

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

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GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

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

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. EL HASSAN (Sudan) said that on the eve of the third United Nations development decade, the old structure of the international economic system, comprising an omnipotent centre determining the rules of the game and a subordinate periphery which had secured political but not economic independence, was still the same. In recent years, no progress had been made towards the establishment of the new international economic order. Although the many conferences on subjects such as food, water, population, trade and development, and science and technology had been welcome developments in so far as they had afforded opportunities for dialogue and negotiation, they had not allayed the anxieties of the developing countries.
2. The current economic situation, with the widening gap between developed and developing countries, the resurgence of protectionism, the slow transfer of technology and resources, and the stalemate in negotiations related to the new international economic order, was working against the development of the developing countries. The fifth session of UNCTAD had been a great disappointment. The establishment of the Common Fund, though a step in the right direction, was not enough to stabilize commodity markets. The flow of official development assistance from developed market economies and centrally-planned economies had fallen in real terms and had not even reached one half the target rate of 0.7 per cent of the GNP of the donor countries, although some OPEC countries had provided assistance exceeding 4 per cent of their GNP. The progress achieved to date by the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy did not give cause for optimism. The proposal made at the Havana Conference on launching a new round of global negotiations was a welcome initiative. The negotiations should supplement the negotiations elsewhere (within the Committee of the Whole and the Preparatory Committee, for example) and take the establishment of the new international economic order as the final objective.
3. His delegation realized that the developed countries were facing economic difficulties; but because of the interdependence of the world's economies, those problems had a devastating effect on the developing countries. The developed countries must be more forthcoming in the negotiations and recognize that the major responsibility for restructuring the international economic system lay with them.
4. His delegation welcomed the reference made by the representative of Jordan to the Sudan as one of the places offering excellent opportunities for international economic co-operation for development. As his Government had consistently tried to show, the Sudan had 200 million acres of unutilized arable land which could be turned into one of the bread-baskets of the world. The favourable investment

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(Mr. El Hassan, Sudan)

codes adopted to attract foreign investment in agriculture and agro-based industries had not yet led to the expected results; although the Arab oil-producing countries had provided resources for investment in the agricultural sector, no international investment on the scale suggested by the representative of Jordan and various Arab development funds had materialized. It was important not to ignore the food question, which was of major importance to world security.

5. Mr. VIDAL (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statements on all the items allocated to the Committee made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and hoped that the North-South dialogue would be resumed with the political will to establish the new international economic order.

6. It was only fitting for him to focus on the issue of most urgent concern to his country. The economic difficulties faced by the Dominican Republic and its neighbour Dominica, both developing countries suffering from the effects of the world economic crisis, had been compounded by the devastating effects of hurricane "David", which had struck the Dominican Republic on 31 August, and hurricane "Frederick", which had struck five days later. The high winds had destroyed buildings of all types and wrecked the country's general infrastructure; the rains had caused floods, which had affected, inter alia, hydroelectric, irrigation and drinking-water supply plants. One thousand four hundred people had died and 1.2 million, 23 per cent of the country's population, were still suffering from the effects of the disaster. More than 125,000 families had been made homeless, some 150,000 of which had been evacuated and given temporary shelter in public buildings, mainly schools.

7. Property losses amounted to \$830 million, 40 per cent in the livestock and agricultural sector, the backbone of the national economy. That sum was equivalent to 80 per cent of total investments in a normal year, or to more than 120 per cent of export earnings in 1978, 140 per cent of the Government's normal revenue, 16 per cent of the GDP or 6 per cent of national capital stock. The damage to the physical infrastructure - housing, transport and communications - amounted to \$120 million. Housing and buildings had been destroyed primarily in the lowest-income sectors. Fixed assets had fallen by \$400 million, inventories by \$180 million and production shut-downs had caused losses of \$250 million. The domestic product would drop by 2.6 per cent in 1979. Eighty-six per cent of rural schools had been put out of service, hospitals did not have sufficient supplies to treat the many casualties and there was no disease prevention and control infrastructure.

8. Assistance had been provided immediately by various countries, international organizations such as the World Food Programme, FAO, WHO and UNICEF, and international non-governmental organizations such as the International Red Cross. UNDP and UNDRO had also done effective work. The secretariat of ECLA had prepared a report which would be circulated to delegations under agenda item 125.

