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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 24 July 1979, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MAVROMMATIS

(Cyprus)

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GE.79-63015

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

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (item 9 of the Council's agenda) (continued) (E/1979/38; E/1979/104; E/1979/C.1/L.6)

1. Mr. DOH (Observer for the Ivory Coast), introducing draft resolution E/1978/C.1/L.6 on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the operations of transnational corporations were of vital importance to the development of the developing countries. In its preamble the draft resolution recalled the relevant discussions, resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Council on that topic, including the establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct and of the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments. Although there was clearly a close link between the activities of the Working Group and those of the Committee, the draft resolution, in its operative part, gave priority to the establishment of a code of conduct.

2. Operative paragraphs 4 and 5 reflected the sponsor's endorsement of the idea that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct should hold three more sessions before the sixth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, that the Group's eighth session should be held before the General Assembly's thirty-fourth session, and that the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments should hold at least two further sessions and should report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its sixth session and to the Council at its second regular session of 1980. With regard to the recommendations in operative paragraph 6, the sponsors felt that a United Nations negotiating conference should examine the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group and of the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments, with a view to reaching agreement. The word "an", which appeared before the word "agreement" in operative paragraph 6, should be deleted, and the corresponding amendment made to the French text.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA (item 11 of the Council's agenda) (continued) (E/1979/77; E/1979/C.1/L.4)

3. Mr. DOH (Observer for the Ivory Coast), introducing draft resolution E/1979/C.1/L.4 on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the African countries, on the initiative of ECA and the Organization of African Unity, were steadily developing the continent's road and rail networks. The matter had been before the United Nations for some considerable time. At the fourteenth session of ECA, in March 1979, the Commission's member States had been urged to participate effectively in the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which had been held in May 1979 for the purpose of reviewing and adopting the programme for the first phase of the Decade. The cost of that phase, originally estimated at some \$US 8 billion, would have to be reviewed in the light of actual progress made.

4. As reflected in the operative part of the draft resolution, the Group of 77 noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General was organizing a pledging conference of donors in November 1979, with a view to mobilizing the financial resources necessary for implementing the programme of the first phase of the Decade, and it invited all Member States, and all international, multinational and African regional banking and financial institutions, to participate positively in the pledging conference. At the same time, the Group of 77 called upon all appropriate United Nations agencies and organs to continue to give material and technical support to ECA for the implementation of the programme of action for the Decade and it requested the Secretary-General to organize biennially a pledging conference for the provision of additional resources for implementation of the plan of action for the Decade.

5. The final operative paragraph reflected the view of the Group of 77 that ECA should be provided with the necessary resources to enable it to play its role effectively as the lead agency for the Decade. It was hoped that the more developed countries of all regions would respond favourably.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION (item 17 of the Council's agenda) (continued)
(A/34/L.16; E/1979/82; E/1979/C.1/L.5)

6. Mr. DOH (Observer for the Ivory Coast), introducing draft resolution E/1979/C.1/L.5 on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the latter was constantly concerned about the need for increased co-operation in industrial development.

7. The preambular part of the draft resolution recorded previous decisions and resolutions on the subject within the United Nations system and stressed the need to accelerate measures aimed at co-operation, particularly those set forth in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. In the operative part, the sponsors invited all States which had not yet done so to sign, ratify or approve the constitution of UNIDO as a specialized agency; they stressed the need for all Member States to take an active part in the Third General Conference of UNIDO, to be held to review progress in the implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action and to adopt appropriate policies and programmes for further industrial development in the 1980s and beyond. The sponsors also urged all countries, in particular the developed countries, to contribute to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund or to raise their contributions thereto, taking into account the need for maximum flexibility, with a view to reaching the agreed annual target of \$50 million. Operative paragraphs 5 and 6 reflected respectively the importance attached by the sponsors to the establishment of the Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) and their appreciation of the report on Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers. In operative paragraph 7, the sponsors emphasized the importance of maintaining the momentum, quality and growth of UNIDO's programme of technical assistance and accordingly recommended to the General Assembly that adequate additional resources should be provided in the programme budget for 1980-1981.

