

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records*



1984

DEC 10 1984

COPY
FOR REFERENCE
ONLY - DO NOT
CIRCULATE

SECOND COMMITTEE
43rd meeting
held on
Thursday, 15 November 1984
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DE LA TORRE (Argentina)

later: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued)
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (h) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (n) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (i) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

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

*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.2/39/SR.43
20 November 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/39/3 (Part I-II); A/39/56, 71, 88, 95, 110, 118, 126, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 187, 226, 236, 269, 302, 303, 304, 314, 323, 331, 448, 495, 536, 554, 560, 581; A/C.2/39/3, 4, 10)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued) (A/39/48, 115 and Corr.1 and 2, 171, 228, 273)
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/332)
- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/15, 192, 397, 415, 462, 463, 558; A/C.2/39/L.3 and L.4)
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/37; A/C.2/39/11; A/C.2/39/CRP.2)
- (h) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/172 and Add.1, A/38/334 and Add.1; A/39/94 and Add.1, 97, 281 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.2 and Corr.1, 476; A/C.2/39/CRP.1; A/C.2/39/L.5)
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/566)
- (n) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/578)

1. Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand) said that during the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, there had been broad agreement that its aims and objectives remained valid. The failure despite that to achieve an agreed outcome was disappointing, but the review had undoubtedly led to greater understanding of the problems faced by developing countries. The challenge was to forge, based on that understanding, a real consensus on how best to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

2. The importance of trade and the dangers of protectionism had been emphasized in many international forums, and many calls had been made for the abolition of obstacles to trade expansion. Despite that, protectionism had increased and its new practitioners ironically included countries whose growth had been based on the benefits of free trade access to adjacent States.

3. The need for freer trade was more important than ever since trade was a fundamental element for solving the particular problem of international debts, which was critical for some developing countries. Protectionism could only aggravate that problem. The cost of protectionism was enormous, and it hit

/...

(Mr. Gibson, New Zealand)

agricultural trade particularly hard. FAO had estimated that in 1978 alone, the cost of protectionism to consumers in respect of dairy products in one group of countries had been more than \$US 18 billion. The international community appeared increasingly agreed that the growth of protectionism must be stopped, since a freer trading system was in everybody's interest.

4. His country supported the consideration being given by UNCTAD to the needs of small island developing States such as Vanuatu, and was looking forward to the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council in 1985 on the needs of Tuvalu and Kiribati. Such countries had special needs in economic development, transport, communications and disaster relief, and would continue to need the support of the international community.

5. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Socialist countries had begun to implement the progressive principles laid down in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States long before its adoption in 1974. Unfortunately, 10 years later, international relations were continuing to deteriorate, and imperialism continued to violate the Charter's aims and principles, beginning with article 1. Imperialist circles were wasting vast human and material resources on stepping up the arms race, thus violating article 15 of the Charter, while the Socialist countries' specific proposals on practical ways of diverting such resources to development needs remained unanswered by the West.

6. Efforts to use economic relations as a means of applying political pressure violated articles 4 and 32 of the Charter, but the ruling circles in the United States were continuing to use such methods against countries which rejected their demands. Specific examples of such illegal activities were contained in the report prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 38/197 (A/39/415).

7. The increasingly open attempts to use Western aid programmes to force developing countries to change not only their internal policies but even their socio-economic system, in direct contravention of article 17 of the Charter, were particularly disturbing. His delegation was ready to work actively with other delegations on measures to stop that vicious practice.

8. Article 16 of the Charter was also far from being implemented, and the situation was no better in respect of articles 14 and 18, concerning the liberalization of international trade and improving the trading conditions of developing countries. The increased protectionism being practised by developed capitalist States was increasing the developing countries' difficulties.

9. There were grounds for fearing that the work of the Secretariat in implementing the Charter was being guided by someone in a direction which had nothing to do with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. His own delegation and others had criticized the Secretariat at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council for its delay in implementing resolution 37/204, and had pointed out the many shortcomings in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Charter (A/39/332). Despite assurances from the Secretariat, the addendum to that report (A/39/332/Add.1) had been issued late and dealt only with the implementation of articles 2 and 13 of the Charter. As in the first

/...