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(Mr. Vidal, Dominican Republic)

His delegation appealed to all countries to support any recommendations considered pertinent in helping to reconstruct the disaster-stricken areas.

9. Mr. ADODO (Togo) said that the world economy was going through one of the worst crises in recent history, with disastrous effects on third world countries. Some years earlier, some had begun to see in the looming energy crisis the first signs of an upheaval in the international economic system. Despite the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixth special session of the resolution on the establishment of the new international economic order, the adoption by UNIDO in 1975 of the Lima Plan of Action, the establishment of a number of bodies and the holding of conferences, no appreciable progress had been made towards the establishment of an equitable international system consistent with a level of development that would create better living conditions for the vast majority of mankind. The question was whether that failure was due to a wrong approach to the problems or simply to lack of political will.

10. His delegation supported the Group of 77's idea of organizing global negotiations covering all aspects of international economic co-operation which would be likely to produce better results than the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Nevertheless, sectoral negotiations should not be abandoned, even though they had so far produced scant results, since they offered an opportunity to consider specific questions in detail.

11. The adoption of a satisfactory method was not enough without the political will of all concerned. For example, after the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the establishment of the new international economic order, and taking into account certain statements by industrialized countries, it might have been thought that there was a general desire to promote structural changes with a view to a more just international division of labour and a more suitable distribution of industries.

12. However, those expectations had been disappointed at the fifth session of UNCTAD when certain industrialized countries had argued that the restrictions of the world economy would be the result of the free play of market forces, which would force unprofitable enterprises to close down; that view was not shared by Togo, which considered that States could not be mere passive spectators of the process of the restructuring of the world economy. The developed countries would therefore have to abandon those selfish positions and embark, together with the developing countries on the task of transforming the world economy so as to establish a more balanced and just economic order.

13. Togo held that economic co-operation among developing countries was a fundamental element of the new international economic order and had accordingly contributed actively to the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States, a framework for joint regional development which transcended the frontiers inherited from the colonial past.

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(Mr. Adodo, Togo)

14. The economic prospects were not encouraging for the developing countries. They were faced with rising inflation and unemployment, deteriorating terms of trade for their products and growing indebtedness which could not be offset by exports, since they were restricted by the protectionist measures of the developed countries. In those circumstances, development programmes could not be implemented without increasing recourse to external financing.

15. All those difficulties, which were even greater in the case of the least developed and most seriously affected countries, made the new United Nations development decade particularly important. It was to be hoped that during the forthcoming sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, the deadlock in negotiations would be overcome and concrete progress would be made. In order to ensure success during the forthcoming 10 years, new types of development would have to be devised that were more in accord with the realities and aspirations of the third world; there must be more boldness in the transfer of resources to developing countries and an increase in official assistance to those countries, without imposing conditions unfavourable to their growth.

16. Mr. MUTUKWA (Zambia) said that, despite the commitments made by Member States of the United Nations during the two special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to economic issues, the protracted North/South negotiations had produced only meagre results. The world economic situation had deteriorated, especially in the developing countries where poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy were still prevalent. Meanwhile, the gap between rich and poor countries was increasing and, with it, the frustration of the countries of the South. The establishment of the new international economic order depended upon the political will of countries which were still clinging to an outmoded economic system.

17. During the final year of the Second United Nations Development Decade, major efforts had been made, within the United Nations and outside, to bring about change. In that connexion, mention should be made of the meeting of Commonwealth countries at Lusaka and of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries which had adopted specific programmes aimed at correcting the imbalances and injustices which characterized international economic relations. At those meetings an effort had been made to bring about structural changes in economic relations. The time had come for all countries to adopt policy decisions which conformed with the realities of interdependence and the mutuality of interests among all nations. In that spirit his delegation looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly which should mark a positive turning-point in the North-South dialogue.

(Mr. Mutukwa, Zambia)

18. The round of global negotiations proposed by the Group of 77 was a welcome initiative. The negotiations should be approached with an open mind with a view to achieving long-term solutions, and the industrialized countries would need to show genuine understanding. Moreover, in order to achieve concrete results, the new negotiations would require suitable preparations.