NATURAL RESOURCES (item 15 of the Council's agenda) (continued)
(E/1979/39; E/1979/69; E/1979/91; E/1979/93; E/1979/98; DP/368; E/1979/C.1/L.3)

8. Mr. HERRERA VEGAS (Argentina) introduced document E/1979/C.1/L.3, proposing a draft amendment to replace operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution III which the Committee on Natural Resources, at its third special session, had recommended for adoption by the Council. In the Spanish text of the draft amendment, the word "elaboren" should be followed by the words "cuando corresponda" and the corresponding insertion in the English text should be "where appropriate".
9. It had been felt that the regional commissions undertaking water-related activities should be referred to specifically, because of the importance attached to those bodies in the Mar del Plata Action Plan. It was also felt that the expression "existing arrangements" in operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution III should be amended to "necessary arrangements", because the arrangements in question did not yet exist.
10. Mr. KOSSAR (Iran) said that Iran attached particular importance to the question of water resources and to implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. While international technical co-operation was of the highest importance in water resources development, responsibility for implementing the Plan fell primarily on individual Governments - a view reflected in draft resolution IV proposed by the Committee on Natural Resources.
11. The development of water resources was of paramount importance to Iran because of its influence on agricultural self-sufficiency and the improvement of rural living standards. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade would remain merely another pious statement of intent unless individual Governments and the international community as a whole made serious efforts to achieve the objectives set for 1990.
12. During the general debate, many delegations, including his own, had stated their views on the question of energy. Iran was acutely aware of the developing countries' energy problems and had demonstrated its will to deal with them constructively. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would provide further impetus to the development of non-depletable energy resources and therefore deserved the international community's fullest support. His delegation had studied the progress report by the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, and had noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the preparatory work.
13. Although his delegation agreed in general with the conclusions reached at the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, it failed to see why the General Assembly should be invited to consider designating that Committee as the preparatory body for the Conference. Moreover, the suggestion that the Committee should serve as the central forum of the United Nations system for energy matters was somewhat surprising, for in his opinion the Committee had neither the competence nor any mandate from Member States for such a role.

14. His Government was willing to consider the question of energy in conjunction with other problems facing developing countries, but energy problems, like monetary, and financial issues and questions of technology, industrialization and transfer of resources, were inseparable aspects of the present structural imbalance in international economic relations, which had to be faced as a whole.

15. Mr. FONTAINE (Cuba) said that his delegation was concerned that, two years after the adoption of the Mar del Plata Action Plan on integrated water resources development and management, results were not encouraging. The Council should take action for the speedy implementation of the measures set forth in the Action Plan, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Natural Resources at its third special session. His delegation regretted the lack of a quorum at the Committee's sixth regular session, which had prevented the adoption of specific resolutions, and hoped that steps would be taken to avoid a recurrence of that situation. He welcomed the suggestion that the Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations, should be made responsible for preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

16. The claim by some developed capitalist countries that the results of the Conference would benefit the non-oil-producing developing countries in particular was unfounded; the main beneficiaries would be the large energy consumers which had the necessary scientific and technological resources. The benefits to be obtained by the developing countries would depend largely on the strengthening of their technological capacity as a result of the current negotiations on the adoption of codes of conduct for the transfer of technology and for transnational corporations and on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

17. The energy problem had become an important subject of debate in international economic relations. It could hardly be said that the increase in oil prices did not affect the non-oil-producing developing countries, but to blame the so-called energy crisis for the present worsening of the economic situation of those countries was a device designed to undermine the unity of the developing countries. The truth was that the economic recession, inflation, the fall in the United States dollar and the deterioration in the terms of trade had all preceded the rise in oil prices, which had been used to justify the rise in the price of manufactures which the developed capitalist countries supplied to the developing countries. The excessive increase in the prices of manufactured goods and the increasingly protectionist measures adopted by the main capitalist developed countries had two distinct objectives: to guarantee the super-profits of their transnational corporations, passing on the effects of the economic crisis caused by their own social and economic structure to the developing countries, especially the non-oil-producing ones; and to create conflict among the developing countries by using the economic crisis to claim that the problem could be solved by improving the economic situation of the non-oil-producing developing countries.