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

report, the important articles 4, 11, 26, 32 and others were ignored. It was incomprehensible why, when describing the implementation of article 13, the new report made no mention of the work of UNCTAD, of the draft code on the transfer of technology, or of the task of halting the brain drain from developing countries. Nor had account been taken of the comments made on the one-sided or biased approach to many questions in the first report.

10. The International Development Strategy for the 1980s, as a step towards implementing the principles of the Charter and establishing a new international economic order, had aroused particular hopes because it had been adopted by consensus. However, time had shown that, for some countries, consensus had merely been a cover for their unchanged destructive attitude to a new international economic order. The rigid position of Western States had frustrated the work of the Committee for the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy. The forces seeking to preserve the current inequitable economic order were blocking all of the Group of 77's main economic initiatives and trying to use the work of the Committee to amend many of the Strategy's key principles and aims.

11. The Soviet Union's attitude had been set out in documents A/39/228 and 273 and A/C.2/39/3. His country attached great importance to the review and appraisal of the Strategy. His delegation, together with those of other Socialist countries, had supported the Group of 77's proposals, and it was ready to continue serious talks with all interested countries to agree on a document which would assist implementation of the Strategy's aims.

12. The difficulties encountered by the Review and Appraisal Committee and many United Nations economic bodies were causing legitimate concern about the prospects for multilateral economic co-operation. A case in point was the situation in UNCTAD, which had recently been unable to take decisions on many questions as a result of the destructive attitude of Western States. To ensure a further increase in the role of UNCTAD, it had to be protected from unfounded attacks aimed at disorganizing or even paralysing its activity. His own country advocated stimulating the activities of UNCTAD in every major area, including the trade and economic aspects of disarmament.

13. UNCTAD was doing much to implement the decisions of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The Soviet Union was actively developing its commercial, economic and technical co-operation with those countries, to which it had given more than 1.1 billion roubles in economic assistance in 1981, or 0.18 per cent of its GNP: that co-operation would more than double during the current five-year plan, and increase at the same rate until 1990. The Soviet Union's economic relations with the least developed and other developing countries were based on complete equality and respect for sovereignty, without any political conditions.

14. Helping developing countries to establish and expand their scientific and technical potential formed an important part of Soviet bilateral and multilateral aid, and his country actively co-operated with the United Nations in implementing programmes through the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. Interregional seminars were being held in the USSR and help had been

/...

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

given to the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology. His country advocated strengthening the Intergovernmental Committee's co-ordinating role and thought it essential to make the Centre's work on implementing the Vienna Programme of Action more specific through rational utilization of the available resources.

15. The World Conference to Review the United Nations Decade for Women would be an important event. As the report in document A/39/566 showed, there was still discrimination against women in various fields, especially employment and pay, in many countries, including major developed capitalist States. The solution of such problems required implementation of the proposals and recommendations of the World Conferences in Mexico and Copenhagen, ratification by as many States as possible of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and attainment of the three aims of the Decade, equality, development and peace. That should be the focus of the Secretariat's attention in completing its work on the world survey on the role of women in development, and his delegation was seriously concerned that, despite General Assembly resolution 36/74, a final version of the survey had not been submitted at the current session. The Secretary-General should ensure its speedy completion so that it could be considered at the meeting of the preparatory body for the world conference in March 1985.

16. In accordance with General Assembly decision 37/442, the Committee was to review at its current session the implementation of all aspects of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. It could hardly do so effectively, because the basic document for that sub-item had only issued two days earlier. The Secretariat was evidently not very interested in the analysis undertaken in fulfilment of resolution 32/197. On the other hand, there was considerable evidence that the Secretariat was trying to initiate changes in the structure of the socio-economic bodies in isolation from the aims of the restructuring as approved by the General Assembly. The Soviet position was that the many organizational measures taken in the socio-economic bodies in accordance with resolution 32/197 were quite sufficient to enable them to work effectively. Departments which had been re-organized must be given a chance to work in peace, and that would not be helped by more and more new organizational ideas which only distracted the Secretariat from specific tasks. Such ideas had recently been put forward increasingly frequently by the Joint Inspection Unit. His country's criticisms of the two JIU reports in documents A/39/94 and 281 had been stated in detail at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council.