19. Although the industrialized countries had a role to play in the development process, primary responsibility lay with the developing countries themselves. In reality, such progress as had been achieved during the current decade had basically been the result of the efforts made by the developing countries. In that context, if the forthcoming development decade was to be approached with realism, it was important to bear in mind the significance of collective self-reliance in the development effort.

20. With regard to food scarcity, his delegation considered that food security, food aid and increasing food production, particularly in developing countries, should be priority subjects. On the question of energy, Zambia endorsed the proposal of the President of Mexico on the adoption of a new energy plan that would cover all countries. The aim of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy should be to adopt a long-term strategy of stabilization for the benefit of all countries.

21. His delegation fully endorsed the recent declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77. It was particularly gratified that the document recognized the economic difficulties of the land-locked and geographically disadvantaged developing countries. Zambia, which was one such country, was also the victim of a major crisis unleashed by the negative historical forces that were oppressing southern Africa. To the south it was virtually surrounded by hostile countries and it continually had to divert additional resources to meet its transport needs. That was one of the reasons why it attached great importance to the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

22. In general, the problems of the land-locked, island and most seriously affected countries had received much publicity, but the response from the international community had not been very satisfactory. His delegation accordingly appealed to Member States to respond to the appeals for assistance for the victims of recent disasters in Dominica, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

23. Mr. AL-ALI (Iraq) said that the seriousness of the current economic crisis was the result of the partial nature of the proposed solutions. Bearing in mind the interrelationship between the economies of all countries and the complexity of economic problems, it was essential to adopt global approaches if the existing state of affairs was to be improved.

24. The Western countries presented the energy problem in false and unfair terms, avoiding the real world economic issues. Thus, they sought to distract public attention from a situation for which they and the transnational corporations were responsible. Iraq agreed that energy was an important problem, but it was not the

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(Mr. Al-Ali, Iraq)

only one and it should therefore be considered together with the others in negotiations aimed at establishing the new international economic order. Similarly, petroleum was only a part of the energy problem. For example, the peaceful use of nuclear energy was especially important and should not be limited exclusively to developed countries.

25. The Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries had adopted a resolution proposing that global negotiations should be held on the questions of trade, financing, energy and development. His country supported the resolutions of the non-aligned countries, especially in so far as they represented an attempt to deal with the many factors involved in economic problems. At the same time, it was opposed to solutions that remedied only the problems of the rich countries, at the expense of the developing countries. Fortunately, the capitalist countries and the transnational corporations had failed in all their attempts to use the energy question to create divisions among the developing countries.

26. Iraq was aware of the economic situation of the developing countries, and it had decided to compensate the poorest countries, starting on 1 June until the end of the year, for the increase in oil prices by offering them interest-free loans to help them to pay for their imports. In addition to such concrete measures, Iraq supported long-term efforts to find new and renewable sources of energy and, accordingly, it would welcome the convening of a United Nations conference on that subject in 1981.

27. Bearing in mind the grave consequences that the inflation exported by the developed countries had on the developing countries, Iraq had proposed the establishment of an international fund to help the developing countries to overcome the effects of inflation. The participation of the developed countries in such a fund would be proportional to the inflation they had exported. The oil-exporting countries would also be involved in such a fund. Non-Aligned Countries had expressed their interest in that proposal and were currently examining it. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was also considering that proposal.

28. In April 1979, his country had hosted the Conference on the Role of Women in Development, which had been convened by the Non-Aligned Countries. The Conference had considered national strategies designed to promote the equal rights of women and men and the participation of women in social and political life, among other things. The final document of the Conference, which was available to interested delegations, contained a summary of the discussions as well as the resolutions adopted.

29. As for the question of a code of conduct for transnational corporations and an international agreement on illicit payments, his delegation was in favour of convening a conference in order to reach agreement on those matters. Although the two questions were related, it was important to stress that a code of conduct had priority.

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30. Mr. VU SONG (Viet Nam) said that the current world economic situation was a cause for concern for everyone. The world economic crisis continued to worsen. The real meaning of the concept of interdependence among nations lay in the dependence, exploitation and inequality of world economic relations, and it was the developing countries - particularly the least-developed - that faced the severe problems resulting from that crisis.