18. If the capitalist countries as a whole played their part in official development aid, showed the political will to conclude codes of conduct on the transfer of technology and on transnational corporations, accepted regulation of the world monetary system and showed flexibility in negotiations on the Common Fund and in concrete measures to implement the New International Economic Order, there would be grounds for believing that they were interested in co-operating to solve the developing countries' problems, especially those of the non-oil-producing developing countries. Some of the oil-producing developing countries were showing

encouraging signs of solidarity and co-operation with the other developing countries. The problem of co-operation among the developing countries, including the energy problem, was a matter strictly within their own competence. When the major developed capitalist countries had met in Tokyo to deal with their own energy problems, there had been no interference by other groups. In the same way, the developed countries should not interfere in matters that were the concern of the developing countries.

19. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Mexico) said that the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources had shown the benefits of holding meetings away from headquarters, but it had also shown the need for adequate preparation and proper scheduling.

20. Paragraph 24 of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its sixth session (E/1979/69) outlined the views of various delegations on methods of dealing with the energy problem. His delegations' view, as stated at the plenary meeting, was that all countries, consumer, producer, potential producer or exporter, should assume joint responsibility so that the forum at which the global energy question was considered would be truly universal. Discussions should take place in the context of the establishment of the New International Economic Order and should cover all aspects - production, consumption, marketing, transport, finance and technology. It was essential to establish a global energy policy and the General Assembly should adopt the necessary decisions. The President of his country had already announced his intention of attending the next session of the General Assembly with that in mind. The suggestions put forward in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources should be carefully studied by Governments so that the General Assembly could take decisions on global action.

21. With regard to the action recommended by the Committee, his delegation considered that the reports referred to in paragraph 35 of the report should include conventional and non-conventional and renewable and non-renewable sources of energy.

22. A number of delegations, mainly from the developed countries had attributed the worsening of the world economic crisis to the oil problem. In his delegation's view, the general deterioration in the terms of trade, lack of access for the developing countries' manufactured goods to the developed countries' markets, the problems of monetary instability and transfer of local resources, and the whole problem of international economic relations, were all symptoms of the present crisis. He re-emphasized that energy problems must be studied in a global context in the framework of the New International Economic Order.

23. His delegation welcomed the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy as set forth in the Secretary-General's progress report (E/1979/98). The next step should be to ask for support and co-operation from all the organizations in the United Nations system during the preparatory phase. With regard to the suggestion that the Committee on Natural Resources should be responsible for the preparations for the Conference, he felt that a limited body such as the Committee would not be appropriate and that a special intergovernmental preparatory committee should be established, in accordance with operative paragraph (8) of General Assembly resolution 33/148.

24. His delegation welcomed the World Bank's Study (E/1979/93) although its conclusions were limited to oil and natural gas. Moreover, energy should not be considered in isolation; it was one of many factors in the national economy and was therefore part of each country's economic and social planning and programming. He hoped, therefore, that in assisting the developing countries, the World Bank would concentrate on promoting all energy resources, bearing in mind the economic and social planning structure of each country, its national development needs and its people's wishes.

25. Mr. DAVENPORT (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, said that the Community welcomed the progress that had been made, after earlier disappointing delays, in preparatory work for the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to which it attached great importance. It also welcomed the establishment of an internal Secretariat Co-ordinating Committee to guide preparations, and the decision to set up a Secretariat task force. He hoped that the complexity of Secretariat arrangements would not prevent effective decision-making but would make for enhanced efficiency. As stated in paragraph 5(e) of the statement on the administrative and financial implications of the Conference (A/C.5/33/109) substantive support for the Conference preparations should be based around the existing capabilities of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport.

