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at 3 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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A/C.2/34/SR.44

23 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

AGENDA ITEM 56: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(A/34/15, A/34/3/Add.2; TD/268 and Add.1)

1. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) associated himself with those delegations which had expressed concern at the general lack of progress towards the establishment of a new and just world economic order. To the great disappointment of the developing countries, the fifth session of UNCTAD had failed to produce fruitful results. That failure was due in no small measure to the rigid and unhelpful attitude of the industrialized developed countries. Ironically, one super-Power, which had formerly presented a progressive image as a supporter of the legitimate demands, interest and aspirations of the third world countries, had joined forces with those which opposed the speedy implementation of a new world economic order.

2. Despite intensive and prolonged negotiations in many international forums and the constructive efforts of the developing countries, an impasse had been reached at Manila, giving rise to pessimism and despondency. The time had come for the industrialized countries to appreciate the difficulties of the developing countries and respond to their call for the eradication of all neo-colonialist impediments to the development of their potential resources and their over-all economic growth. The necessary steps must be taken to liberalize the existing international trading system, which was characterized by protectionism, restrictive policies, and tariff and non-tariff barriers. The lack of significant progress in the multilateral trade negotiations was discouraging; not enough attention was being given to the crucial problems of third world countries and to the need to enforce the generalized system of preferences.

3. The establishment of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the creation of the Common Fund could be a significant step towards the establishment of a new and just world economic order. His delegation welcomed the consensus reached on the main elements of the Common Fund, but it stressed the need to maintain the momentum of negotiations so that all outstanding issues could be settled without further delay. His delegation was gratified by the outcome of the recent Negotiating Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology. The progress achieved had been largely due to the flexibility and willingness to compromise shown by the Group of 77, and he hoped that the Code could be finalized and adopted in the near future.

4. Economic co-operation among developing countries was crucially important to the over-all development and economic growth of third world countries. His delegation therefore fully supported the comprehensive new programme of action for the least developed countries. International institutions such as GATT and UNCTAD could play an important role by providing technical assistance to developing countries in support of their own efforts to conclude trade agreements and promote technical and economic co-operation in specific fields.

5. A progressive system of world trade could not be evolved as long as problems of inflation and international monetary crises continued to jeopardize the

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(Mr. Osman, Somalia)

development and economic growth of the developing countries. Urgent and fundamental reforms must be instituted in the international monetary system in order to create a rational, equitable and universal system that would provide stability in international transactions and trade relations between States.

6. UNCTAD, as a central organ which could provide the necessary stimulus and effectiveness in future negotiations, had a key role. Because of its heavy responsibilities and the great complexity of the issues with which it had to deal, its structure should be made commensurate with its role and activities. His delegation had been encouraged by the establishment of the ad hoc committee on the rationalization of UNCTAD's machinery. It hoped that UNCTAD would be streamlined and strengthened in terms both of organization and of personnel, with efforts being made to attain an equitable regional balance among senior policy-making staff.

7. Although the outcome of the lengthy, intensive and exhaustive negotiations that had been held on crucial economic issues was not encouraging, the negotiating process would have to continue in a spirit of sincerity and co-operation. His delegation looked forward to an action-oriented and fruitful dialogue that would lead to generally acceptable solutions to the world's economic problems.

8. Mr. ABDALLAH (Libyan Arab Jamhuriya), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.45, said that the delegations of the Central African Republic, Chile, Indonesia, Japan and Tunisia had become sponsors. In paragraph 1, the words "in Manila" should be added after "adopted". The second line of paragraph 2 should read: "... the Economic Commission for Africa ...".

9. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions on item 56 should be 6 p.m. on Friday, 23 November 1979.

10. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 71: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY (A/34/585, A/34/Add.15, A/C.2/34/L.18)

11. Mr. GHIFAB (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy) made a statement.*

12. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), supported by Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq), proposed that the statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference should be distributed as a document of the Committee.

13. Mr. MULIER (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly, the Committee had to be informed of the financial implications of the proposal. The cost of distributing the statement as a separate document would be \$300 a page.