31. Serious negotiations must be undertaken with a view to finding appropriate solutions to the problems that impeded development. The global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, proposed by the Group of 77 on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, could provide a suitable framework. His delegation hoped that the developing countries with market economies would demonstrate greater political will, since the well-being and prosperity of the countries of the Third World served their interests, as well.

32. Another no less important task lay in achieving economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with the principles of individual and collective self-reliance. For that purpose, new mechanisms should not be established so long as existing mechanisms could be used effectively. The outcome of those negotiations would depend on the developing countries' capacity to defend their legitimate claims; it was also essential for the developing countries to diversify their relations with all countries, irrespective of their economic and political systems.

33. The new International Development Strategy must serve the needs of developing countries and must reflect the basic principles of the new international economic order, namely, the full sovereignty of States over their natural resources and all economic activities, the restructuring of international economic relations and the strengthening of economic co-operation among developing countries. The concept of basic needs, which was not in line with the priority objectives of development, was unacceptable. Furthermore, the increase in the developing countries' share of world industrial production, which was closely connected with access to technology under fair conditions and which required the accelerated transfer of resources, must be adapted to the objectives and priorities of the developing countries and must not be linked to the expansion of transnational corporations.

34. In its task of reconstruction and economic development, Viet Nam had been obliged to confront, first of all, the consequences of wars of aggression waged by the imperialists. Recently, the expansionists and hegemonists of Peking had unleashed another war of aggression, which had caused immeasurable damage in the northern part of Viet Nam. The aggressors had killed, burned or destroyed everything they could not take back to China with them, and currently they were massing troops along the border and multiplying their provocations and threats. His delegation appealed to the international community to condemn that policy of hegemony and expansionism.

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(Mr. Vu Song, Viet Nam)

35. Viet Nam wished to thank the Soviet Union and the other countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance as well as other countries and international organizations, for their effective assistance in helping Viet Nam to build an independent and sovereign economy. The attitude of the Peking leaders and certain Western countries was very different: they used economic assistance as a way of exerting pressure on Viet Nam and tried to make other countries and some international organizations act in the same manner.

36. Viet Nam wished to develop economic co-operation, trade and other types of relations with all countries, based on mutual respect, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and reciprocal advantage. For example, his country was engaged in co-operation with some of the Scandinavian and Western countries on the basis of those principles.

37. With regard to relations with the countries of South-East Asia, he drew attention to the statement made by the Vietnamese Prime Minister at the Sixth Conference of Non-Aligned Countries. The Prime Minister had reiterated Viet Nam's policy of peaceful co-existence and its desire to develop long-term relations of co-operation, friendship and respect for the principles contained in the joint communiqué published by Viet Nam and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Prime Minister had added that Viet Nam was prepared to initiate discussions with the other countries of South-East Asia with a view to establishing a zone of peace, stability and neutrality in the region. Moreover, his delegation considered the work of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin to be an appropriate and promising form of subregional co-operation. His delegation supported the proposal for the granting of urgent assistance for the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

38. Mr. MONSHEMULA (Zaire) said that the current world economic crisis was the most severe crisis to have occurred since the end of the Second World War. The Second United Nations Development Decade had not come up to the international community's expectations. It had not been able to attain its main objective, namely, an average annual increase in the gross domestic product of all the developing countries of at least 6 per cent. The growth rate of agricultural production, which should have been 4 per cent, had only attained 2.8 per cent. Official aid to development had accounted for only 0.3 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries, whereas the target had been 0.7 per cent. In Africa, where most of the least developed countries were located, the situation was critical.

39. The decisions taken during the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly concerning the establishment of a new international economic order could not be implemented because of the developed countries' lack of political will. The fifth session of UNCTAD had not solved all the essential problems, although agreement had been reached on certain points. A resolution had also been adopted on the particular problems of Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets. His delegation hoped that the studies under way on that subject would produce satisfactory results, which could be put into practice as soon as possible, and he urged the countries that had expressed reservations about the financial implications of the resolutions adopted not to stand in the way of their implementation.

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(Mr. Monshemvula, Zaire)

40. The outcome of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, held in the context of GATT, had been disappointing and the developed countries were continuing to adopt protectionist measures. His delegation attached particular importance to the Common Fund and the Integrated Programme for Commodities and hoped that the Fund's Articles of Agreement would be drawn up within the deadline set and that States which had not already done so would make pledges as soon as possible.

