UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
10th meeting
held on
11 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.10
18 October 1990

ORIGINAL! ENGLISH

90-56215 2677S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPINQ COUNTRIES (A/45/3, chap. III, sect. F)

1. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalisation of Economic Qrowth and Development of the Developing Countries was an important achievement, and the international community should implement, as soon as possible, the specific policies and measures which that document prescribed. That was the only way to ensure the effectiveness of international co-operation for development which should develop in an environment conducive to the progress of the world economy and characterised by the accelerated growth and development of the developing countries.

2. Although more than five months had passed since the adoption of the Declaration, there had as yet been no significant changes in the situation of the developing countries. According to information provided by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in 1990 the economic growth of the developing countries would be at its lowest since 1983 and would not exceed 2 per cent, which meant a negative per capita growth. Moreover, there was no evidence of a considerable increase in resources from multilateral agencies, intended to offset the adverse effects of the stabilisation and structural adjustment programmes currently being carried out in most developing countries, nor was there any clear evidence of progress in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in many countries. Despite the efforts of the international community to reduce the external debt of the developing countries, according to recent projections made by the International Monotary Fund (IMF) those countries' total debt would increase by 9 per cent between 1990 and 1991 and, by the end of 1991, it would amount to $US 1.354 billion. Moreover, in 1990 the commodity-exporting countries had witnessed an 8 per cent drop in the prices of their commodities, while in 1989 the official development assistance from the developed to the developing countries had fallen by 2 per cent in real terms. Finally, after the first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi in August 1990, it could be said that the progress of negotiations on that subject had been rather slow, especially with regard to the provision of new and additional financing and the unrestricted access to environmentally sound technologies and the transfer of such technologies on a concessional, preferential and unconditional basis.

3. In the light of that discouraging state of affairs, urgent measures must be taken to ensure that the international community fulfilled the commitments it had made in the Declaration. The Group ox 77 would introduce a draft resolution on the subject at the appropriate time. The recent consensus adoption of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

(Mr. Navajas-Mogro, Bolivia)

was clear proof of the desire of all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to more productive *and* efficient international ao-operation for development. Since the Declaration and the international development strategy were essentially complementary, the Group of 77 hoped that the agreements reached by the *international* community in the development strategy would be implemented as soon as possible.

4. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that human resources development had become the main focus of development strategies and policies for the 1990s. *At* the *national level,* countries should endeavour *to* restructure public budgets in order to place the emphasis on primary health care, primary education for all, and other social infrastructures. Specific consideration should be given to improving the status of women, who played a particularly vital role in the social and economic life of developing countries. A proper balance should be established between national policies, including economic and structural policies, and an international economic environment favourable to economic growth and development, No external assistance could offset ineffective national policies, as had been clearly demonstrated by the experience of the past decade.

5. The European Community welcomed the outcome of *the* Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and reaffirmed their full endorsement of the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action. The Twelve were committed to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of a number of principles: namely, the primary responsibility of the least developed countries for formulating and implementing policies and priorities for their growth and development; emphasis on human resources development and popular participation; shared responsibility and strengthened partnership; the need for adequate external support to the least developed countries from the developed countries; and the need to undertake commitments measurable and transparent enough to enable *monitoring* and assessment.

6. The World Summit for Children had drawn attention to the most urgent problems of children and mothers, and had recorded the commitments made by world leaders to implement national policies and co-operate with other countries to improve the condition of children all over the world. The participants in the Summit had recognised that the development of human resources was the corner-stone of development strategies for the 1990s. An appropriate follow-up of the Summit should be conducted at the national and international levels in order to ensure that the commitments made at the highest political level were implemented.

7. The international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade was the most recent example of the follow-up and implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation. The document on the strategy provided a number of guidelines for action which should be adapted to specific national situations, and emphasised the opportunity offered by the current detente in international relations for reducing military spending world-wide and allocating larger amounts of resources to combat world poverty.

