
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

CONTENTS

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

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

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17 October 1979

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

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

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Comoros (A/34/361)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Djibouti (A/34/362 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Guinea-Bissau (A/34/370)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Sao Tome and Principe (A/34/371)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Cape Verde (A/34/372 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Seychelles (A/34/373)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique (A/34/377)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Lesotho (A/34/393)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zambia (A/34/407)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Botswana (A/34/419)

1. Mr. FARAH (Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator, Special Economic Assistance Programmes) made a statement.*

2. Mr. SEKHESA (Lesotho), speaking on behalf of the African Group, proposed that the Under-Secretary-General's statement should be issued as a Committee document in all the working languages. He also requested additional time for the submission of draft resolutions on assistance to the countries concerned.

3. Mr. CASSANDRA (Sao Tome and Principe) supported the proposal and said that his delegation would express its views on the matters dealt with in the statement, especially assistance to Sao Tome and Principe, during the general debate.

4. Mr. AMINI (Comoros) said he believed that the statement had accurately represented the economic situation in his country, which remained catastrophic despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/123. His delegation

* The full text of the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes will be issued as document A/C.2/34/9.

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(Mr. Amini, Comoros)

wished to express its appreciation to the countries of the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait, which had furnished assistance in implementing some of his country's economic development plans mentioned in the Under-Secretary-General's statement. He appealed to other States to aid the poorer developing countries, and strongly supported the proposal that the statement should be circulated as a document.

5. Mr. MODISI (Botswana) said that the statement provided a ready summary of assistance programmes being carried out under United Nations auspices and of requests for assistance received by the Secretary-General since the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. He therefore supported the Lesotho proposal.

6. Mr. VORONIN (Assistant Secretary of the Committee) said that the financial implications of the proposal would be \$300 per page. Production of the document in all languages would require several days.

7. The proposal was adopted.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

8. Mr. JÜDAHL (Sweden) said that the international community faced an unusually difficult economic situation. The latest developments pointed towards slower growth, higher inflation and sharp shifts in the pattern of current account balances. The situation of many of the poorest developing countries had improved only marginally, and the prospects for the future caused serious concern. Increased international co-operation and development assistance and improved domestic policies for economic and social programmes were needed to provide a foundation for a more balanced and stable development of the world economy.

9. The millions of human beings living in abject poverty must be given the opportunity to work effectively; productive and full employment of the population must therefore be a priority of development policies. Sound resource management was increasingly considered to be a condition for long-term survival. Those who had followed wasteful patterns of consumption should be prepared to adapt their life styles to changing circumstances. Although it was clear that the developing and the developed countries depended on each other in an expanding network of trade and finance, it was equally clear that the relationship was fundamentally unequal. The need for changes in the international economic order must therefore be acknowledged, and development assistance should reflect an increased awareness of long-term economic responsibilities.

10. In the past decade, world trade had continued to expand. Despite mounting economic difficulties from 1973 to 1977, the volume of world trade had increased by an average of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per year, rising by 6 per cent in 1978. The potential of trade as an engine for growth and development had

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(Mr. Jödahl, Sweden)

again been demonstrated, particularly by the recent upsurge in exports from a growing number of developing countries. An important feature of the world economy was the more stable economic growth in developing countries as compared to that of the industrialized world. The import demand of developing countries had constituted a stabilizing element in the international economy. If that was to continue, the exports of developing countries must be allowed to grow at a pace commensurate with their import needs.

11. In recent years, protectionist pressures had increased sharply. Too often, Governments had yielded to those pressures, but to a large degree they had also been resisted. His delegation felt that it was necessary to ensure continued openness of the trading system, resist protectionist pressures and foster an economic climate and the structural adjustments that were necessary for a fair and efficient international division of labour. Governments had demonstrated their commitment to continued free trade by bringing the multilateral trade negotiations to a successful conclusion, in spite of pressing economic difficulties. Not all the objectives set for those negotiations had been reached, but both developing and developed countries should nevertheless receive substantial trade benefits from them. Their results should now be thoroughly evaluated in the appropriate forums, so that the areas requiring further liberalization efforts could be identified. There was no greater threat to the expansion of the world economy than for countries to adopt a policy of national isolation in the hope of short-term gains.

