

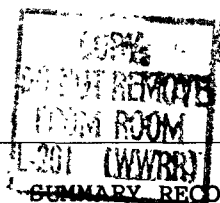
*United Nations*  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

*Official Records\**



SECOND COMMITTEE  
27th meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 3 November 1983  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

**CONTENTS**

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

UN LIBRARY

UN/SA COLLECTION

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2 750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

**Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.2/38/SR.27  
7 November 1983**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/38/3 (Parts I and II), 106, 132 and Corr.1 and 2, 297, 325, 479, 494 and Corr.1, 537; (a) A/38/421; (b) A/38/176; (c) A/38/236; (d) A/38/207; (e) A/38/265, 282; (f) A/38/275; (g) A/38/259, 263; (h) A/38/264 and Add.1; (i) A/38/505 and Add.1; (k) A/38/512; E/1983/91 and Corr.1; (m) A/38/498; E/1983/71; (n) A/38/190; (o) A/38/182; (p) E/1983/17/Rev.1; (q) E/1983/70; (r) A/38/374).

1. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that the representative of Pakistan had requested a progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/137, in which the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare a consolidated list of products whose consumption or sale had been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or, in the case of pharmaceuticals, not approved. The list was to be based on information available within the United Nations system as well as information supplied by Governments, so that it could still be prepared even if there was no response from the latter.

2. The Secretariat had first consulted the United Nations bodies concerned and collected the relevant available information, primarily from WHO, UNEP's International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. A note verbale, together with a preliminary list based on the information received from organizations, had then been sent to Governments on 10 May 1983 requesting them to supply additional information. The project was a vast one involving thousands of chemical and pharmaceutical products and the problem was to identify those which were relevant to the resolution. The initial list of over 200 chemicals had been reduced to 42. The list also contained 92 pharmaceutical products.

3. So far, 25 Governments had replied to the note verbale, but they did not include all the major exporting countries. It had been difficult for Governments to meet the deadline of 15 July set for replies, since various ministries were involved. A first list based on information from both specialized agencies and Governments was in an advanced stage of preparation and the English version was expected to be ready by the end of 1983. The other language versions would appear soon afterwards. The list would then be transmitted directly to Governments. In view of the speed of new developments, the list could never be perfect, and there would have to be a system for updating it. The list would therefore benefit from further exchanges with Governments.

4. With regard to the contents of the list, the information on pharmaceutical products provided by WHO had been supplied to that organization by Governments and had already been published in its Drug Information Bulletins and Circulars over several years. The information on pesticides and industrial and other chemicals obtained from the legal files of UNEP's International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals had likewise been supplied by Governments. Additional information on all those categories of products and on some consumer goods had been taken from replies to the note verbale. In those replies, several Governments had underlined the difficulties involved in preparing a list of the type requested and had indicated a

/...

(Mr. Hansen)

need for more consultations on the subject. Those problems would be discussed when the first consolidated list had been issued.

5. Some information on brand names and manufacturers had been provided by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and by Governments, but that information was still incomplete, particularly in respect of pharmaceuticals. The list would therefore probably only contain some information concerning pesticides and other chemicals. As far as future issues of the list were concerned, additional information would be required to make them as representative as possible of manufacturers involved in the world-wide production and sale of specific products.

6. It was clearly possible to produce the list without the assistance of Governments, but the result would be rather ineffectual. In order to enable the list to serve the purposes of General Assembly resolution 37/137, it was hoped that all Governments would supply the necessary information.

7. With respect to the General Assembly's decision to keep under review the format of the consolidated list with a view to its possible improvement, such a review could be undertaken at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the basis of the first edition of the list, updated to include any additional information available by then.

8. Mr. PESHKOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said the results of the work of the Economic and Social Council showed that international economic relations were continuing to suffer as a result of imperialist policies. The Council's report indicated that many delegations at its second regular session had expressed disappointment at the lack of progress towards arms limitation, concern that there was as yet no evidence that protectionist measures were being rolled back and insistence on the need to consider the possibility of substantial international monetary reform, to begin global negotiations and to complete work on the code of conduct for transnational corporations. However, fundamental economic problems had not received sufficient emphasis in the Council's resolutions. That was particularly apparent where the activities of the World Bank, IMF and other international financial institutions were concerned.