* The full text of the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy will be issued as document A/C.2/34/15.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal.

15. It was so decided.

16. Mr. ANGSTROM (Sweden) said that the world was confronted with formidable long-term energy problems and that immediate action was needed to change traditional supply patterns and develop new and renewable sources of energy. Long-term energy issues - potentials as well as problems - constituted a real challenge. In order to create the necessary energy basis for sustained economic growth, while at the same time avoiding unacceptable depletion of natural resources and an unacceptable and dangerous deterioration of the human environment, all the world's determination and ingenuity would have to be mobilized. Accordingly, his delegation attached great importance to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

17. It was his delegation's hope that the convening of the Conference would, to cite General Assembly resolution 33/148, lead to "measures for concerted action designed to promote the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to contributing to meeting future over-all energy requirements, especially those of the developing countries, in particular in the context of efforts aimed at accelerating the development of the developing countries". In view of the priority given by all countries to new and renewable energy sources, he was confident that there was a willingness to take the kind of measures envisaged in the resolution and that the Conference would prove a very important event in the history of the United Nations.

18. In view of the fact that the delegation of Kenya had introduced the proposal to convene the Conference, it was highly appropriate that the Conference should be held at Nairobi. His delegation was also in full agreement with the proposal to designate the Committee on Natural Resources as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

19. His Government had already established a national preparatory committee, headed by a member of the Government, which had been given the task of preparing Swedish participation in the Conference. It would serve as the national focal point advocated in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 (A/C.2/34/L.18). In connexion with paragraph 9 of that document, he drew attention to the considerable experience and knowledge in the field that had been accumulated by the International Energy Agency, which could, he was sure, make a significant contribution to the success of the Conference.

20. The Conference, should pay special attention to the energy problems of the poorest developing countries and possible measures for utilizing and increasing the potential for new and renewable energy in those countries. Attention would also have to be paid to the need to improve over-all energy planning. In that connexion, the Preparatory Committee might consider preparing case studies on the situation in a few selected developing countries, which could be very useful to the Conference in providing concrete illustrations of the problems and needs of developing countries.

(Mr. Anstrom, Sweden)

21. The environmental aspects of energy in general, and of new and renewable energy sources in particular, should be borne in mind throughout the preparatory process and by the Conference itself. Clearly, it was important to avoid environmental and ecological mistakes in introducing new energy technologies. It was also important to pay attention to social and cultural aspects in the process of altering traditional ways of energy production and use. Those aspects must not be overlooked if new technologies and supply patterns were to be successfully introduced. Lastly, non-governmental organizations should be brought into the preparatory stage as well as into the Conference itself. Great advantage could be derived from the valuable expertise and support of the non-governmental organizations.

22. In conclusion, he said that all countries, both developed and developing, would eventually have to rely on new and renewable sources of energy to a far larger extent. Significant efforts were being made in many countries, including Sweden, to develop such energy sources. All countries had a common interest in that field, and he sincerely hoped that the 1981 Conference would establish machinery whereby experience, information and technology could be shared among all nations.

AGENDA ITEM 66: EXAMINATION OF LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(continued) (A/C.2/34/L.16)

23. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) said that, as a result of further consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.16, the sponsors had decided to add the following phrase to paragraph 3, after the words "Committee for Development Planning": "and taking into account the international development strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade". In paragraph 6 the word "resumed" should be added before "second regular sessions". He announced that the delegations of El Salvador, Mali, Norway, Peru, the Ukrainian SSR and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors. He expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to approve the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote.

24. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that it might not be advisable to request the Economic and Social Council to consider the proposed documents at its resumed sessions, when there would be very little time for constructive consideration. Moreover, it might be premature to decide, as in paragraph 7, that the item should be included in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

25. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) agreed that the resumed sessions of the Economic and Social Council were organized so as to leave very little time for substantive discussion. However, the sponsors of the draft resolution had wanted to give the Secretariat more time to prepare its report, and the first part of the second regular session of the Council, in July 1980, seemed very early.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the draft resolution without a vote.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.16, as orally revised, was approved.