17. Decentralization was an important aspect of the restructuring of the social and economic sectors, and the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/39/97) did not pay due attention to the major task of ensuring that the transfer of additional functions to regional commissions was accompanied by the simultaneous transfer of the corresponding resources and staff from central institutions, with no increase in the regular budget. In effect, the report substituted for the concept of decentralization the idea of the "joint planning" of measures by United Nations Headquarters and the regional commissions, and many of the proposals to that effect would expand the activities of the commissions without a commensurate reduction in expenditures at Headquarters. At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had recommended that the Secretariat

/...

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

prepare specific proposals on decentralization aimed at ensuring the most effective use of the Organization's resources, but no such proposals had yet been submitted.

18. His delegation believed that the United Nations Charter provided all the necessary opportunities for developing broad co-operation among Member States in the socio-economic sphere. Those opportunities should be exploited primarily by increasing the role of the Economic and Social Council, developing its co-ordinating functions and strengthening its control over the work of the Secretariat. That would make it possible to ensure effective collaboration between the Council and the General Assembly in considering economic and technological questions as well as a better co-ordination of subject matter and division of topics between the Council and the Second Committee. The recommendations in Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/182 for a biennial programme of work for the Committee were a useful step in that direction.

19. In conclusion, the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system should not be regarded as an end in itself but should make a real contribution to increasing the effectiveness of the Secretariat's work, eliminating duplication in United Nations economic activities and concentrating on the implementation of basic United Nations resolutions on the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. The Soviet Union would continue to take an active and constructive part in the efforts of the international community to achieve those objectives.

20. Mr. ABBAS (Bahrain) said that his delegation felt frustrated that the International Development Strategy had not achieved practical results because of the adverse world economic situation. The international community was ready to place the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development on a rational footing, and the manner in which measures to deal with the reverse transfer of technology were co-ordinated had not taken account of the technology transfer needs of the developing countries.

21. The economic situation of the developing countries would continue to be affected by that of the developed countries unless a strategy was adopted that recognized the developing countries as a full partner in the international economic system. Because of those factors, UNCTAD had not, at its sixth session, been able to formulate an agreed approach to the establishment of the new international economic order. The problems of protectionism and indebtedness remained unsolved. His delegation felt that negotiations within the framework of UNCTAD based on the salient principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States would narrow the present gap.

22. One aim of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, had been to strengthen the role of the regional commissions in encouraging regional economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. His country attached particular importance to strengthening the effectiveness of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, which provided it with expertise and consultancy services in various development fields. The rationalization of the Commission's activities would serve the goals of development in the region.

/...

(Mr. Abbas, Bahrain)

23. His country had participated with other island developing countries in joint efforts to overcome the difficulties that they faced. The support of the international community for those countries had been reflected in General Assembly resolution 37/206 and UNCTAD resolution 138(VI), the report on the implementation of which was contained in document A/39/463. His delegation would appreciate further information on the expert meeting and interregional workshop referred to in paragraph 68 of the report?

24. Unfortunately, the report employed a defective and inconsistent interpretation of the concept of island developing countries, asserting in paragraph 18 that, when connected with a neighbouring continental country through a network of highways or by a causeway, such countries were not true islands, and as giving the example, that Bahrain would stop being an island when the causeway to the mainland was completed. That presumption was illogical and had no scientific basis. Bahrain met the definition used by UNCTAD and reflected in the statement, in paragraph 15 of the report, that true insularity only existed where the emerged land area was entirely exposed to the influence of the sea, as well as the definition (population less than 400,000 and small land area) adopted by the expert meeting on small islands of the non-aligned countries, held in 1983.

25. One of the basic factors in establishing the island developing countries as a definite group was their joint endeavour to mobilize multilateral and bilateral assistance in order to minimize the difficulties arising out of their geographical situation, and, in that connection, the distinction that had been made between island and small island developing countries did not seem to his delegation to be a valid one. Even after completion of the causeway, Bahrain's difficulties, namely its small surface area, its limited economic possibilities and resources, and its population of only 350,000, would remain. Bahrain suffered from a restricted internal market from dependence on a small number of commodities for its foreign exchange requirements, and from problems arising out of its lack of administrative and technical and marketing experience and of economic infrastructure.