12. Adjustment to new economic realities and to changing patterns of comparative advantage was required for sustained and balanced economic growth. In that process, Governments would have an important role to play, particularly by facilitating the transfer of productive resources from declining sectors to those expected to be viable in the future. An important achievement in the international dialogue on readjustment had been the consensus reached at the fifth session of UNCTAD on a resolution concerning protectionism and structural adjustment. The annual reviews of the patterns of world production and trade in the world economy called for in that resolution would, if properly organized, be of considerable assistance in the efforts to resist protectionist pressures and facilitate an orderly and equitable adjustment process.

13. With regard to commodities, the negotiating process begun at the fourth session of UNCTAD had moved slowly, but efforts within the Integrated Programme for Commodities had begun to bear fruit. A consensus had recently been reached on the fundamental elements of the Common Fund, and the work to translate that consensus into articles of agreement was making steady progress. It was incumbent upon all concerned to conclude those negotiations before the end of the year. His Government welcomed the increased emphasis on developmental measures in the commodities field that had been one of the results of the fifth session of UNCTAD. Sweden had pledged a contribution to the second window of the Common Fund and hoped that other countries would do likewise so as to make the second window operative. The Fund's full potential would be realized, however, only if work on the individual commodity agreements was pursued further. Progress that had

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(Mr. Jödahl, Sweden)

been made so far in that field included renegotiated agreements for some commodities and the recently concluded agreement on rubber.

14. His delegation welcomed the recent decision to liberalize further the compensatory financing facility of IMF, but was not convinced that the changes were sufficient to meet development requirements. Fluctuations in export earnings constituted a growing problem, especially for the poorer commodity-exporting countries. His delegation therefore believed that an additional mechanism was required to assist in bridging the gap not covered by the compensatory financing facility in the case of the poorer commodity-exporting developing countries, to assist in alleviating the negative effects of declining export earnings caused by external factors and to complement price stabilization measures. His delegation hoped that the current UNCTAD studies on additional export earning stabilization measures would provide a basis for concrete action.

15. The recent meetings in Belgrade had highlighted the need for a rapid increase in the transfer of resources to the non-oil-exporting developing countries. There had been mutual agreement with respect to the analysis of the present state of the world economy. However, views had diverged as to the needs for adjustments of the present mechanisms or even the creation of new ones. Experience of the full potentiality of the present mechanisms was still lacking but there was also a feeling that there existed a grey area, or rather a no man's land, between the purposes, terms and conditions of the activities of the World Bank and those of IMF. Whether the answer might be adjustments in the present mechanisms, increased co-operation between the Bank and IMF or even the creation of new mechanisms was not yet known. The matter deserved to be considered further within the framework of the Development Committee.

16. Recent economic forecasts showed that, in the near future, the non-oil-producing countries would be confronted with aggravated external financial problems. That situation placed an even heavier responsibility on the donor countries to increase the flow of official aid to those countries. He recalled in that context that official development assistance, as a share of total net financial flows to developing countries, had fallen from 60 per cent in 1960 and 50 per cent in 1970 to a present level of approximately 30 per cent. It was clearly within the mandate of Governments to take decisions in that field. It should be borne in mind that many of the poorest countries, which had limited possibilities of attracting other kinds of financial flows, were expected to continue to depend on official sources for more than 80 per cent of their net capital inflows.

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(Mr. Jödahl, Sweden)

17. The projected increases in total debt and debt service ratios were causing considerable concern to the middle-income countries, which largely depended on private capital. In the near future, much of their new borrowing would inevitably compensate for deteriorating terms of trade, instead of being spent on productive investment. To maintain reasonable momentum in the longer term, those countries would depend on access to development finance, with a longer maturity structure on private commercial loans than in the past. The World Development Report, 1979 concluded that considerable scope remained for renewed effort and fresh initiatives in that regard. The final part of the resolution on transfer of real resources adopted at the fifth session of UNCTAD, which addressed itself to the question of "massive transfer of resources", constituted such a new and innovative step. Although mainly procedural in character, it could form a basis for new action-oriented initiatives to accelerate development in developing countries and help to stimulate global economic activity in a longer-term perspective. The ongoing studies on transfers of resources should be examined as soon as possible, in close co-operation between the international organizations involved, so that in-depth discussions involving Governments could begin with the aim of reaching some decisions at the special session of the General Assembly in 1980.