(Mr. Petrone, Italy)

8. Progress had been made at the Nairobi meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nation6 Conference on Environment and Development, Environmental problems such as climate change, ozone depletion, deforestation, marine pollution *and* the loss of biological diversity could not be solved without closer and more effective international *co-operation* and concerted action. The Conference was one of the moat important and challenging events of international economic co-operation in the 1990s. The link between environment, population and development was crucial *for* the development strategies of the decade, and the European Community looked forward to the successful preparation of the Conference.

9. The dramatic events in the Persian Gulf region and their repercussions on the world economy had raised serious concerns about prorpeots for economic growth. The European Community had decided to provide financial assistance to the countries most immediatly affected by the Gulf crisis. In particular, the Twelve would provide short-term financial assistance in the amount of 1.5 billion European Currency Units (ECU) to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, The Community would also consider the possibility of providing economic assistance to other countries seriously affected by the crisis. The Twelve had also allocated 130 million ECU to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees from the crisis area, and welcomed the measures taken by international financial institutions to provide financial assistance to refugees.

10. The United Nations and its specialized agencies should play a key role in the process of follow-up and implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation. However , in order to enable the Organisation to assist the international community in meeting the challenges of the 1990s and, more specifically, the needs of the developing countries, its functioning *in* the economic and social fields needed to be improved.

11. The Twelve believed that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should conduct a political review of the implementation of both the international development strategy and the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation.

12. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland), speaking *on* behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the commitments contained in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation were the result of a realistic assessment of past developments *and* the current international situation. The Nordic countries were pleased that the Declaration clearly indicated the respective responsibilities of the various partners in development, including the developing countries, the industrialized countries and the United Nations agencies and international financial institutions. The recognition of environmental concerns and issues related to human resources development added to the realism of the Declaration, The Declaration *in* itself outlined only broad principles *for* national policies and international co-operation) their validity would be tested by the commitment *of* individual developing countries to formulating their policies and setting priorities, and by the international community's commitment to supporting the developing countries.

(Mr. Kääriä, Finland)

13. The Nordic countries believed that macro-economic adjustment accompanied by struatural reforms were necessary but not sufficient to combat poverty effectively. The new economic policies, coupled with domestic income generation, should aim at a more equitable distribution of income. More efficient and affordable ways of providing social services must be found, and policies in the social field, including those for education, health, family planning, housing and social security, must be strengthened. In addition, the vital principles of democracy, human rights and mass participation of both men and *women* must be placed high on the agenda of national policies.

14. Many developing countries lacked the institutional capacity to carry out the required changes. The World Bank and IMF provided both advice and financial assistance with regard to the formulation and implementation of economic policies. The United Nations had an important role to play in the implementation of the commitments and policies of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation and the international development strategy for the 1990s. *The* Organisation was particularly well qualified to lead the way in human development in its broad sense, and in combatting poverty. However, in order for it to provide the required institutional support and policy advice, the institutional set-up of the United Nations system must be reviewed and adapted. The Nordic countries were willing to co-operate fully in that respect.

15, Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria) said that the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation identified several practical steps: a and lasting solution to the developing countries' external debt problem, together with its corollary of negative net financial resources; injections of outside capital under advantageous conditions to meet the developing countries' growth needs; improvement in the international economic environment by reducing global imbalances and taking the interests of the developing countries into account when agreeing on macro-economic policies; the establishment of an open and fair trading system and support for the developing countries' efforts to diversify and moderniae their economies) the adoption of a long-term view of the process of development which went beyond short-term adjustments; support for the developing countries' efforts to develop local scientific and technical capabilities; support for the process of regional economic integration) and enhancement of the role of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic recovery of the developing countries.

16. That political commitment would not have any effect, however, unless it was followed by practical measures. The seventh session of UNCTAD, in July 1957, had also had revitalisation of economic growth and development as its sole objective, but 40 months later its final Declaration still had not been put into effect. It was reassuring to note that the draft international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade had been adopted unanimously, although it too would have to pass the test of actually being put into operation. It was essential that the political commitment entered into after the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly should be adhered to: it was extremely discouraging that, a bare few months after it had been adopted, the undertaking

/...

