a vote.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption without a vote of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.146 because it supported the measures taken by the Governments of the African countries to accelerate the process leading to the achievement of true economic independence. Nevertheless, it interpreted the clarification given by the Chairman of the Committee, namely, that the draft resolution had no financial implications, to mean that the request made to the Secretary-General in paragraph 6 did not and would not in the future involve additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. Any additional resources needed would have to be obtained through extrabudgetary funds.

(b) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (continued)

4. The CHAIRMAN said that several delegations had requested the officers to have the subitem under consideration resubmitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. The basic issue was a recommendation concerning questions of procedure, and if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to recommend that the agenda of the thirty-seventh session should include under the item entitled "Development and international economic co-operation" a subitem entitled "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States".

5. It was so decided.

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.116 and L.152.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.116 had been withdrawn by its sponsors and that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.152 without a vote.

7. It was so decided.

8. Mr. LUTFI (Jordan) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.152 and hoped that the negotiations envisaged therein would be successful. Nevertheless, he wished to place on record that his country,

(Mr. Lutfi, Jordan)

being neither a member of GATT nor one of the parties in the negotiations on the Multifibre Arrangement, would not regard itself as being bound by the results of those negotiations.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.65 and L.154.

9. Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.154 was the result of a series of informal consultations and its text had, in general, been negotiated and agreed to by members of the Committee, with the exception of paragraph 9, which would be put to a vote.

10. The purpose of the opening lines of paragraph 11 was to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to fulfil his mandate in accordance with the provisions of section B of resolution 165 (IX) of the Trade and Development Board, which set out guidelines for the detailed features for further action relating to the debt problems of the developing countries. The final English text of that paragraph of the draft resolution would be referred to the Secretariat to ensure that the wording was accurate.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of a request made to the officers, the Committee would take a decision on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.154 at the following meeting.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.120 and document A/C.2/36/CRP.2

12. Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that the Group of 77 had been unable to reach consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.120 because of the large number of amendments submitted and shortage of time. It had accordingly been agreed that the draft resolution and document A/C.2/36/CRP.2 should be transmitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-seventh session.

13. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to transmit draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.120 and document A/C.2/36/CRP.2 to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-seventh session.

14. It was so decided.

(e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/36/L.155)

15. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/36/L.155 without a vote and had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 69 (e).

16. It was so decided.

(f) NATURAL RESOURCES (continued) (A/36/418; A/C.2/36/L.137)

17. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.137, on which there had been no consensus, had been received by the officers but had not been formally submitted. It was accordingly deemed to have been withdrawn.

18. Mr. EHRMAN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that it was most regrettable that at the current session it had not been possible to adopt a resolution on a report of the Committee on Natural Resources on energy, especially in view of the pressing needs of the oil-importing developing countries in that field. The problem of energy should be studied and discussed in a global context, rather than from the point of view of North-South relations.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources (A/36/418) and had thus concluded its consideration of item 69 (f).

20. It was so decided.

(g) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.14 and L.148

21. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that in the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.148, the word "as" should be added before "adopted by the World Conference". In paragraph 3 the word "structural" should be added before "changes".

22. Mr. FALKNER (United States of America) said that in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the words "World Food Council adopted" should be replaced by "World Food Council, as adopted".

23. Miss FORD (Canada) said that in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the words "adopted by the World Conference" should be replaced by "as adopted by the World Conference".

24. Mr. EHRMAN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that in paragraph 18 the words "the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and" should be added after "Programmes of".

25. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.14 had been withdrawn by the sponsors and that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.148, as orally amended, without a vote.

26. It was so decided.

27. Mr. WAKASUGI (Japan) said that while his delegation had joined in the consensus, it was maintaining with respect to paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 the same position that it had expressed two years earlier on the occasion of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 34/110.

28. Miss FORD (Canada) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on the understanding that the world food security net mentioned in paragraph 20 in no way detracted from the integrity of existing negotiating institutions and forums and that any future development of the food security net concept would include provisions which emphasized the need to strengthen national production and distribution systems.

29. Mr. EVDOKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that while his delegation had not opposed the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote, it was maintaining with regard to the quantitative targets mentioned in it the same position which it had taken on food problems at the sixth and seventh sessions of the World Food Council and at the summer 1981 session of the Economic and Social Council; that position had been set forth in the joint statement of the socialist countries at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

30. Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand) said that there was abundant proof that certain national policies, particularly on subsidies, had a prejudicial effect on international agricultural markets. For that reason, although his delegation had joined in the consensus, it was disappointed that the draft resolution had not referred more explicitly to the problems of world trade in agricultural products.