41. With regard to the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, his delegation welcomes the establishment of a fund to help developing countries acquire industrial development techniques. It also hoped that all delegations would endeavour to ensure the success of the forthcoming Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

42. His delegation fully supported the efforts of the United Nations to solve the problems of millions of human beings suffering from hunger and malnutrition. In that connexion, he wished to draw attention to the measures adopted by the World Food Council to set up reserve stocks of grains and emergency stocks, as well as the support that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) would give developing countries.

43. In general his country, which had always considered agriculture to be a priority area, supported the recommendations and decisions of the recent World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. His country's authorities had included the agricultural sector in the new national economic reconstruction plan, called the "Mobutu Plan", which was designed to reorganize administration and public finances and which also covered improvements in the fields of transportation, mining and energy, etc. His Government thanked the countries, international bodies and international financial institutions that were assisting in implementing that national economic development plan.

44. With regard to the 1980 special session of the General Assembly and the new round of global negotiations, his delegation expressed its full support for the declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77. Strengthening the unity of the Group of 77 would help the developing countries in their negotiations with the industrialized countries on the question of the preparation and implementation of the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

45. Mr. JIMETA (Nigeria) said that the fact that 20 of the 32 least developed countries of the world were in Africa was not unrelated to their colonial past, during which the continent had been divided into economically non-viable units and a trade and development pattern had been established that had imposed on newly independent States the degree of progress that their erstwhile oppressors permitted them. However, the collapse of the colonial empires was not preventing numerous developed countries from continuing to refuse to accept a new order that would truly redistribute the world's wealth fairly and efficiently.

46. Developing countries, particularly those in Africa, had been the victims of both underdevelopment and political destabilization, and there was a continuing

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(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

attempt to blackmail those countries into perpetuating the status quo. Those countries had accumulated a staggering amount of external debts, and the rapidly diminishing real value of their raw materials had prevented them from servicing those debts. To those factors must be added the damage caused by natural disasters, civil wars and wars engineered by foreign Powers, as well as the massive and sometimes permanent destruction of their natural wealth.

47. For those reasons, his country actively supported new institutions designed to redress economic inequities. However, it was unquestionable that the goals and objectives that had been the outcome of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly had yet to be achieved; that the Paris Conference had been inconclusive; and that the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, had not yet facilitated access by developing countries to the necessary financial and capital flows.

48. Although substantial progress had been made in the preparation of an agreement to eliminate illicit payments by transnational corporations, a number of developed countries were showing unwillingness with regard to the early completion of the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations. His country firmly believed in free trade, but it also believed in the principle that trade must be fair. Investments in his country brought rewards for those who respected the policy of promoting participation of Nigerian manpower and for those who encouraged manpower training programmes at the middle and higher levels.

49. His country was ready to establish international relations that would be favourable for its four-year development plans. Currently, world inflation was adversely affecting the plan that was under way: expenditure, initially estimated at \$40 billion, had almost doubled and was thus jeopardizing chances of attaining the targets set. Notwithstanding the income from its petroleum resources, his country's per capita GNP was among the lowest in the world owing to the large size of its population, which had to be housed, fed and educated. With over 90 per cent of the population still engaged in agriculture, it was logical that the Development Plan should emphasize food production and that his country should wish to make the International Fund for Agricultural Development a success, as demonstrated by its contribution of \$26 million to the Fund.

50. The developed countries must accept the inevitable course of international economic relations, correctly evaluate the aspirations of the developing countries and use the opportunities presented by the current negotiations. They must shift away from the backward traditional economic postulates that had led to the current international economic crises. They must, moreover, accept the reorganization of international trade, meet the targets set for official development assistance, and understand that such assistance could constitute a sound investment by ensuring an uninterrupted supply of raw materials and that it could generate competitive trade relations among the countries of the world.

51. His country was convinced that developing countries must strengthen co-operation among themselves. To that end, his country had played a leading role in providing capital for the African Development Bank and it had participated in

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(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

several bilateral arrangements with neighbouring countries, the purpose of which was to ensure judicious exploitation of shared natural resources, and in the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States.