(Mr. Djoghlaf, Algeria)

concerning additional transfers of resources on favourable terms to those developing countries which were taking environmental protection measures was apparently already being called in. Obviously, strict adherence to that commitment, and to the commitment on the transfer of technology under non-commercial conditions to the countries of the South, were essential to the success of the forthcoming Conference on Environment and Development. Having made a contribution before the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, the Second Committee now had a duty to make a further contribution after it, to ensure that its Declaration did not join those others which were still waiting to be put into effect.

17. Mr. MINAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation was a major political document which consolidated the basic principles governing economic relations among States. The special session and the general debate in the Second Committee had demonstrated that Member States were increasingly open to economic co-operation which was based on partnership and free of the ideological baggage of the era of confrontation. The desire to overcome the economic division into Morth and South and East and West and to find effective ways of integrating national economies into the world economy was gradually gaining ground.

18. The Declaration was the first important United Nations document *in* which the international community uannimously supported the integration of the Eastern European countries into the world economy. In addition to favourable external conditions, that would require intense efforts on the part of the individual countries to carry out a radical restructuring of their economies and to make fundamental changes in their external economic relations. The Soviet. Union was well aware of the scope and complexity of those tasks, and it attached paramount importance to their solution. The Supreme Soviet, including the Committee on Economic Reform of which he was the Secretary, was currently endeavouring to improve Soviet economic legislation. In its work, the Committee on Economic Reform made use of the expertise acquired by the bodies and organisations of the United Nations system.

19. In implementing of the Declaration on Interrational Economic Co-operation, Member States and international organisations must pay particular attention to the specific measures required to ensure observance of the economic openness, the interdependence of national economies and the world economy, the development of macro-economic co--ordination with due consideration for the interests of all countries, access to modern environmentally sound technologies, the reduction by all countries of their military budgets as a means of accelerating the development of national economies and the world economy as a whole, and the responsibility of every State for its economic policies and their international consequences. The Secretary-General could, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), formulate practical reccnmendations - both for Member States and for the entire United Nations system - on ways of implementing those principles.

(Mr. Minaev, USSR)

20. It would also be useful to review the implementation of the Declaration regularly, perhaps once or twice a year, at summer sessions of the Economic and Social Council and in the Second Committee. Co-ordination of the entire exercise would be facilitated by a joint meeting of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), ssy in the next two or three years, to consider the issue. That was partioularly important because many provisions of the Declaration presupposed the involvement of a large number of bodies and organisations of the United Nations system, including their secretariats in its implementation, Practical measures to implement the principles contained in the Declaration should be co-ordinated with the more general task of achieving the genuine universalisation of all United Nations economic activities.

21. Mr. ZHANG Yesui (China) said that the adoption of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation was a major event. At a time when moat developing countries were faced with economic stagnation and decline, and a further widening of the gap between North and South, the Declaration represented a positive step towards strengthening international economic co-operation and dialogue. Whether or not it could play the role which had been intended for it would depend on whether or not it could be effectively implemented. All countries, and in particular the developed countries, had to make an effort to turn commitments and policies into actions. The specialised agencies of the United Nations system should in particular map out specific and feasible programmes for implementing the Declaration in their respective areas of work and report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, either regularly or occasionally. China also hoped that the Secretary-General would continue to attach importance to the implementation of *the* Declaration,

22. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that the developing countries hoped the commitments entered into by all parties in the Declaration of the eighteenth special session would become a reality, For those countries had committed themselves to implementing domestic policies which would allow them to control inflation, promote national savings, create conditions favourable to investment both domestic and from abroad, modernise their economies and increase their international competitiveness. The developed *countries,* for their part, had to make the structural changes which would restore balance to the international economy, and at the macro-economic level would take into account the interests and concerns of all countries, in particular the developing countries. All awaited with anticipation the actions which the developed countries would take to correct external and fiscal imbalances, promote non-inflationary sustainable growth, lower real interest rates, and make their markets and more accessible exchange races more stable.