9. One of the difficulties complicating the solution of other international economic problems was the procrastination over the code of conduct for transnational corporations. Adoption of a positive decision on that problem had been prevented by a number of Western countries, whose attitude derived from their policy of supporting their monopolies to the detriment of other countries. His delegation supported the compromise package proposal put forward by the Chairman of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

10. There were many major problems requiring the Council's attention. Data on the scale of the crisis in the world capitalist economy showed that there had been no growth in world industrial production in 1982 and that the volume of world trade had decreased by 1 to 2 per cent. The causes underlying the crisis were to be found in the developed capitalist countries, primarily the United States of America, whose relations with the developing countries had served to spread the

/...

(Mr. Peshkov, Byelorussian SSR)

crisis. Delegations of socialist countries, in their joint statement contained in document A/38/479, had advocated the strengthening of confidence in economic relations between States and the expansion of business-like co-operation without any kind of discrimination in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, science and technology. In that way, States Members of the United Nations could check the destructive effects of United States policies on international economic relations.

11. The Council had taken a number of decisions on such subjects as the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, food problems, assistance to the Palestinian people and condemnation of the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia. His delegation was wholly with those who advocated guaranteeing the legitimate rights of all peoples and supporting those peoples still having to fight for freedom and independence or repel the onslaught of imperialist forces.

12. With reference to the Council's resolution 1983/61 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries, he emphasized the importance of that sector's role in protecting the economic interests of developing countries against the encroachments of foreign private capital and Western transnational corporations. The role of the public sector was inseparable from the developing countries' efforts to restructure international economic relations, and the Council should consider that relationship more carefully, possibly through a study based on official government information.

13. The Council must pay particular attention to the factors preventing implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and above all to the connection between disarmament and development. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries were proposing that States with major military resources should agree to freeze their military expenditures and then make relative or absolute reductions in them, so that the resources thus freed could be used for economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries. Such an agreement would be a substantial contribution both to disarmament and to development.

14. The state of international economic relations was such that the Council must evaluate the factors influencing the world economy in greater depth and analyse in detail the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the establishment of a new international economic order. Like other United Nations economic organs, the Council should concentrate on promoting the development of equitable and mutually beneficial trade and economic relations among all States, regardless of differences in their socio-economic systems, the removal of trade barriers, the combating of protectionism, discrimination and inequality in international economic relations and the termination of the transnational corporations' neo-colonialist practices. Such action would strengthen trust among States, reduce international tension and assist the efforts of all States in the field of economic development.

15. The effectiveness of United Nations economic bodies depended on their work and their decisions on substantive matters, not on their restructuring. In that respect, his delegation shared the view expressed to the Committee on behalf of the Group of 77. It also believed that the Economic and Social Council's potential in

/...

(Mr. Peshkov, Byelorussian SSR)

terms of tackling the problems of international economic co-operation and trade was not being fully exploited.

16. In conclusion, he referred to the basic features of economic and social development in his own country. The national economy was developing at a steady pace, and workers were guaranteed not only full employment but also broad opportunities to choose their type of employment. Many measures were being taken in the field of social development, and the environmental protection programme was being implemented.

17. Like the Soviet Union as a whole, his country was prepared to co-operate with interested countries and share its experience in economic development without the exploitation of man by man invariably associated with capitalist economies.

18. Mr. KAZEM (Afghanistan) said that the world political and economic situation had deteriorated steadily. The effect of the economic crisis had been further aggravated by the economic policies of the industrialized capitalist countries. The selfish ways in which the latter had attempted to solve their domestic problems, coupled with their animosity towards the progressive policies of many developing countries, had led them to adopt measures which went beyond mere economic pressure. However, the efforts of the imperialists - the United States in particular - to undermine the infrastructure of the developing countries through such measures as economic blockades, subversion and destabilization had not had the intended effect, even when, in some cases - the most recent being that of Grenada - the imperialists had resorted to the use of open force. The Council had expressed serious concern at imperialist activities, and in that connection it must make every effort to co-ordinate implementation of General Assembly decisions relating to the curbing of the arms race and the easing of international tensions.

19. His delegation shared the Council's views regarding the disappointing outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Despite the flexibility demonstrated by the developing countries, the Conference had failed to reach agreement on key issues.