31. Mr. FALKNER (United States of America) said that his delegation was reserving its position on paragraphs 20 and 22 of the draft resolution. That did not mean that it was changing its position with respect to food problems. The United States had been the largest donor of food aid and the largest bilateral donor of agricultural development assistance. In 1980, for example, it had contributed \$2.2 billion to multilateral development banks, which in turn had lent \$4.6 billion for agriculture. The United States also made substantial contributions to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and the World Food Council. In addition, it had pledged 4.47 million tons of grain annually in connexion with the 10-million ton target provided for in the Food Aid Convention, and 125,000 tons of the 500,000-ton target for the International Emergency Food Reserve.

32. Its bilateral assistance programme was likewise significant. During the current year assistance for agriculture, rural development and nutrition would reach \$620 million. With respect to food, since 1954 the United States had provided, under Public Law 480, over 387 million tons of food, worth over \$30 billion.

33. His delegation was reserving its position on paragraph 22 of the draft resolution because it believed strongly in the open market system and held that it was in the interest of all nations to establish grain reserve policies. That position was in line with that taken on that question at the seventh session of the World Food Council and the second regular session of 1981 of the Economic and Social Council. Nevertheless, it would support the search within the International Wheat Council, which it regarded as the appropriate negotiating body, for a

(Mr. Falkner, United States)

universally acceptable approach to a new wheat trade convention which took into account the merits of national market-oriented reserves.

34. The achievement of world food security depended on increased food production in the developing countries; they were responsible for the adoption of policies that would provide incentives with respect to agricultural prices and give a larger role to the private sector in food production, distribution and processing. For those reasons, his delegation reserved its position on paragraph 20 of the draft resolution, as it had done with regard to paragraph 71 of the report of the World Food Council on its seventh session.

35. Finally, his delegation drew attention to the interim report on food problems in Africa in the 1980s submitted by the Secretary-General (A/36/149). That report was particularly interesting and represented the type of thoughtful work which his delegation wished to see reflected in many other United Nations documents. In identifying some of the shortcomings of domestic food policy in developing countries, the report anticipated the conclusion reached by the Co-Chairmen of the International Meeting on Co-operation and Development at Cancún to the effect that sustained and long-term internal effort on the part of the developing countries to attain self-sufficiency in food production was the basic element in obtaining a real answer to the problem of hunger.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.128 and L.153

36. Mr. EHRMAN (United Kingdom) said that the sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153 should be replaced by the text of the seventh and ninth preambular paragraphs of resolution 35/69 adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.128 had been withdrawn by the sponsors and that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153, with the amendment proposed orally, without a vote.

38. It was so decided.

39. Mr. EVDOKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153 because it believed that it would help to solve the food problems of African countries.

40. His delegation was following closely the efforts of African countries to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to ensure food supplies for their populations, thus overcoming the problems inherited from the colonial past. It was co-operating actively with a number of African countries in developing their agriculture and overcoming the difficulties involved in feeding their populations. That co-operation was based on their real potential, and used methods which had been universally recognized as effective. His delegation's position on the reference made in the draft resolution to quantitative targets was the same as it had been in the case of similar resolutions adopted earlier.

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41. Mr. SMITH (United States of America) said that his delegation had participated in the consensus on the understanding that the amendments proposed to the text of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153 corresponded to what had been agreed in informal consultations.

42. Mr. ESAN (Nigeria) confirmed that during the informal consultations it had been agreed to modify draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153 in the way proposed in the oral amendment.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that the text of the amendments submitted by the United Kingdom delegation was exactly the same as that of the relevant paragraphs adopted by the General Assembly at the previous session. With the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.153, the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 69 (g).

(i) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM  
(continued) (A/C.2/36/3; A/C.2/36/L.151)

44. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.151 and stressed the importance of paragraphs 1 and 2.

45. The CHAIRMAN said if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.151 without a vote.

46. It was so decided.

47. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/36/3) concerning arrangements for future United Nations pledging conferences for development activities. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to take note of that document and thereby to conclude its consideration of agenda item 69 (i).

48. It was so decided.

49. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania), speaking as Rapporteur, said that following consultations with the Legal Counsel it had been decided that the amendments to the rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, reproduced in section II of the annex to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1, already adopted by the Committee, had the status of a recommendation only, since they had not been drafted in the correct form from the legal point of view. Consequently, it was proposed that the required changes should be made in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly on the item.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed that the Rapporteur should include a corrected version of section II of the annex to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21/Rev.1 in his report to the General Assembly.

51. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)  
(A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3, L.147 and L.149)

52. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the amendments proposed in document A/C.2/36/L.147 had been incorporated into document A/C.2/36/L.149.

53. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3, said that the words "in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken State" in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution should be moved and placed after the words "Decides that". Similarly, in paragraph 9, the same words should be moved and placed after the words "Decides that".

54. The sponsors of the draft resolution, which had been joined by Algeria, Burundi, Comoros, Chad, Mali, the Central African Republic and Swaziland, had accepted those amendments because they were in accordance with UNDR0 practice and with the principles of the United Nations Charter relating to State sovereignty.

55. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the issues raised by draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 should be carefully and conscientiously weighed since they affected the activities of the whole United Nations system. Hasty measures might do more harm than good to the international co-ordination machinery which existed in the field of disaster relief and which was already effective enough. In his view, the sponsors of the draft resolution were not in a position to explain how the arrangements which they were proposing would operate.

56. The draft resolution referred to "complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude"; no definition existed of such situations in the United Nations system and their character was not explained. The legal question arose of who would identify such situations; according to the draft resolution, responsibility for doing so would be entrusted to the meetings of organizations referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9, which meant that secretariat units would be arrogating to themselves prerogatives which were peculiar to the intergovernmental agencies established by the United Nations Charter. There were a number of questions which needed to be asked concerning the part which would be played by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the possible reactions of those organs, the method of financing the meetings and the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3.

57. His delegation took the view that the Secretariat, like the secretariats of the other agencies of the United Nations system was entitled to assess the situation in a given country, but to decide the question of whether it was desirable to provide relief over the heads of the organs established by the Charter would constitute a serious violation of the Charter. It was not only that there was an objection of principle to the idea of convening the interagency meetings referred to in the draft resolution; it was also necessary to point out the danger that a given country might not receive relief owing to failure to achieve consensus at those meetings.

(Mr. Shapovalov, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

58. He had grave doubts about the legal basis for the proposal, in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, that the Secretary-General should designate a lead entity to co-ordinate international relief. In his delegation's view, that was the prerogative of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and the proposal implied a considerable expansion of the functions of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, the question of setting up the so-called early warning system had been given very little study at either the national or the international level. UNDR0, WHO and FAO already possessed disaster information systems. It might therefore be asked what early warning systems it was proposed to create for the so-called "complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude".

59. It was obvious that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 had not been carefully worked out and suffered from a lack of clarity. It was for that reason that his delegation had proposed the amendments in documents A/C.2/36/L.147 and L.149. The latter document incorporated and developed the amendments in document A/C.2/36/L.147, which had therefore been withdrawn.

60. The amendments proposed by his delegation were designed to safeguard the sovereignty of States, by preventing the machinery proposed in paragraphs 9 and 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 from interfering in their internal affairs. The interagency meetings referred to in that draft resolution should confine their activities to cases of disasters in which a request had been received from the Government concerned and in which the situation was of such urgency that it could not be considered at the regular sessions of the competent intergovernmental agencies.

61. In the amendments proposed in document A/C.2/36/L.149, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States was expressly set forth in a new preambular paragraph. The reference to "other disaster situations" was to be deleted, so that the draft resolution would apply only to natural disasters; the issue of "other disaster situations" was a controversial one and was in any case, outside the scope of the Second Committee.

62. His delegation considered that the existing arrangements within the United Nations system for co-ordinating and supplying relief were sufficiently well developed, as was indicated, moreover, in the report on the question submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (E/1981/16). That was why the proposed amendments spoke of improving the effectiveness of the existing machinery and of the improvement of co-ordination, but not its strengthening, which would inevitably lead to the establishment of new machinery and unwarranted expenditure from the regular budget of the United Nations. For the same reason, it was proposed to amend the title of the draft resolution to read "Improving the effectiveness of the United Nations system in responding to natural disasters".

63. His delegation regretted that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 had not taken account of its observations. Issues of such complexity and with implications of such magnitude as those envisaged in the draft resolution should be resolved with the participation of all groups of States and on

(Mr. Shapovalov, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

the basis of consensus. For the restructuring and the establishment of new arrangements to be imposed without consensus by the will of certain States undermined their effectiveness from the outset. There was no consensus in the Second Committee owing to the fact that it had not been possible to hold the necessary consultations. He accordingly proposed that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3, together with the amendments in document A/C.2/36/L.149, should be transmitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982.

64. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 had been the subject of intensive and lengthy discussions in which every possible effort had been made to take account of the interests of the majority of delegations. The sponsors could not accept the amendments proposed by the delegation of the Soviet Union, which fundamentally altered the purpose of the draft resolution. Deleting the reference to "other disaster situations", for example, actually amounted to a change in the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as established by the General Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI). The sponsors were also unable to accept the deletion of the references to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system in the field of natural disasters or the replacement of paragraphs 8 and 9 of the draft resolution by the paragraphs proposed in the Soviet Union amendment. The sponsors' intention had been to strengthen the United Nations system and not to restrict it, as appeared to be the intent of the proposals in document A/C.2/36/L.149. For those reasons, his delegation proposed that further debate on the issue should be deferred to enable delegations to hold consultations.

65. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed that further debate on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 and the amendments proposed in document A/C.2/36/L.149 should be postponed until the following meeting.

66. It was so decided.

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (continued)  
(A/C.2/36/L.122 and L.150)

67. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Somalia and Yugoslavia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.150.

68. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.122 had been rendered superfluous and that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.150 without a vote.

69. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.