23, A review of the months following the approval of the Declaration showed some positive signs, but also serious grounds for anxiety. The decision of the majority of the developing countries to implement painful adjustment programmes had *not* met with a corresponding response on the part of the developed world. Virtually nothing had been done to correct the internal imbalances of the major economies. For example, it was inexplicable that there were developed countries offering

(Mr. Wolff, Colombia)

speculative returns on oapital of 12 or even 14 per aent, whereas their rates of inflation were no higher than 5 per cent. In the area of national policy, everyone, and not just the developing countries, had a great deal still to do,

24. The developing countries welcomed the announcement by the Government of the United States of some initiatives aimed at oontrolling its gigantic fiscal deficit. They also welcomed President Bush's announcement of the new initiative for the Americas. Unfortunately, there were other fronts where the situation was not so clear. The developing countries had opened in their economies, but there had boen no matahing response from *the* developed world. The painful process of the Uruguay Round wad the best example of the lack of resolve to strengthen *the* exports of the developing countries. The ghost of protectionism and discrimination was prowling around the decision-making centres of the developed countries.

25. Efforts to solve the external debt problem were also of vital importance. If within the next two years no definitive and lasting solution to it was found, the Dealaration of the eighteenth speoial session of the General Assembly would be quite meaningless.

26. With regard to the question *of* resources to finance the development of the developing countries, paragraph 27 of the Declaration stated that the developed countries should implement their undertakings to devote 0.7 per oent of their GNP to ODA and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries. The reality in that area was frankly discouraging. Against a background of a financial bonanaa, the developed countries, rather than increasing their financial assistance, had reduced its rate of growth. Only two months after the approval of the Declaration of the eighteenth special session, criteria for disbursement of aid were being applied which bore no relation to reality, much leas to the priority of revitalizing the growth and development of the developing countries.

27. The poor of the world, the subject of so much talk, needed more action and less rhetoric, more decisions and fewer promises. Developed and developing countries alike had an obligation to live up to their commitments. They could not grant themselves the luxury of failing yet again.

28. Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the adoption of the Declaration by the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly was a milestone in the evolution of the global consensus on promoting international economic co-operation, Given the importance of agriculture in the economies *of* most developing countries, it had a major role to play in attaining the objectives of the Declaration. Many of FAO's programmes and activities contributed member States ' efforts to achieve those objectives. For example, demand for technical assistance in the field of policy analysis and advice had increased considerably in recent years, as a result of the growing number of countries introducing structural adjustment programmes. FAO's work concentrated on: assessment of impacts of structural adjustment on the food and agricultural sector; assistance to countries in preparing for negotiations on adjustment programmes; sector/sub-sector policy and performance review; institution building;

(Mr. Camara, FAO)

training in agrioultural analysis, and resource mobilisation for investment in agrioulture and the rural sector.

29, In oo-operation with regional and subregional organiaationa, FAO also provided teahnioal assistance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, while Field Programme activities included a regional aasaasmont of comparative advar age in the production of selected agricultural crops/commodities.

30. Issues oonoerning agrioultural trade polioy were regularly discussed in FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), Agricultural protectionism had been a major item on the Committee's agenda for over a decade. Through its Intergovernmental Commodity Groups, CCP monitored developments in trade policies, protectionism and action taken to reduce barriers to trade in many of the moat important agricultural commodities. Recommendations of FAO's governing bodies regarding the multilateral trading system were in line with paragraph 32 of the Declaration.

31. FAO also gave technical support to the Uruguay Round, including the provision of atatistios or analytical documents, and attendance at meetings of various Negotiating Groups, and provided teohnioal assistance to oountriea in connection with the preparation of their views on matters under negotiation.

32. FAO's International Commodity Qroups strongly supported the key role for commodity exports stressed in paragraph 33 of the Declaration. It was now very possible that, with the Common Fund for Commodities becoming operational, the International Qroupa would become involved, under the Second Account of the Common Fund, in the sponsorship of measures and projects in areas of research and development, productivity improvement and marketing of commodities.