52. At the current stage, it was necessary to embark on a new round of global negotiations on the establishment of the New International Economic Order and to intensify efforts in the most promising areas of negotiation, including follow-up action on the Conference on an International Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology, the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the agreement on illicit payments and the formulation of a Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations. His country was also greatly concerned that items should be discussed as part of a whole and that no items should be the subject of separate negotiations.

53. His country hoped, furthermore, that during the 1980s the Committee of the Whole would develop a platform for a global approach to world economic relations. The Conference on the Law of the Sea should be concluded, and the financial and monetary institutions should find a solution that guaranteed an adequate flow of financial resources to the neediest areas of the world. Participation by developing countries in industrial output must be brought closer to the target set for the current decade. All Governments must join in an effort to reduce wasteful consumption and the excessive profits made by transnational corporations, to eliminate hunger and disease and to promote the well-being of mankind.

54. Mr. HOUETON (Benin) said that, in general, his delegation shared the views expressed by the representatives of the countries belonging to the Group of 77 and of the non-aligned countries. After quoting statements made by the head of his country's delegation at plenary meetings of the General Assembly, he said that in Benin development was people-oriented, since people were the sole creators and the chief beneficiaries of wealth. His country's Development Plan took a long-term view, the goal of which was to change the historical process that had made Benin an underdeveloped economy and launch it on the path of autonomous development that would give each Beninese citizen the possibility of earning a decent living and developing his or her individual abilities to the full.

55. That over-all objective had three aspects. First of all, development must be democratic; not only the general living standard must be improved but also that of each citizen. The benefits of economic growth should not be reserved for a handful of privileged people but should reach every member of society. If those fundamental principles were followed all over the world, the present enormous economic crisis would disappear.

56. In the second place, development should be independent. A development process should be initiated which would guide the national economy in such a way that it was responsive only to the national will. That did not preclude the development of international relations based on mutual respect and reciprocal benefit; proof that Benin sought to put those principles into practice was given by its participation in regional and international bodies, including the Economic Community of West African States.

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(Mr. Houeton, Benin)

57. In the third place, economic development should be planned. Conscious control of economic and social transformations required the participation of all workers in the planning and implementation stages. That was necessary for independent development and the liberation of all potential national capacities and so that social justice and well-being could prevail. A unified system of planning which could rationalize, co-ordinate and motivate all national initiatives was an absolute requirement, which should also be given effect on a world-wide scale.

58. His country appreciated the thoroughness and quality of the macro-economic studies being carried out in connexion with the preparation of the new international development strategy. However, the basic problem was to achieve democratic, independent and planned development on a world-wide scale. It must be recognized that liberal economic theories had failed and had significantly been replaced by their opposite - protectionism - and that those theories had served only to exploit peoples. Use must be made of the enormous resources which were now being wasted on the manufacture of weapons to protect the interests of minorities and attack defenceless peoples.

59. Once those principles were accepted, partial sectoral action could be considered. His country felt that the ideas put forward by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation formed a solid basis for measures aimed at seeking solutions for current economic problems on a world-wide scale. Although bilateral and multilateral co-operation had their place, he felt that, if financial and other assistance was not inserted in a world-wide framework of planned production and fairer international trade, that assistance would benefit only the already developed economies and would accentuate the inequalities and stagnation faced by the developing countries.

60. Now that preparations for the new international development strategy were under way, due account should be taken of the interdependence of all economies, so as to avoid ending up with partial and superficial measures again. His delegation was ready to consider any proposal aimed at studying and planning development on a world-wide scale. In that spirit, it would support all initiatives aimed at finding a just solution to problems relating to the transfer of real resources. Furthermore, it welcomed the conclusions of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and urged all countries to give effect to those conclusions.

61. Mr. BELINGA (United Republic of Cameroon) said that he wished only to add to the important statement in the General Assembly made by the head of his delegation, who had spoken of the new morality which should guide the search for the new international economic order. The very concept of international fellowship had no meaning unless the community could go beyond the existing differences and imbalances and show a minimum of cohesion and common goals. It was therefore necessary that all countries should accept the concept of world solidarity, not only as a long-term goal but also in daily practice.