26. The Community urged all Governments to respond to the Secretary-General's request to nominate their experts for the technical panels, which would be of vital importance in the preparatory process and should be in a position to begin work at the earliest possible date. Pending progress on restructuring in the Economic and Social Council, the Community considered that the Committee on Natural Resources should be designated as the intergovernmental preparatory body and that for that purpose, it should be open to participation by all States as full members.

27. The general debate had amply confirmed the gravity of the energy problem confronting the entire international community. Without energy, growth and development were impossible; indeed, economic and energy policies were inseparable. There was growing awareness of the urgent need to conserve existing supplies, which were insufficient to meet ever-growing demand, and to develop new and renewable sources of energy to meet future requirements, especially those of the developing countries.

28. The European Council had recently committed itself to the development of indigenous production and the progressive use of alternative energy sources, and to the further strengthening of energy-saving measures. The Community accordingly welcomed the agreement reached at the Tokyo Conference on effective conservation measures, its recognition of the fact that new technologies were the key to long-term freedom from fuel crises, and the emphasis it had placed on helping developing countries to exploit their energy potential. The effects of scarce and more expensive supplies upon the latter could place all their prospects for growth and development in jeopardy. It was in those countries,

and particularly the non-oil producers among them, that the need to develop new and renewable sources of energy was most acutely felt, but they were also the countries with the greatest potential for development, since the new sources could often utilize natural and climatic conditions without requiring large capital resources. For that reason, the Community considered that the Conference could be of immediate and direct benefit to the developing countries in particular, and it had been happy to join in the decisions taken at Tokyo in support of the World Bank's programme for hydrocarbon exploitation. The Community had also been happy to join in a decision to do more to help the developing countries to increase their use of renewable sources of energy.

29. The basis of the Community's consistent support for the forthcoming Conference was the belief that it would provide an opportunity to discuss and take action on a problem which was of common interest to all countries and whose solution required the widest possible international co-operation. The European Community and its Member States would contribute positively and constructively to the common effort.

30. The Community had noted with particular interest the Secretary-General's reference at the current session of the Council to his earlier proposal concerning an International Energy Institute. The proposal for promoting international co-operation in the field of energy and research and development and diversification of energy resources was very interesting and the Community would give it the closest attention.

31. Mr. REGUIEG (Algeria) said that any real political will to grapple with the development problem must recognize the central importance of the implications of rational management of scarce resources. It was on that basis that the United Nations had proclaimed the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources in order to enable the developing countries to make full use of them for their national development. It was therefore important that, in its work, the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport should continue to abide strictly by that principle, which was an act of development in itself.

32. His delegation supported the four draft resolutions in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its sixth session (E/1979/69). He wished, however, to make the point that the Committee should deal with natural resources as a whole, and in a balanced way, and not give special status to any one of them to the detriment of others, whatever its importance in current economic circumstances. The mobilization by developing countries of their natural resources - in some cases the only ones at their disposal - should not result in their being held responsible for the imbalances, injustices and crises of the present international economic system, whose structures and mechanisms must necessarily be changed to conform with the objectives of the New International Economic Order accepted by the international community. The policy of the OPEC countries was very much in line with third-world concerns. It was a striking illustration of the potentialities of producers' associations as a means of protecting the purchasing power of their members. There was no justification whatever for the attitude of those who sought, in vain, to divide the third world.

33. His delegation attached great importance to the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which should aim primarily at meeting the particular needs of the developing countries. He was pleased to note that the Conference secretariat had initiated preparations by drawing up a precise time-table for the technical panels. Operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 33/148 limited the scope of the Conference to new and renewable sources of energy, and consequently excluded other sources from its purview. General Assembly resolution 33/4 dealt with the convening of a conference on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, thus expressing the common view of the international community as a whole. It would be premature to take a decision on the proposal to establish an advisory group on energy resources before the conclusions of the Conference became available.

34. His delegation supported the draft resolutions relating to follow-up action to the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third special session (E/1979/39).