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28. Mr. AKTAN (Turkey) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding, first, that the work devoted to the examination of long-term economic and social trends was part of the more comprehensive work of the United Nations concerning the new international development strategy and, secondly, that the over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy referred to in paragraph 3 would be put to full use in the review and appraisal mechanism to be established under the new international development strategy.

AGENDA ITEM 67: UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman (A/C.2/34/L.33)

29. Draft decision A/C.2/34/L.33 was approved without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 59: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(e) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued) (A/C.2/34/L.50)

30. Mr. FERNANDO (Sri Lanka), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.50, on the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to clarify the role and status of UNFPA within the United Nations system. UNFPA had become a fully viable entity within the system in the population field, owing in particular to its level of resources and its increasing assistance to the developing countries. It was felt, however, that steps should be taken to strengthen its role and functions so as to enable it to respond more effectively to changing demands. Those steps would include its full participation in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and an increase in the level of its resources. UNFPA would maintain its links with UNDP.

31. The delegations of Barbados, Benin, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Thailand and the Upper Volta had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.50. The delegations consulted by the sponsors had been unanimous in praising UNFPA and in supporting the proposal to strengthen it. The draft resolution reflected a variety of views and the many compromises made, and he hoped that members of the Committee would take into account the spirit of accommodation shown by the sponsors.

32. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Committee) said that in the French text of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the word "les" should be added before the word "accôtre".

33. Mr. LIFTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had some difficulty with paragraph 4 of the draft resolution and would like to have informal consultations with the sponsors.

34. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that a number of other delegations would welcome an opportunity to participate in such informal consultations. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution affirmed that UNFPA had been placed under the authority of the General Assembly by resolution 3019 (XXVII) and was a subsidiary organ of the Assembly. His delegation had doubts as to that interpretation of resolution 3019 (XXVII) and would like to hear the Legal Counsel's interpretation.

AGENDA ITEM 60: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (continued)

(b) CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONCERNING NATURAL RESOURCES SHARED BY TWO OR MORE STATES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
(A/C.2/34/L.24/Rev.1)

35. Ms. CROWENBERG-MOSSBERG (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.24/Rev.1, said that paragraph 1 should read: "... established under Governing Council decision 44 (III) ...". The draft resolution concerned the adoption of 15 principles for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States. Those principles had been drafted by a Working Group of Experts appointed by the Executive Director of UNEP pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII). The General Assembly had not taken a definite stand concerning the draft principles at its thirty-third session, on the grounds that the report of the Working Group, including the draft principles, needed more study by Governments. The report had therefore been transmitted to all States Members of the United Nations, with an invitation to submit comments thereon to the Executive Director of UNEP. All Governments had had almost a year to study the report and the principles; 34 had given their reactions. The General Assembly should therefore take a decision and adopt the principles.

36. The scope of the principles should not be confined to a narrow concept of environmental damage in the sense of damage caused to the ecological system, but should extend to the adverse economic effects in other States of the use of shared natural resources in one State. In other words, adverse economic effects should also be considered as adverse environmental effects.

37. The principles as a whole were to be regarded as guidelines and recommendations; they could not be binding under international law until they were incorporated in bilateral or multilateral treaties, conventions or other arrangements. Some of the principles, however, were already considered internationally binding according to customary or conventional law. The sponsors of the draft resolution felt strongly that the principles afforded a basis for negotiations among States on the preparation of treaties and conventions regarding the conservation and utilization of shared natural resources. The adoption of the principles should be regarded as a contribution to a bilateral, regional or international process through which they could be elaborated and further improved.

38. Paragraph 5 of the draft resolution made a suggestion concerning a study on the definition of shared natural resources. Although no absolute definition existed, there were in practice definitions emanating from concrete bilateral or

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(Ms. Cronenberg-Ilossberg, Sweden)

multilateral negotiations. With the adoption of the principles and their application in concrete negotiations, further definitions would emerge which should be of assistance in the efforts to establish a definition of shared natural resources.