18. His delegation noted with regret that, one year after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/193 concerning the preparation of the new International Development Strategy, work had progressed very slowly. The difficulties involved in its preparation only strengthened the arguments for having a new Strategy. As the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had pointed out, the elaboration of the Strategy constituted a means of linking together a wide variety of specific negotiations, identifying their interrelationships, setting priorities and establishing yardsticks for measuring progress. Its implementation must be part of an international undertaking, and a strong mechanism would be required for review, appraisal and adjustment so that the Strategy would remain valid throughout the 1980s. When discussions on the new Strategy were resumed in January, they should be undertaken on the basis of clear and considered views of Governments with regard to goals and objectives. It was only by continued and intense efforts that the task of adopting the new Strategy at the special session in 1980 could be accomplished.

19. During the past decade, the idea that development encompassed not only economic and social aspects but also those related to population, the use of natural resources and the environment had become generally accepted. In spite of that recognition, adequate action to safeguard the environment had not yet been taken. The wasteful patterns of consumption in the developed countries had continued in the 1970s. In the third world, desertification, soil degradation and deforestation had reached terrifying proportions, and the rate of population increase was still very high. The questions of environment, natural resources and population must be adequately reflected in the new International Development Strategy, both in its goals and objectives and in relation to particular economic and social sectors.

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(Mr. Jödahl, Sweden)

20. A United Nations symposium to focus attention on the interrelations between resources, environment, population and development had recently been held in Stockholm. In the final statement, it was noted with concern that "certain patterns of production and consumption are straining carrying capacity globally, regionally and nationally" (A/C.2/34/5, annex, para. 8). New, less wasteful life styles in the developed countries were urgently needed. Changes must, however, be linked with measures for establishing the new international economic order. The concept of a third agricultural revolution launched by FAO must be defined and promoted. Those and other conclusions of the Stockholm symposium must be included in the elaboration of the new International Development Strategy.

21. In Nicaragua, after four decades of brutal oppression, the Somoza dictatorship had been overthrown and possibilities for democratic development had opened up. However, the new Government had inherited a heavy burden in the form of human losses and material damage. The international community must do its best to help it alleviate that burden. His Government hoped that the Secretary-General's appeal would result in an increased effort from the international community to assist Nicaragua. Sweden had already decided to make available to the Nicaraguan Government, as a grant, financial resources of \$6 million, and it had also given humanitarian assistance to Nicaraguan refugees before the fall of the Somoza régime through international and private organizations. So far, total Swedish contributions to Nicaragua amounted to approximately \$10.2 million, and that support would continue.

22. Mr. AHSAN (Bangladesh) said that the world was currently confronted with a widening disparity of income between the rich and the poor countries, declining growth rates, mounting balance-of-payments deficits, growing protectionism in world trade, rising inflation and unemployment and a continuing crisis in the international monetary and financial system. That economic situation underscored the inadequacy of the piecemeal approach adopted so far to remedy the problems, and pointed to the necessity of bringing about fundamental structural changes in international economic relations. The developed countries had demonstrated a lack of political will to make progress on vital international economic issues in such forums as the fifth session of UNCTAD, the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174. In spite of those set-backs, the Group of 77 earnestly desired to continue the North-South dialogue and had proposed a new round of global negotiations covering raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance.

23. While a stalemate had been reached in the negotiations on a number of vital issues, the failure to implement some of the decisions previously agreed upon in different international forums had also been a cause for concern. For example, instead of moving towards the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, the transfer of official development assistance from developed to developing countries had declined from 0.34 per cent in 1971 to 0.31 per cent in 1977.