35. His Government continued to view with grave concern the plundering of natural resources by transnational corporations, particularly in Namibia, in spite of the decree passed by the United Nations Council for Namibia which provided for their protection until such time as real national independence was achieved and for sanctions against offenders.

36. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) observed that the work of the Committee on Natural Resources was clearly relevant to preparations for the Conference. His delegation supported the Committee's recommendation, in the report on its third special session (E/1979/39), that the General Assembly should formally launch the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and felt that co-operation between the regional commissions concerned and UNDP resident representatives could make a useful contribution to the national reports to be submitted to the high-level meeting which was to mark that occasion. As to follow-up action to the Mar del Plata Action Plan, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was considering the possibility of establishing a regional water council, and the water resources unit of ECWA should be correspondingly strengthened in manpower and financial resources.

37. It was regrettable that no quorum had been achieved at the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources. Although it was, perhaps, inevitable, in the circumstances, that the Committee's conclusions had come before the Council for action, that procedure should not set a precedent, particularly as the matters upon which action was required were of a technical nature and called for careful consideration.

38. His delegation did not agree with the view expressed at the sixth session that the Committee on Natural Resources should create appropriate machinery to consider the global energy situation. His delegation wished to repeat that it was willing to discuss energy only in conjunction with other major economic issues, and not in isolation from them. He did not think that the Committee on Natural Resources had the mandate to become the forum for energy questions, as some delegations wished. Such a course could only give rise to difficulty and adversely affect its work programme.

39. While noting the decision of the Committee on Natural Resources at its sixth session to invite the General Assembly to designate it as the preparatory body for the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, his delegation considered that the General Assembly should have a free hand in that matter. His preference was for a preparatory committee composed of all Member States, which could, if it so wished, draw on the services and expertise of the Centre for Natural Resources. Preparations for the Conference should be kept apart from the work of other United Nations bodies, even such bodies as the Committee on Natural Resources, which had played an important part in initiating the Conference.

40. His delegation reiterated its opposition to any attempt to introduce new subjects outside the scope of the Conference as defined in General Assembly resolution 33/148.

41. Miss SCHAUDINN (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to the objectives of the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and its pledge to co-operate fully in preparation for it. New sources of energy had been included in UNESCO's programme for many years; it had organized an international symposium on wind and solar energy as early as 1954. A number of resolutions of the General Conference over the past 15 years had invited the Director-General to promote international co-operation in energy research and training and to strengthen the Organization's programmes relating to new and renewable sources of energy. A number of activities - scientific meetings, post-graduate courses, support for regional research programmes and centres, publications of studies and guidebooks - were included in the UNESCO programme and budget for 1979-1980, some of which had been conceived as a contribution to preparations for the Conference. The second International Forum on Fundamental World Energy Problems recently held in Spain could be regarded as a preparatory meeting for the Conference, since its main objective was to clarify the prospects of solar and fusion energy utilization. Its results would be submitted to the Preparatory Committee as a working document. An expert meeting to advise UNESCO on long-term energy programmes, which was to be held in December, could also contribute to the Conference. UNESCO had also offered to act as host in Paris to the meeting of the technical panel on solar energy.

42. In response to General Assembly resolution 33/148, the Executive Board of UNESCO had invited the Director-General to take all necessary measures to ensure UNESCO's full and active participation in preparations for the Conference, and to co-operate with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in that connexion. It had requested the Director-General to include in the draft programme and budget for 1981-1983 provisions for the participation of UNESCO in the Conference and in the implementation of its recommendations. UNESCO was prepared to participate actively in the Conference and to make available the results of its activities in the energy field.

43. Mr. WASHBURN (United States of America) confirmed his Government's belief in the extreme importance of the Conference and its hope that the outcome would be constructive. The Conference could not be expected to solve the problems facing the world community, but he hoped that it would produce important results in the

field of new and renewable sources of energy and appropriate and small-scale technology, and give a needed impetus to energy activities in general. He expressed particular appreciation to the delegation of Kenya for its active support for the Conference.