62. A careful look at the current year, which was marked by uncertainty and tension, showed the need, now greater than ever, for a united approach. Despite the many conferences held in recent years relating to the establishment of the new

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(Mr. Belinga, Cameroon)

international economic order, the economic situation of the developing countries had continued to deteriorate, as could be seen from the rise in the cost of their imports from developed countries while the price of their own exports had stood still. That situation had, in UNCTAD's view, led to a 15 per cent worsening in the terms of trade of the developing countries during the period 1974-1978 and to foreign currency losses exceeding \$30,000 million in 1978. At the same time, the foreign debt of the developing countries had risen to approximately \$300,000 million and official development assistance was decreasing. According to reports by the International Monetary Fund, the average rate of growth of oil-importing developing countries had dropped to 4 per cent.

63. None of the recent conferences had solved any of the fundamental problems of the current situation, such as that of energy dependence. Despite the adoption of some positive measures, such as the agreement on the Common Fund and the increase in special drawing rights, the results of recent negotiations had been disappointing and raised serious doubts concerning the effectiveness of the North-South dialogue.

64. The establishment of the new international economic order, which was to terminate all forms of dependence and guarantee peace and security among nations, required a new approach in which solidarity and co-operation would prevail over the short-term interests of each country. What was required was a synthesis of legitimate national interests with the common interest. Real solidarity, which should not be confused with interdependence or with the present form of co-operation based on mere formal equality, required recognition of the right of the weakest to favourable treatment which would enable them, through autonomous development, to overcome the effects of earlier domination and natural inequalities. In the area of development, the principle of equality should be replaced by one of compensatory inequality. Negotiations should banish all hegemonistic and mercantilist considerations, so that the sole genuine bond of co-operation and solidarity could be affirmed, namely the human condition of all mankind.

65. Fear of a catastrophe that might endanger the very existence of the human race seemed to be bringing about a certain convergence in the desire for change. On the eve of the third United Nations Development Decade, the time was ripe to progress from the study of facts to an awareness of duty and then to contractual obligations. Negotiations should lead to sectoral contracts of solidarity which would set forth the rights and duties of parties and provide for collective supervision of commitments for the sake of a higher interest, namely that of the survival of mankind.

66. His country felt that the new international development strategy should be a contract of solidarity that would entail commitments on the part of Governments which would be much more binding than those agreed to previously and should involve clearly defined time-limits and quantitative objectives. Only through the adoption of contracts of solidarity, in which commutative justice was replaced by distributive justice, would the foundation be laid for genuine co-operation.

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67. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) said that, although the international community had at long last recognized the need for radical structural changes in the world economic system, it had failed to translate mankind's hope for a better life into action. Up to now the negotiations conducted between developed and developing countries had not led to any significant structural changes and had not contributed to the attainment of the aspirations expressed at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly.

68. That lack of progress, most recently exemplified by the failure of the fifth session of UNCTAD and the lack of agreement in the Committee of the Whole and the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, was clearly due to the lack of political will on the part of some developed countries. In that context, the new rounds of negotiations in the 1980s should be based on a genuine co-operative effort involving all nations of the world. The global negotiations proposed by the Group of 77 could, in the view of his delegation, facilitate some progress.

69. With regard to the problem of energy, which had become so critical for developing countries, his delegation hoped that the proposals made by the Group of 77 and the President of Mexico would lead to a breakthrough in dealing with the problem.

70. A comparison of the objectives of the Second Development Decade and its achievements was even more disappointing, especially from the standpoint of the poorest countries. The time had come for the international community to adopt a global approach to economic problems. It should draw up a coherent programme for the development of the world economy as a whole and the establishment of the new international economic order. The problem of the least developed countries merited special attention and priority in the new International Development Strategy as well as in the various negotiations currently under way.

71. His delegation believed that development should bring about greater equality and justice, not only among countries but within each of them. It therefore agreed with the proposal of Mr. Fidel Castro, President of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, that the rich should contribute and the poor distribute. Indeed, the developing countries had an inescapable responsibility to distribute both the means of production and the income they generated.

72. His delegation was gratified by the results of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. If its aspirations were fulfilled, changes in the lives of the residents of large agrarian sectors would undoubtedly take place. His delegation therefore wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.6.