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(Mr. Ahsan, Bangladesh)

The proposal for a new international wheat agreement, a new food aid convention and the FAO Five-Point Plan on Food Security had not yet been realized. Little progress had been made towards attaining the Lima target of increasing the developing countries' share of world industrial output to 25 per cent. His delegation also regretted that the vital question of framing a code of conduct on the transfer of technology to developing countries was still being debated, with no end in sight. It urged the immediate implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations system for providing special support and assistance to the least developed, land-locked, island developing and most seriously affected countries. His delegation also supported the general strategy for the implementation of the programme for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. In view of the important work which it performed, UNCTAD should be strengthened and accorded further support.

24. The United Nations had adopted its resolution on the establishment of a new international economic order some years ago, but unfortunately its decisions had not been matched by action. His delegation therefore attached particular importance to the special session of the General Assembly in 1980, to the new International Development Strategy and to the proposed round of global negotiations. It pledged its fullest support and co-operation in bringing those important negotiations to a successful conclusion.

25. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) said that, in the view of his delegation, the main issue before the Committee at the current session must be preparations for the 1980 special session. The results thus far of the preparatory work had been so limited as to call into question earlier assumptions about the agenda and timing of the special session. Careful consideration should therefore be given to restricting the agenda to issues on which a large measure of agreement could reasonably be expected in what was left of the preparatory period. His delegation saw no advantage in having the special session address all the unresolved issues across the broad front of ongoing economic negotiations. The principal justification for the session should be the adoption of the new International Development Strategy.

26. Without wishing to detract from the merits of the proposal by the Group of 77 for a global round of economic negotiations, his delegation was uneasy about the linkage that had been established between that proposal and the special session. If, as seemed to be the intention, work on the Strategy was to continue in tandem with the new set of negotiations, his delegation wondered whether there was not a danger of dissipating the efforts of all involved. The issues that had arisen in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy would not be easily resolved. However, his delegation suspected that the problems encountered thus far were due less to the lack of political will than to factors arising from the extremely heavy workload and from the way negotiations were conducted in the economic and social sectors. As the representative of Ireland had stated at the 11th meeting, the division of Member States into two groups, developed and developing,

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(Mr. Green, New Zealand)

had its uses in United Nations economic negotiations. In the case of the Strategy, however, it might be less useful because it did not seem to permit an adequate reflection of varied interests of countries at different stages and levels of development. It tended to require delegations to adopt a rigid stance on complex questions which were perhaps better answered by some mix of contending viewpoints. That had surely been the case in the discussions on the orientation of the Strategy, which had seemed at times to be concerned less with finding the appropriate balance between achieving the goals of the new international economic order on the one hand and the eradication of poverty on the other than with denying the necessity for one or the other of those elements to be integrated into the Strategy. His delegation could not but be struck by the frequency and persistence with which the case for a more disaggregated approach to formulating the Strategy had been made. Again, his delegation agreed with the representative of Ireland that the developed countries were no more a monolithic bloc than was the Group of 77.

27. There were areas in which New Zealand's potential to be a significant bilateral donor was very limited. For example, as a capital-importing country with one of the smaller economies in the developed world, New Zealand could not aspire to be a source of concessional finance for development. Although it had in the past extended a few small bilateral loans and credits to developing countries in its immediate vicinity, it was no longer its policy to do so, and the Government had decided to convert the few outstanding development loans into grants. New Zealand's bilateral development assistance was now entirely in grant form, and its contributions to the concessional financing requirements of the developing world were made through multilateral channels. However, growth in the volume of its ODA had been constrained in recent years owing to persistent adverse trends in its economy and particularly in its balance of payments.

28. As a trading nation, New Zealand was especially sensitive to the problems of developing countries in that sphere. New Zealand had first introduced the generalized system of preferences in 1972, and it had been revised and expanded in 1976 so that more than 90 per cent of tariff lines imports from beneficiary countries received duty-free or preferential treatment. In the industrial sector, New Zealand had taken innovative measures to assist the small island developing countries of the South Pacific. The Pacific Islands Industrial Development Scheme provided financial assistance and incentives for New Zealand companies to develop approved manufacturing ventures in 11 countries covered by the Scheme. An integral part of the Scheme was provision for access to New Zealand markets for the products of those ventures. New Zealand had also demonstrated its willingness to share its technology with developing countries, particularly in limited areas such as the exploitation of geothermal energy.