44. His delegation supported the offer made by the Committee on Natural Resources to serve as the preparatory body, with open-ended membership, for the Conference - a role for which it was particularly well suited because of its familiarity with the subject.

45. Administrative and technical preparations for the Conference were progressing very slowly and his delegation regretted the delay in establishing the technical panels, which could make an extremely important contribution. He noted that some of the Conference staff had already been appointed and hoped that the remaining positions would be filled without delay. It was important that the staff should have the necessary technical competence and that they should begin work as soon as possible. He welcomed the establishment of a steering committee to provide over-all guidance, orientation and co-ordination of contributions from the relevant secretariats of the United Nations system to the preparations for the Conference, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/148, and the decision to set up a task force to that end. His delegation regarded it as extremely important that the Secretariat's role in preparations should be carried out "in close collaboration with the designated substantive department or office", as specified in bulletin ST/SGB/160.

46. Strong support for the Conference had been pledged by the United States Secretary of State, who had affirmed his Government's direct interest in helping developing countries to devise effective energy policies and obtain the necessary financing. The importance his Government attached to the Conference had found further expression in Resolution 21 passed by consensus by the United States Senate, which expressed willingness to co-operate in the Conference and its preparations.

47. Mr. WEITZ (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that his organization had had the opportunity to express its views on the proposed United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy when General Assembly resolution 33/148 had been adopted. FAO's concept of its responsibilities and its desire to co-operate fully remained unchanged. The first interagency meeting had been very useful in that it had enabled a number of mutual responsibilities to be outlined. His organization looked forward to further information from the appropriate United Nations authorities regarding its co-operation and would welcome an early opportunity to discuss practical steps concerning its assistance in preparing both the technical background and policy alternatives for the consideration of Governments at the Conference. It was generally agreed that the Conference was an important challenge to the United Nations system and his organization shared the view that its outcome would be of significance for development activities throughout the world. FAO was ready to fulfil its role to the utmost of its capacity and looked forward to the closest co-operation with the United Nations in that respect.

48. Mrs. SIKRI (India) said that the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy could make a major contribution to the future orientation of research and development relating to new sources of energy, which would constitute a critical input for the development and economic growth of nations. Since energy consumption, which was more responsive to economic activity than to price mechanisms, was expected to grow at a faster rate in the developing than in the developed countries, the exploration and development of new and renewable sources of energy relevant to developing countries' requirements was essential.

49. It was particularly important that preparations for the Conference should be undertaken on as wide a scale as possible. That concern, which was shared by all developing countries, was reflected in the Colombo Declaration adopted in June 1979 by the Foreign Ministers of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries. In view of the need to focus attention on the development and transfer of technology suitable for the specific requirements of developing countries, it would be necessary for those countries to be adequately represented in the technical panels to be set up as part of the preparatory process.

50. Her delegation, which was disappointed at the slow progress made thus far in the preparations for the Conference, supported the draft resolution transmitted to the Council by the Committee on Natural Resources which invited the General Assembly to consider designating that Committee as the intergovernmental preparatory body for the Conference, and it agreed that the Committee should function as an open-ended body for that purpose. Such a decision would facilitate and accelerate the preparatory work through the creation of appropriate machinery.

51. In conclusion, she stressed the need for active participation and co-operation by all States Members of the United Nations in the preparations for, and successful conclusion of, the Conference. The Government and people of India would contribute to the best of their ability to the achievement of those ends.

52. Mr. OKVARO (Observer for Kenya) said that his delegation was glad to note that preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy appeared to be gathering the necessary momentum. His delegation welcomed the establishment of an internal Secretariat Co-ordinating Committee and the creation of a Task Force representative of the membership of that Committee. Co-ordination and co-operation with the various agencies whose activities were relevant to the Conference would also need to be intensified in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 33/148. His delegation now expected the Secretary-General of the Conference to proceed speedily with the appointment of experts to the technical panels, in consultation with member Governments and taking into account both the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the expertise of the individuals appointed. The fullest possible use should be made of the experts already available at the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport. National, regional and subregional preparations for the Conference should also be started.