20. The activities of transnational corporations were a source of serious concern to his delegation, for they destabilized the economies of the developing countries. The early completion of work on a comprehensive, integrated code of conduct on transnational corporations should be given the highest priority. His delegation supported the proposal relating to definitions and scope of action which had been presented to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its special session. The Commission should endeavour to complete its work at its next session without reopening discussion on areas on which agreement had already been reached, and all delegations should demonstrate the necessary political will. He expressed concern at the enormous outflow of capital from developing countries resulting from the activities of the transnational corporations of the Western countries. All means of checking that outflow should be considered. He urged the Council to call on United Nations bodies concerned with economic issues to undertake comprehensive studies of how that could be achieved.

21. He welcomed the report on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries (A/38/176). That sector determined

/...

(Mr. Kazem, Afghanistan)

the main directions of economic and social development. He fully supported Council resolution 1983/61 on the subject and expressed the hope that a further comprehensive report on the subject would be submitted as soon as possible.

22. He was pleased to note that the Council attached great importance to the question of the least developed countries. Their situation had further deteriorated and the flow of official development assistance to them had declined in real terms. That was particularly unfortunate, since it came at a time when those countries were facing serious economic and financial difficulties. He expressed deep concern at the slow progress being made towards implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and urged the international community to implement that Programme fully and to provide financial assistance at a level and on terms corresponding to the immediate and long-term development needs of the developing countries.

23. He welcomed the adoption of Council resolution 1983/43 on assistance to the Palestinian people and Council decision 1983/178 on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. His Government would continue to support the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

24. His delegation was in favour of strengthening the role of the Council and restoring it as the central body for policy formulation in economic, social and humanitarian matters. Far greater use should be made of the Council as currently structured, and means should be found to enable the Council to exercise effectively the co-ordinating role assigned to it under the Charter.

25. Mr. RAMACHANDRAN (India) said that, while it was necessary to recognize the desirability of developing new and renewable sources of energy in the long term, it should be remembered that developing conventional energy sources in the short and medium term was also of vital importance. The non-aligned countries had emphasized the crucial role of energy in development and had made a number of specific proposals on the subject at the recent Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries.

26. He particularly welcomed the note by the Secretary-General on development of the energy resources of the developing countries (E/1983/91 and Corr.1 and A/38/512). It suggested that the developing countries could increase their energy self-sufficiency by adopting a multi-pronged approach, namely developing available technologies for the exploitation of conventional resources and simultaneously developing new technologies for non-conventional energy sources in the hope that they would become viable by the year 2000. That would require substantial financial support from the international community. The report also contained suggestions regarding various funds which could be activated or established to permit exploitation of and prospecting for energy resources. The proposal to establish an energy affiliate of the World Bank was particularly relevant. The comments made relating to economic co-operation among developing countries in the field of conventional energy were most welcome. His delegation would like to see the beginning of a constructive debate in the international community on the basis of that report and other similar ones.

/...

(Mr. Ramachandran, India)

27. He welcomed the Secretary-General's report on regional co-operation (E/1983/70), particularly its emphasis on interregional co-operation among developing countries. Its conclusions had positive implications for the expansion of future support from the United Nations system for the implementation of programmes devised by regional commissions and other institutions. He noted with great interest the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Western Asia in promoting greater links among developing countries in various sectors. He also appreciated the analysis made of trade, noting that the proportion of manufactured goods in trade among developing countries was far higher than in North-South trade. The report also highlighted the joint consultations between India and Latin America convened by the relevant regional economic commissions. Those consultations had led to strengthened trade relations between Latin American and Asian countries.

28. His Government supported international co-operation in the field of science and technology and welcomed the progress made in the establishment of long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. It hoped that satisfactory conclusions could be reached on all outstanding issues at the present session. He fully endorsed the view that the proposed international centre for genetic engineering and biotechnology should be established in a developing country.

29. His Government attached great importance to population planning measures that included an integrated package of incentives for family planning and family welfare programmes.

30. His Government supported the inalienable right of the Palestinian and Arab peoples to full sovereignty over their natural resources. Those resources were being illegally exploited, and the international community should direct its efforts towards redressing that injustice.

31. He expressed regret at the failure, notwithstanding the flexibility demonstrated by the Group of 77, to make progress on some parts of the code of conduct on transnational corporations and urged the various groups to approach the issue in a constructive manner when discussions resumed.

32. His delegation had a strong commitment to the Economic and Social Council and would support constructive proposals for the Council's revitalization, particularly proposals relating to the Council's role in expediting the implementation of decisions taken by the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.