39. The sponsors would like to hold informal consultations with interested delegations. They strongly urged the Committee to approve the draft resolution with a view to promoting the further development of international law related to the protection of the environment.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolutions on assistance to Guinea-Bissau (A/C.2/34/L.27) and assistance to Sao Tome and Principe (A/C.2/34/L.39)

40. Mr. ABDALLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), introducing draft resolutions A/C.2/34/L.27 and L.39, said that the delegation of the Ivory Coast had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.39. The delegations of the Central African Republic, Denmark, France, India, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia and Sweden had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.27. Paragraph 5 of the latter draft resolution should be replaced by a paragraph calling upon Member States and the United Nations bodies concerned to make special arrangements to assist Guinea-Bissau during the remainder of the Second United Nations Development Decade, pending the discussion of its situation by the Committee for Development Planning. Paragraph 6 should be replaced by a paragraph calling upon the Economic and Social Council to request the Committee for Development Planning to study the situation of Guinea-Bissau as a matter of priority and to include that country in the list of the least developed countries for the third United Nations development decade.

41. Mr. BARROS (Sao Tome and Principe) said that while it would be unrealistic to speak of global economic growth in Sao Tome and Principe, said that while it would be unrealistic to speak of global economic growth in Sao Tome and Principe, the results achieved so far were encouraging. His Government's primary concern was to ensure economic growth and comprehensive development.

42. His Government hoped that the lack of skilled personnel would shortly be overcome. The number of students enrolled in primary and secondary schools had steadily increased and many students were receiving higher education. Thanks to a nation-wide campaign, illiteracy was expected to be eradicated by the end of 1980.

43. Sao Tome and Principe gave special attention to agriculture. With the reorganization of the plantation sector, the production of export crops had begun to recover. That recovery had, however, been seriously affected by the prolonged drought in 1978. The reduction in the volume of exports, combined with the impact of global inflation and higher prices of petroleum products, had led to a substantial deficit in the trade balance. Unless there was a significant increase in international assistance, Sao Tome and Principe would face a deficit of over \$5 million in 1979.

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(Mr. Barros, Sao Tome and Principe)

44. In March 1979 there had been an outbreak of African swine pest. Since there was no known vaccine, the basic method of control was to slaughter and burn all infected animals and a significant proportion of the pig population had been destroyed. There would therefore be additional requirements for imported protein products.

45. Housing and urban development was an area of primary concern. His Government felt that as a first step towards meeting the serious housing shortage and solving urban development problems, comprehensive studies should be undertaken. To that end, an action programme covering technical, financial, social and organizational aspects was required. Given the country's geographic isolation, the communication and transport sector received the Government's greatest attention. A feasibility study had been done on the resurfacing and lengthening of the airport runway to 2,850 metres, which would enable the airport to receive long-range aircraft, thus reducing the country's isolation. Capital financing estimated at \$6 million was still required.

46. His Government had taken necessary measures to provide free medical care. Despite the favourable response of some Member States to the appeals made in General Assembly resolutions on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe, more assistance was still needed in the field of health. Some progress had been made in respect of social development. However, a complete solution to the unemployment problem would depend on the Government's success in implementing development programmes requiring more resources than were available. A welfare system had been established to provide for employed persons after retirement. Other sectors on which delegations might wish information were covered in the Secretary-General's report on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe (A/34/371).

47. His Government was grateful to Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations for the assistance they were rendering and requested them to increase that assistance to the extent possible. It was also grateful to the Secretary-General and his associates for their efforts in mobilizing assistance. It felt that the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.39 would be a valuable contribution to its fight against under-development.

Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.54

48. The CHAIRMAN announced that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Argentina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya and Yugoslavia.

49. Mr. VIRCELES (Philippines), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the word "appropriate" in paragraph 2 should be deleted.