26. His delegation was therefore concerned that the international community had been unable fully to implement specific measures relating to the needs and problems of island developing countries. UNDP should raise the level of programming for island developing countries by 80 per cent, not only for countries with indicative planning figures of \$1.5 million or less for the period 1982-1986, but also for those with indicative planning figures of \$2.5 million. It would also be useful for a report to be prepared analysing the measures taken in implementation of the action programme in favour of island developing countries.

27. Mr. AL-JUMAILI (Iraq) said that, despite the economic recovery in certain developed countries, the developing countries still faced a difficult economic situation, harmful both to their development potential and to their economic prospects. That situation highlighted the responsibility borne by the Committee, particularly with regard to the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy.

28. His country associated itself with those developing countries that had stressed the importance of the Strategy as embodying a political consensus on a co-ordinated group of measures designed to expedite development, and as providing,

/...

(Mr. Al-Jumaili, Iraq)

at the same time, a framework for utilizing the capacities of the United Nations system to that end. The record of implementation was full of delay, abandonment and changes of direction, and achievements remained modest and of limited significance. For example, the Strategy had called for an increase in the exports and imports of goods and services by the developing countries at annual rates of not less than 7.5 per cent and 8 per cent respectively, but the actual performance had fallen far short of those targets. While the Strategy had called for increased efforts to liberalize trade and eliminate restrictions on imports from developing countries, there had been an upsurge of protectionism, causing severe damage to their trade and their development. Moreover, the share of official development assistance in gross national product of the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development remained less than one half of the figure laid down in the Strategy.

29. Constructive review and appraisal of the Strategy was therefore essential, in order to take the opportunity for a significant readjustment of the overall framework for international economic co-operation for development. The implementation of the Strategy would be a major step towards the establishment of the new international economic order. While reaffirming the importance of implementing the policy measures recommended for achieving the goals and objectives of the Strategy, his delegation called upon the international community to respond to the objectives bringing about a change in the Strategy's call for institutional and structural changes in international economic relations. The implementation of the Strategy depended on the political will to transform its recommendations into specific programmes of action through global negotiations, and the relevant goals and objectives of the Strategy should form the basis of the global negotiations. The failure to make progress in strengthening international economic co-operation for development was thus a failure in implementing the Strategy, and the consequence of that failure was that the ability of the developing countries to resume economic growth was dangerously weakened.

30. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the Vienna Programme of Action on science and technology for development. An operational plan must be drawn up for the implementation of that Programme, the guidelines it contained must be rapidly translated into effective projects, and a legal framework must be adopted to prepare a suitable environment for the transfer of technology. Under the present international economic order, it was difficult for the developing countries to mobilize the sufficient financial and material resources needed to apply science and technology in the implementation of their national development plans. The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development should co-ordinate activities relating to science and technology within the system and countries should provide the targeted financial resources to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. The possibility of the Intergovernmental Committee analysing selected aspects of the Programme of Action in depth should also be studied, and the Committee should have the necessary flexibility to alter the areas of concentration in accordance with changing needs.

31. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was to be a basic document in the field of international economic co-operation for development. The

/...

(Mr. Al-Jumaili, Iraq)

speedy implementation of its provisions would help the developing countries free themselves from their state of dependency, and would thus promote justice and equilibrium in the world economy. In the present economic circumstances, failure to implement the provisions of the Charter would have repercussions for the future. The remaining years of the 1980s would probably be subject to even greater disturbance than was at present the case, and specific practical programmes must therefore be developed in order to reverse the trend of deterioration in the international economic environment.

32. His country strongly condemned the use of economic measures as a means of exerting political pressure or interfering the internal affairs of sovereign States. That practice was incompatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the principles and rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, as well as with the generally accepted principles of international law. By undermining confidence-building in international relations, it had harmful effects on both international economic relations and economic development.

33. His Government had accorded particular importance to the social aspects of development. The equitable distribution of the fruits of development was the essential goal of its national economic and social development plans, and it was determined to achieve that goal in its highest sense.

34. Mr. AL-TURKI (Kuwait) said that his delegation attached importance to the development as a means of remedying the current economic crisis, and therefore stressed the need for full implementation of the International Development Strategy. Conscious of the need for international economic co-operation, Kuwait had established, in 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to provide assistance development that was not tied to political or commercial conditions.

35. In view of the importance of science and technology for development many scientific institutions and university departments of science had been established in Kuwait, with teachers from various developing countries. The developed countries should give the developing countries all necessary assistance in their scientific and technological development and should help them to apply modern technology in their agriculture and transport sectors.