33. The FAO Conference in November 1989 had given specific directives for strengthening FAO's programmes for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development. Together with the Government of the Netherlands, FAO waa organising a Conference on Agriculture and the Environment which would help to prepare FAO's inputs to the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development.

34, Mrs. ORTEGA (United States of America) said that the Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly was a principled and far-reaching document, which called on member States to accelerate steps to promote international economic co-operation for sustained growth of the world economy and in particular the revitalisation of economic growth and development of the developing countries, The fact that States had been able to achieve consensus on a strong, meaningful statement of that nature represented an important new step in the way they all viewed economic development. The United States supported implementation of the commitments and policies for international development co-operation agreed upon in the Declaration.

/...

(Mrs. Ortega, United States)

35. The United States had recently taken steps indicative of its interest in implementing thr type of measures prescribed by the Declaration. In June it had announced the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, a new broad-based economic initiative for the 1990s baaed on the concept that prosperity in the hemisphere depended upon trade liberalisation, increased investment and external debt relief. Countries of the region had responded enthusiastically to that innovative move to deal with the interrelated problems of trade, investment and debt,

36. The United States believed that; the momentum in favour of economic reforms offered new hope for the developing countries' efforts to achieve sustained growth and development. It had joined the consensus on the Declaration as an expression of its desire for global harmony and its support for the aspirations of *thn* developing world. Obviourly, the world's many problems of growth and development had not been solved, but they were being addressed in a co-operative atmosphere which augured well for the future.

36. Mr. MINET (International Labour Organisation) said that IL0 hoped to contribute to the revitalisation of growth and development in the 1990s by considering specific measures to be implemented in fulfilment of the provisions of the Declaration, and in accordance with its basic mandate.

37. The question of human resources war a priority area for ILO, and specific programmes corresponding to various points in the Declaration wore already under way. IL0 would consider implementation of the Declaration at its meeting in February 1991, in the context of the implementation of the recently adopted international development strategy,

38. The Director-Qeneral of ILO, addressing the eighteenth special session, had said that the new climate of co-operation offered a unique opportunity for the specialised agencies within the United Nations to perform the function8 for which they had been created. In view of the range of activities and responsibilities covered by the various agencies, it was essential for their activities to have the coherence and consistency at the international level whiah was advocated at the national level and for their activities to be better integrated in accordance with a common model which reconciled the need for economic rigour with that for greater social justice.

39. In line with the hope expressed by the Director-Qeneral for Development that the Declaration would inspire profound discussion and analysis of the issues in question and further consistency in dealing with economic and social policies, IL0 urged international organisations to work towards a better alignment of their programmes.

40. Mr. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina) said, with reference to paragraph 22 of the Declaration on International Co-operation, that the major industrialized countries should seek ways of narrowing their monetary and trade imbalances which would benefit the developing countries. So far, only two solution8 to the large trade deficit of the United States had been considered: monetary and fiscal

(Mr. Sersale di Cerisano, Argentina)

restriction measures in the country with the deficit, and increased spending in the countries with the surplus, Japan and Germany. Adoption of the favoured second alternative would lead to a further reduction in the savings rates of the poorer countries. Argentina wished to propose a third solution, namely, that by increasing investments in the countries most affected by the debt crisis, which were traditional clients for American exports of capital assets, the American trade balance could be corrected without decreasing the world savings rate. The outlook on that issue had not really improved since the recent meeting of the seven major industrialized countries, whose economic policies still took little account of the interests of the developing countries.

41, Argentina had embarked on a programme of structural adjustment in order to revitalise its economic growth. The adjustments included market reforms, privatisation measures to stimulate the influx of foreign capital and the encouragement of private initiative for investment purposes. Those measures could only hope to succeed, however, in the content of appropriate efforts by the international community to resolve major maoro-economic problems.