73. Mr. da LUZ (Cape Verde) said that the current world economic situation was characterized by the concentration of the means of production and wealth in the hands of a minority and by permanent injustice in the distribution of that wealth. The international community could no longer remain indifferent to the fact that 80 per cent of humanity could not meet its basic needs, while the remaining 20 per cent controlled the available resources.

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(Mr. da Luz, Cape Verde)

74. The economic crisis was not a simple cyclical phenomenon but the result of the imbalance in the basic sectors of the world economic structure. The Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries had revealed the need for a radical and complete restructuring of the world economic situation through the reversal of current tendencies in world production, international trade and consumption habits. Only in that way could the developing countries fully exercise their sovereignty in international economic relations and more justly enjoy the world's resources.

75. The struggle of the developing countries to transform international economic relations was encountering the resistance of the majority of developed countries; greater political will on the part of the latter would do much to prevent the break-down that sometimes took place in multilateral negotiations. Aside from some marginal results, the fifth session of UNCTAD had clearly failed. The Conference on Science and Technology for Development had been an important event, but its results would be useless if efforts were not made to implement them. The recent negotiations in the Committee of the Whole had yielded limited results, and it was unfortunate that the developed countries had not been sufficiently aware of the problems of the least developed and the most seriously affected countries.

76. Virtually none of the programmes drawn up for the Second United Nations Development Decade had been implemented, for instance, official development assistance, with few exceptions, had not reached even half of the proposed target. His delegation wished to commend the countries which had reached and surpassed that target and expressed the hope that the Third Development Decade would not encounter the difficulties of the previous one.

77. One positive factor currently was the improved co-ordination and solidarity among developing countries in elaborating joint programmes, and their desire jointly to develop solutions that would strengthen their negotiating capacity. His country, which attached great importance to membership in the Economic Community of West African States, believed that that new desire would facilitate the improvement of conditions for establishing world economic relations based on justice.

78. His country, which was concerned over its relations with the continent and communication among the various islands making up its territory, attached great importance to the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. It hoped that effective measures would be adopted to solve the problems caused by the continuing drought in the Sahelian countries.

79. His country faced serious difficulties in setting its economic development in motion. Its known natural resources were virtually non-existent, the infrastructure required for development was lacking and its productive capacity met only a fraction of the country's food requirements and needs for other consumer goods. Its dependence on imports had made it especially vulnerable to world inflation. The drought that had already lasted 11 years continued to dessicate the cultivable land and forced the people to abandon their agricultural

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(Mr. da Luz, Cape Verde)

activities and flock to the few existing urban centres, thus increasing unemployment. An example of the dramatic nature of the situation was that the production of maize, the population's staple food, had equalled 8,000 tons in 1978, while the annual needs amounted to 48,000 tons.

80. He thanked the Administrator of UNDP and the Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes for the information they had submitted to the Committee on the situation in his country, and expressed his gratitude for the contributions made by fraternal States and international and non-governmental organizations to help solve the problems his country faced.

81. Mrs. ZHANG (China) said that she wished to reply to the slanderous statements of the Vietnamese delegation and its false accusations that China was a hegemonistic Power. It was well known that China had been obliged to counter-attack to defend itself when, its patience having been exhausted, it had resolved to put an end to the arrogance and constant armed incursions by the Vietnamese. Its action had strengthened peace in South-East Asia and ensured the stability of the region, which had been threatened by the Vietnamese.

82. China had not moved a single inch into Vietnamese territory; Viet Nam, on the other hand, had sent numerous armed units into Democratic Kampuchea, caused serious upheavals in the region and had placed its security in jeopardy. Furthermore, as the whole world could see, Viet Nam was actually committing genocide and was causing the mass exodus of refugees forced to flee in deplorable conditions. The words of the representative of Viet Nam once more revealed his hypocrisy. Far from being a threat, China had for many years provided disinterested and unconditional assistance to the Vietnamese people and had sufficiently proved its peaceful intent. It was not the first time that the pathetic spectacle of the Vietnamese acting on the orders of their masters had been seen. China, however, indignantly rejected Viet Nam's statements and countered them with indisputable facts.

83. Mr. THANH (Viet Nam) said that, no matter what the Chinese delegation wished to say, the facts spoke for themselves: the Peking Government had deployed a mission of aggression against Viet Nam, and that was the irrefutable truth, which confirmed his delegation's previous statements.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.