29. For a relatively small delegation such as New Zealand's, membership in the Economic and Social Council offered an unparalleled exposure to the

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(Mr. Green, New Zealand)

extraordinary range of activities of the United Nations and related aid organizations in the economic and social fields. However, membership in the Council was also a frustrating experience. For a body that stood at the crossroads between the General Assembly and the many and various subsidiary bodies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, its impact on the course of work in those bodies was disappointingly slight. In a sense, the Council had been bypassed by the establishment of more broadly representative bodies whose mandates, intentionally or otherwise, detracted from its authority. To judge from the discussions on restructuring, it was unlikely that the decline in the standing of the Council would be halted in the foreseeable future. His delegation regretted that, and it could not share the confidence of some delegations that the Council could play a constructive role as a "manager" of economic and social affairs. There was no easy answer to the problem of declining effectiveness with which the Council was confronted, but his delegation believed that efforts must continue to restore its authority and influence commensurate with its central position under the United Nations Charter.

30. Mr. HANJAN (Iran) said that his delegation's views on issues before the Committee were in line with those of the other developing countries, as expressed in the recent declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77. He would therefore confine his statement to certain crucial aspects of Iran's past development experiences and their grave consequences.

31. The complexity of the issues involved in defining strategies and policies for national development needed no emphasis, and they became even more difficult and complex when they were to be implemented. For years, progress in the performance of the Iranian national economy had been taken for granted. Modernization and high national income together with other quantitative gains had supposedly been achieved. The historic events which had taken place in Iran recently had gradually uncovered the reality underlying the myth of a symbolic modernization for the sake of which the old régime had been sacrificing human lives and natural resources. A large part of Iran's national income had been constantly channelled to a few countries of the North for a wasteful and dubious arms race. Another part had been spent on several industrial development projects which had been either non-viable or cost-inefficient. The private sector had mainly comprised assembly factories or subsidiaries of transnational corporations, all of them crucially dependent on foreign economies. It had been ironic that a major oil-exporting country had been at the same time a major importer of certain petroleum products used as semi-raw materials. That was a situation which might well exist in many other developing countries.

32. The development programmes of the third world could be effectively dealt with only under native socio-economic conditions and with minimum foreign dependence. Iran fully recognized the importance of genuine interdependence and mutually beneficial interrelationships. However, it firmly believed that any development strategy, whether national or international, must be based on the full recognition and realization of the principle of national independence and sovereignty and must be responsive to the real needs of national economies.

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(Mr. Hanjan, Iran)

33. Iran's highest priority for the future was reconstruction of the agricultural sector, which had suffered badly as a result of the neglect and irresponsibility of the old régime and could feed no more than 30 per cent of the country's population. The oil industry, which was of vital importance, was the main source of national income and finance for development, and extremely crucial issues were at stake in determining national policies in that connexion. The level of oil production would be determined according to the needs of the national economy and the requirements of a genuine development for the country and the people. Gigantic military purchases and grandiose economic projects had already been abandoned.

34. He had made his statement in the hope of drawing some attention to, and perhaps inducing reflection on, the agonizing consequences of Iran's experiences in national development planning - experiences which many other countries of the third world might be facing now or in the future.

35. Mr. AZIZI (Afghanistan) said that the demands for change first voiced at the 1955 Bandung Conference had been reiterated on many occasions by the non-aligned nations. The aim of non-alignment was, above all, the emancipation of all people in a context of international co-operation based on equality of States, respect for sovereignty and the establishment of a just peace throughout the world. Economic, social and cultural factors were complementary to political factors and were therefore fundamental to true freedom. Contemplating the complementary aspects of freedom and self-determination, the third world countries had urged that a new international economic order should be established in order to address the remaining injustices.

36. Price instability, inflation, monetary fluctuation and the competition of substitute products were some of the essential causes of those injustices. Furthermore, apart from petroleum, commodity exports from the countries of the third world represented only a little more than one third of world exports. The situation had further deteriorated as a result of the protectionist policies adopted by the developed market economy countries towards the export products of developing countries. Trade in commodities, a vital factor in the economy of developing countries, had undergone fluctuation in prices in recent years. The imbalance in the world economy had aggravated the debt problem, and the balance-of-payments deficit of non-oil-producing developing countries had increased. The problem of commodities and raw materials was the most acute, because the progress of developing countries depended on their exporting such products. There was therefore a need to implement the Integrated Programme for Commodities, including the Common Fund.