42. Turning to paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Declaration, he regretted that little Progress had been made on the question of debt and development finance since the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund. The Gulf crisis had further exacerbated the problem, causing the major industrialised countries to implement economic cutbacks in response to increased oil prices and resulting inflationary pressures. The rising interest rater and increased restrictions on trade in products of developing countries which were likely to result would directly affect those countries payment capacity, both by increasing the debt service burden and by reducing their export earnings. New finance mechanisms were needed to cushion the impact of the crisis on their economies.

43. While Argentina hoped for a eucceseful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, some countries were implementing policies that stifled liberalization of international trade and ran counter to the commitments made at Punta del Este. The granting of subsidies for certain agricultural exports and other protectionist practices were impeding the efforts of developing countries to implement the domestic policies called for by paragraph 23 of the Declaration.

44. Argentina believed that greater efforts must be made by all countries to achieve a market economy and economic openness and to eliminate all forma of protectionism. Certain countries had displayed a lack of consistency in that regard, promoting the market economy while protecting certain weak sectors of their own productive sector, and he noted that only the countries of the South had complied with their commitments to international economic co-operation,

45. Mr. TURIANSKIY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the consensus adoption of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation at the eighteenth special session had been made possible by recent major political reforms in the world. The new international climate had highlighted the importance of the interdependence of nations in economic and social development and had inspired

(Mr. Turianskiy, Ukrainian SSR)

States to show greater responsibility in confronting problems of a world-wide nature.

46. The Ukraine attached great significance to the consensus approach in the Declaration to the problems faced by Eastern Europe. The Declaration's call for the increased integration of the Eastern European countries in the world economic system was reflected in important political and legislative documents adopted by the Ukraine, placing its economy on the path of market reforms and promoting the self-determination of the Ukrainian SSR in all foreign economic activity.

47. His delegation stressed the urgent need, noted in the Declaration, for concerted efforts to help the developing countries resolve their economic and social problems. All countries must respect their aommitments to international economic co-operation in order to ensure the harmonious integration of their saonomies into the world economy and their adaptation to the changes in the world economic order.

48. His delegation supported the priority given in the Declaration to the problems of external debt and the eradication of poverty in the developing countries. Those goals could only be achieved if the interests of all countries and regions were taken into account and harmonised with the pattern of socio-economic, trade and technological relations that prevailed in the world.

49. The Ukrainian SSR fully endorsed the Declaration's appeal both to Member States and to the Organization to implement comprehensive policies to protect and restore the environment and it hoped that the environmental provisions of the document, which *had* been confirmed in the international development strategy *for* the fourth United Nations development decade, would produce tangible results in the interests of all nations.

50. His delegation welcomed the strengthened role played by the United Nations in international co-operation for the revitalisation of economic growth in the 1990s, and hoped that the adoption of the Declaration would hasten the resolution of problems relating to the review of the structure and functions of the social and economic sector of the United Nations and to the enhancement of the efficiency of the Secretariat's work.

51. Mr. KULKARNI (India) said that the recent political changes in the world lent special significance to the eighteenth special session, which had raised hopes for a *revival* of international economic co-operation. The 1980s had seen a deterioration in living conditions in the developing countries and an exacerbation of their economic problems. It was therefore vital that the objectives of the Declaration should be vigorously put into practice.

52. Efforts to eradicate poverty were being hampered by an unfavourable international economic environment, and specific measures were needed to strengthen poverty relief programmes. More resources should be committed by the rich countries to the poor, for the eventual good of both. The plight of the poorer

(Mr. Kulkarni, India)

nations had been worsened by the Gulf crisis, adding to their strained economies the further burden of increased oil prices, the disruption of trade, the repatriation of their nationals and a general loss of revenues. While the industrialised countries had responded with enthusiasm to the resurgence of democracy in various parts of the world, there had been no overall increase in international development assistance to the poor countries.

53. India supported the Declaration's oall for a growth-oriented solution of the debt problem, which would enable developing countries to contribute to, and not impede, the growth of the world economy. The protectionist practices adopted by some richer countries threatened to deprive the international trading system of the mutuallty, buoyancy and flexibility it needed to prosper.