50. Under its statutes, the fundamental aim of the World Tourism Organization was to promote and develop tourism, and, in that process, to pay particular attention to the interests of developing countries in the field of tourism. To a certain extent, the World Tourism Organization had fulfilled its mandate, and its

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(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

achievements had been recognized by the General Assembly in resolutions 32/157 and 33/122. The report prepared by the World Tourism Organization in response to the latter resolution (E/1979/99) contained its programme of work, which covered a wide range of activities and demonstrated the organization's viability.

51. That report did, however, indicate that international tourism was directed primarily towards a small number of traditional destinations, predominantly in developed countries. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution therefore stressed the need to accelerate the development of tourism in developing countries. With regard to paragraph 2, he said that only a tiny proportion of the colossal revenue from international tourism went to developing countries, and there was clearly a need to rectify that situation. The purpose of paragraph 3 was to promote broader membership in the World Tourism Organization; only 112 of the 152 States Members of the United Nations were members of WTO. The sponsors hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/34/54 would be approved by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.55

52. The CHAIRMAN announced that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Iraq, Qatar and Yemen.

53. Mr. GORDAH (Tunisia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that it expressed satisfaction with the appointment by the Secretary-General of a co-ordinator to assist the Government of Lebanon in the assessment, formulation and phasing of aid and to ensure its implementation. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to reiterate the appeal made to Governments in General Assembly resolution 33/146 to contribute to the reconstruction of Lebanon, a huge task which the Lebanese Government could not handle alone. The sponsors were convinced that the international community would not fail to extend to Lebanon, a country of peace and cradle of humanity, its sympathy and active support, and they therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be approved by consensus.

54. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that his delegation was a sponsor of the draft resolution. The need for assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon required no emphasis. For years, the people of that country had suffered from the ravages of a cruel war. Their fortitude and determination in the face of the task of reconstructing their country demanded that the international community should do everything possible to continue its assistance for that task.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

55. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said, with reference to agenda item 62, that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/431, the General Assembly was to perform the functions of the Board of Governors of the Special Fund pending subsequent consideration of the question by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. If a decision was not taken soon, the status of the Special Fund would become a problem. He urged that that question be given prompt consideration.

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56. He drew attention to Conference Room Paper No. 2, on the calendar of meetings, which was being submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/56, in which the Secretariat had been urged to play a more active role in advising bodies on means to limit meeting records and documentation. The document was meant to provide an over-all picture of meetings to be held in 1980 on economic and social matters. The tentative weekly breakdown of meetings of bodies involved in economic and social matters in annex II made it clear the workload for 1980 was very heavy. When approving draft resolutions, the Committee should be aware of that situation, so that it could take steps to reduce the workload. The information in the document could also assist the Committee in determining practicable reporting procedures. He wished to stress that the inclusion in the document of bodies the establishment of which was still under consideration, and even the dates suggested for other organs, did not involve an expression of judgement on the part of the Secretariat concerning the proposals in question.

57. The Fifth Committee had requested all Committees to exercise restraint in requiring new documents. Analysis of the texts of formal and informal proposals before the Second Committee indicated that 42 new documents had already been proposed for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a further 8 for the thirty-sixth session and 1 for the thirty-seventh session. Inasmuch as the Second Committee was expected to receive, in any case, at least 25 documents in accordance with previous decisions, if all these new proposals were to be approved, some 70 documents would have to be prepared for the thirty-fifth session. Such a situation would clearly not facilitate the reduction of documentation. He therefore suggested that the Committee should give careful consideration to the following suggestions when engaging in informal consultations on draft resolutions. The number of documents should be maintained at a reasonable level; the number of documents to be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly should be reduced; and reports on subjects within the jurisdiction of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly should be submitted to their governing bodies. In that way, the volume of documentation of the Assembly would be reduced and the timeliness and quality of documents ensured.

58. The CHAIRMAN urged members of the Committee to comply with the procedure outlined by the President of the General Assembly at the sixty-ninth plenary meeting with regard to punctual arrival at meetings and presence during the voting.

59. Mr. RAY (India), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, proposed that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions under agenda items 55 (h), 59 and 60 should be extended to Monday, 26 November 1979.

60. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.