36. His delegation hoped that the developed countries would assist in the restructuring of the existing unjust international economic system.

37. Mr. FANG Xiao (China) noted that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade remained largely unimplemented and that there were indications that the per capita income of developing countries was, in fact, declining. China and other developing countries had hoped that the mid-term review and appraisal of the Strategy would lead to the adoption of remedial measures and the redoubling of efforts to attain the objectives of the Strategy. Unfortunately, however, the task entrusted to the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Strategy remained far from complete. The international community must decide whether to allow the Strategy to fade into

/...

(Mr. Fang Xiao, China)

insignificance or to take effective measures to enhance its real impact. He hoped that the developed countries which bore the major responsibility for international co-operation would reconsider their positions and respond positively to the demands posed by a new set of circumstances. All parties must adopt a realistic and objective attitude and prepare for the resumption of the review exercise.

38. Progress in the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States also remained highly unsatisfactory. The report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/39/332) deserved serious consideration. At a time when the economies of the developed countries had entered the recovery stage, whereas those of the developing countries were still facing severe economic difficulties, the international community should recognize the need to adopt a set of comprehensive measures to provide an international environment conducive to the recovery and development of the economies of the developing countries. His delegation supported the proposal for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Charter and agreed that the tenth anniversary of its adoption should be observed in an appropriate manner.

39. Noting that, since the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, protectionism had intensified rather than decreasing, he drew attention to resolution 286 (XXVII) of the Industrial Development Board entitled "Work programme on protectionism and structural adjustment". Although 20 years had elapsed since the establishment of UNCTAD and although UNCTAD had done much to promote international trade and economic development, it had a long way to go to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it.

40. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, too, remained unsatisfactory. All parties concerned must do their best, at the mid-term review, scheduled for 1985, to determine the reasons for the non-implementation and to formulate effective remedial measures. It was regrettable that fund-raising for the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development had not yielded satisfactory results, and his delegation was in favour of setting up a working group to study the question.

41. Progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had also been disappointing. The international economic situation had had an extremely adverse impact on those countries and many of them had, in addition, been hit by natural disasters. The international community should give special attention to their difficulties and should assign priority to: (a) ensuring that they received adequate additional official development assistance so that the total amount they received could be doubled by 1985; (b) implementing forthwith the UNCTAD resolutions concerning debt relief for those countries, (c) providing them with effective help in developing their agriculture and in solving their difficulties in other areas. UNCTAD should make effective preparations to ensure the success of the mid-term review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

42. Mr. LUCAS (Guyana), referring to the concept of development consensus which the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had mentioned in his statement to the Committee, said that the search for such a consensus should be conducted in all international

/...

(Mr. Lucas, Guyana)

forums. If a ministerial session of the Trade and Development Board was in fact convened, one of the issues to which it might turn its attention was how such a consensus could be achieved. Other issues it might usefully consider were those central to the full implementation of the integrated Programme for Commodities. His Government's foreign exchange earnings had traditionally been derived largely from sugar and bauxite, and accordingly, his delegation attached great significance to the early conclusion of arrangements which would stabilize commodity prices. It was regrettable that so far it had been impossible to renegotiate the international sugar agreement and that little progress had been made in the preparatory work for the negotiations of a bauxite agreement.

43. Guyana also attached great importance to the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and regretted the fact that work on long-term arrangements for the Financing System had reached an impasse. It had endeavoured to strengthen its own technological capability; however, national efforts could have only limited effect unless they received adequate international support.

44. His Government had made serious efforts to increase Guyana's capacity to absorb development assistance by making education available to all and promoting skills that corresponded to the country's development needs. However, its effort had been undermined by the reverse transfer of technology, a problem which should continue to receive attention from the international community. While the note by the Secretary-General (A/39/397) gave an encouraging view of the efforts undertaken by the United Nations system to meet the challenge posed by the brain drain, it was clear that greater efforts were needed.

45. Finally, his delegation noted that action still had to be taken in favour of the island developing countries.

(i) ENVIRONMENT (continued) (A/C.2/39/L.12)

46. The CHAIRMAN announced that Sao Tome and Principe had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.12.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/39/L.28)

47. The CHAIRMAN announced that China had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.28.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.