54. It was ironic that, in an age of increasing openness, some countries were reluctant to share their technology. A more liberal attitude to technology transfer was essential to enable the developing countries to modernize and to strengthen their capacity for growth. Without the necessary technological means, it would be impossible for developing countries to combat environmental degradation effectively. India therefore welcomed those recent agreements which had earmarked additional resources for environmental measurer in developing countries, and believed that continued international co-operation was needed on all environmental concerns.

55. In conclusion, he noted that the interdependence of countries always worked to the benefit of the world as a whole. He hoped that such interdependence would apply not only to military strategy but would also arm States in their battles against poverty and underdevelopment.

56. Mr. VARGAS (Brazil) said that the principles and commitments embodied in tho Declaration constituted the basis and the necessary reference for future negotiations on concerted action for the tevitaliaation of economic growth aud development. The adoption of the Declaration was indicative of the Organisation's ability to conclude meaningful agreements in the economic field, and laid the groundwork for renewed efforts by the United Nations to strengthen international co-operation for development.

57. In view of the general agreement that multilateralism provided the best mechanism for advancing such co-operation, practical implementation of the Declaration was essential. Accordingly, his delegation supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/54, and believed that incorporating the principles of the Declaration in the work programmes of the agencies and programmes of the *United* Nations system would do much to strengthen the role of the Organization in the economic field. Given the repreeentativeness of its membership, the Economic and Social Council should play a catalytic role in monitoring the implementation of the Declaration.

58. The General Assembly could contribute to that process by reflecting in its resolutions and decisions the political will of its members to undertake concrete

(Mr. Vargas, Brazil)

measures to meet the challenge of revitalising the economia growth and development in the developing countries. No national policy aould be successful if it was not backed up by a supportive international economic environment, and a serious effort to implement the Declaration would be a first step towards the creation of such an environment.

59. Mr. PAULINICH (Perv) said that the adoption of the Declaration by consensus marked the beginning of a new phase in international economia ao-operation. He welcomed the international community's acknowledgement of the need to reactivate economic growth and development in the developing countries as a principal task for the 1990s. The achievement of that objective, however, would require the full implementation of the commitments and policies set out in the Declaration. The General Assembly must give the Secretary-general a broad mandate to monitor the implementation of the Declaration by Governments and other bodies and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

60. Any large-scale initiative to restructure or revitalize the economic and social sectors of the United Nations should reflect the spirit of the eighteenth special session and the recently adopted international development strategy.

61. Mr. VAN BRAKEL (Canada) said that the Declaration's full significance would become clear only after a number of years had passed and an assessment had been made of its implementation by Governments and multilateral organisations. It was nevertheless brooming evident that the Declaration marked a turning-point in economic discussions at the United Nations: gone was the stale rhetoric of the past, replaced by a new determination to find pragmatic approaches to the serious and aomplex problems of development.

62. The Declaration contained a number of important principles which should be borne in mind as the international community pursued its implementation. The first was the obvious principle that sovereign States had the primary responsibility for their own economic development. The second was that the international community should give appropriate support to sound economic policies of developing countries. A thorough discussion of what constituted a sound national policy lay at the heart of international co-operation. Clearly, diverse circumstances meant that different approaches would be required. However, broad approaches reflecting the need for external and fiscal balances, environmental sustainability and human resources development in democratic societies were currently being identified, and he welcomed the gradual convergence of views in the United Nations on economic policy, although much remained to be done to make the Organisation a major player in that field.

63. The need for international co-operation and the means of carrying it out effectively were increasingly self-evident. The fact that world trade had grown nearly twice as fast as world output since the early 1970s indicated that countries and production systems were becoming more interdependent, a fact which was in keeping with the thrust of the Declaration. As a world economy in rapid transformation called for constant change on the part of all countries, the ability

(Mr. Van Brakel, Canada)

to adapt to change was central to development. Thus the real measures of the Declaration's success would be how well individual countries and the international community as a whole implemented the truths they had so clearly identified.