37. Ninety-five per cent of modern technology, needed by developing countries for economic growth, was originally patented in the industrialized countries, and the right of ownership and control resided very often in the larger transnational corporations. The problem of the technology gap was compounded by the continuing emigration of skilled personnel from developing to developed countries. Developing countries therefore attached great importance to the transfer of appropriate technology which would accelerate their development, and the international patent system must be reviewed and revised in such a way that those countries would be able to use patent processes, relevant to their needs, at nominal charges.

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(Mr. Azizi, Afghanistan)

38. Among the problems facing the developing countries, hunger had become the most important. Progress on various economic and social fronts would be impossible until minimum food needs were met throughout the world on a regular basis. For millions of poor people in the developing countries, the daily intake of food did not meet the minimum nutritional requirements. An alarming aspect of the problem was malnutrition, which had a permanent debilitating effect on the young and adolescent.

39. While the exploitation of the under-developed world by the market economy countries was becoming a relic of the past, inequalities in the economic and other fields still persisted. One aim of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system should therefore be to enable the developing countries to participate effectively in the decision-making process in United Nations agencies.

40. Nationalization by the developing countries of their natural resources as a means for development must include taking over both responsibility for the exploitation of their resources and control over their sale abroad. Nationalization of raw materials had become a fundamental prerequisite to economic development. It enabled countries to retain all the financial flows generated by the development of their natural resources.

41. The way in which the international monetary system functioned endangered the expansion of world trade; in particular, it threatened all attempts by the countries of the third world to conquer under-development. It should be reformed to give those countries the right to participate, on a democratic basis, in concept and in operation. The criteria for definition and utilization of financial aid for development required a thorough re-examination. Foreign aid had constructive significance only if it was based on a recognition of the priorities of the developing countries and was worked out unconditionally and without any political motives.

42. With respect to industrialization, although several years had passed since the adoption of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, the efforts towards the implementation of its targets had been minimal.

43. Disarmament and development were the most urgent problems facing the world today. Vast resources, badly needed for development, were being consumed as some countries made greater efforts for military gains. If the nuclear Powers reduced their military budget and used part of the funds thus saved for assistance to developing countries, that might resolve some of the problems of those countries.

44. As the beginning of the third United Nations Development Decade approached, Member States should pledge themselves individually and collectively to fulfil their commitment to establish the new international economic order based on justice and equality. The Decade should be action-oriented, and efforts should be directed towards reviewing and learning from past experiences. It should also address the

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(Mr. Azizi, Afghanistan)

plight of the least developed among the developing countries and of land-locked developing countries, which were geographically disadvantaged, particularly in their trade, by the imposition of additional costs of transport, transit and trans-shipment.

45. While hailing the victories of the people of Nicaragua in establishing a new order based on equity and justice, his delegation urged the international community to come forward with a positive response to their needs and aspirations for the reconstruction of their country. With regard to the requests for assistance to Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia, his delegation was in sympathy with those countries and hoped that positive action could be taken in that respect. His delegation also expressed its sympathy to the Dominican Republic and Dominica and hoped that the necessary action could be taken by the international community.

46. Following the establishment of the new revolutionary order, the Government of Afghanistan had taken fundamental steps towards improving the standard of living of the working classes. Landless farmers and small landowners now owned free of charge the lands previously belonging to feudal lords and large landowners. One objective of the Revolutionary Government had been the successful completion of the first national population census, providing reliable data for development projects under the new five-year economic development plan, the implementation of which would require not only the proper utilization of national resources but also the unconditional assistance of the international community.

47. Now more than ever, the conscience of the world called for action to eliminate poverty, hunger and under-development. Equality could never be claimed while there was hunger beside waste, poverty beside abundance, and a difference of opinion on the definition of equity and equality.

48. The CHAIRMAN announced that Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Suriname had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.6.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.