53. The Conference would not be an end in itself but a first step towards solving present and future problems relating to world energy requirements. His delegation hoped, in particular, that the Conference would contribute to the development of complementary sources of energy for countries that were currently producing conventional sources. It also hoped that a comprehensive report on non-commercial energy would be made available to both the Conference itself and the panels of experts.

54. He supported draft resolution II recommended by the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources concerning the designation of that Committee as the intergovernmental preparatory body for the Conference, to be open for that purpose to participation of all States as full members.

55. When the Conference had been discussed by the Committee on Natural Resources at its sixth session, his delegation had indicated that the Government of Kenya might be interested in hosting the Conference. That question was still under serious consideration by his Government, which might make a final announcement at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

56. Mr. CHANDLER (Barbados) said that the question of energy had been of major concern to many Governments of both developed and developing countries since 1973. For the non-oil-exporting developing countries, however, there was a particularly urgent need to find ways and means of relieving national budgets of the burden entailed by the high cost of imported petroleum and countering the threat which such a situation represented for development programmes. Many of those countries had been forced to consider the possibility both of tapping what limited petroleum resources they might possess and of developing alternative sources of energy. His Government was among those which had started to develop a comprehensive programme of energy suitable to its needs and requirements, even though it was fully aware of the high cost of such programmes. Consequently, his country attached particular importance to the work of the United Nations bodies whose terms of reference included the provision of technical and financial assistance to developing countries in their efforts to set on foot an energy programme. In that context, his delegation welcomed the study prepared by the World Bank in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/194 (E/1979/95) and had taken note of the Bank's decision to expand its programme of assistance in the area of energy exploration and exploitation.

57. His delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 33/148 because it believed that the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy could make a major contribution to the elaboration of measures for concerted action designed to promote the development and utilization of such sources of energy, thus enabling developing countries to achieve some of their energy objectives. His Government, which intended to participate actively in the Conference, welcomed the progress report of the Secretary-General (E/1979/98) and hoped that every effort would continue to be made to ensure that preparations for the Conference were adequate. Barbados was one of the countries that had responded to the Secretary-General's note verbale inviting Governments to nominate experts for any of the eight technical panels to be convened and his delegation hoped that other countries would take advantage of the extension of the deadline for submission of nominations and respond positively to the Secretary-General's invitation.

58. Finally, his delegation supported draft resolution II in the report of the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources on its work at the sixth session (E/1979/69), on the understanding that the Committee, in its capacity as the intergovernmental preparatory body for the Conference, would be open to participation of all States as full members and that all its meetings would be held in New York.

59. Mrs. CRONENBERG-MOSSBERG (Sweden) said that, in view of the vital nature of the issues to be considered at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, her Government had established a national preparatory committee for the Conference, under the chairmanship of the Swedish Minister of Energy and with broad membership covering various sectors of economic and scientific activity.

60. Mr. GHERAB (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy) assured the Committee of his determination to respect the various deadlines set and to lay a proper foundation for the success of the Conference, with the support of Governments and the other organizations concerned.

61. Mr. BAUM (Director, Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport) said that many of the comments made by delegations during the discussion would be taken into account by the Secretariat in its future work. In view of the fact that there had not been a quorum at the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, held at Istanbul, the Secretariat would have to try to arrange for future regular sessions to be held either in New York or at Geneva.

62. Referring to a comment made during the course of the discussion concerning the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee on Natural Resources, he said that the Committee's terms of reference permitted it to pursue consideration of all aspects of transfer of technology in the field of natural resources. The Secretariat would continue to endeavour to provide all the necessary documentation and information in that area.

63. Mr. VELLOSO (Brazil) said that it would be useful if the statement made by the Secretary-General of the Conference at the Committee's previous meeting could be made available to delegations.

64. Mr. VORONIN (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretary-General of the Conference had arranged for his statement to be issued to Committee members in French and English.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.