64. Mr. TAYEB (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said he wished to address the arguments put forward at the 9th meeting by the representative of the Iraqi régime which had invaded Kuwait. That representative's allegation that the Gulf region was currently under Western occupation was typical of a regime which relied on distortion to serve its own ambitious designs. Such allegations were indicative of the régime's evil intentions and of its contempt for the international community. In fact, 28 Arab and other friendly countries were present in the gulf region to defend it at the request of the legitimate Governments of the region, with a view to preserving international order and the interests of all States and defending international security and human rights.

65. The Iraqi regime had brutal designs on the people and State of Kuwait, and the Iraqi Government's alleged willingness to distribute oil free of charge merely reflected the regime's contempt for the international community. It was in fact the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait that was responsible for the rise in the price of oil which was hampering the development efforts of the developing countries. Iraq's record of humanitarian assistance was in fact lamentable, with vast amounts of resources allocated for armaments rather than for assistance. The Iraqi Government was fighting its own people by plunging them into their second rar in a decade. Saddam Hussein's real aim was to break the grip of the sanctions against his regime, but he would have to listen to the voice of reason and logic and dissipate the spectre of war if he wished to help the developing countries achieve their legitimate aims.

OROANIZATION OF WORK

66. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) pointed out that many of the documents required for the discussion of agenda items 86 and 87, which would take place the following day, had not yet been issued. To discuss the items without the relevant documents reflected a lack of seriousness.

67. The problem of late documentation was a continuing one. In some cases, document6 were ready for distribution yet unavailable to delegations; in other cases, delegations with friends in the Secretariat managed to receive advance copies. The issue was both serious and delicate, for the absence of documents impeded the work of the Committee.

68. The CHAIRMAN agreed that the problem was one of long standing. He intended to look into the matter and ascertain the reasons for the delay in the distribution of some documents. The Committee might wish to consider the problem in depth and take steps to correct it at a later date.

69. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to document A/C.2/45/L.1/Add.1, on the state of preparation of documentation for the Committee, and indicated which documents would be available the next day for the debate on aaenda items 86 and 87.

70. Mr. AGUILAR-HECHT (Guatemala) endorsed the remarks made by the representative Of Colombia, and expressed particular concern that the report of the Seoretary-general on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America had not appeared.

71. The Secretary of the Committee had indicated that a number of documents would be issued on the following day, when the debate was supposed to begin. That situation was totally unacceptable. While he intended no criticism of the Chairman, he believed that the Committee's programme of work must be drawn up in accordance with the availability of documents.

72, The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should begin its consideration of the items by taking up only those topics for which documents were available.

73. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that if the Chairman was asking delegations simply to accept the status quo, his delegation would do so only under protest.

74. The CHAIRMAN said that some problems were beyond his power to solve. He was trying to deal with the immediate problem at hand and enable the Committee to continue its work on the following day.

75. Mr. BABA (Uganda) said it was his impression from the remarks that had been made that some documents were issued to suit the interests of certain delegations and that other documents ware issued at the last minute to prevent thorough consideration of them before decisiors were taken. He wished to know if his impression was accurate.

76. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat never issued documents selectively or in a manner designed to influence the Committee's decisions. The issuance of documents was not based on any political or other considerations.

77. Mr. KANE (Senegal) said he believed the "silent majority" in the Committee would share his disagreement with many of the comments that had been made. In fact, a number of speakers were prepared to speak at the Committee's next meeting, and no other delegation could decide whether or not they ought to speak. His delegation endorsed the suggestion made by the Chairman, and was confident that the relevant documents would in time be available to the Committee. Moreover, the Committee was *merely going to* conduct a general discussion of the items and would not be taking action on any draft resolution. Those who had doubts about the way documents were issued should keep their thoughts to themselves.

78. The CHAIRMAN appealed to the Committee not to politicize the issue, which was in fact a technical one.

79. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Senegal and expressed support for the approach suggested by the Chairman to deal with the very real problem identified by the representative of Colombia.

(Mr. Harrison, United Kingdom)

80. The delay in the appearance of documents was the result of many problems, some arising within the Secretariat, However, the matter also lay in the hands of the Committee, which requested the Secretariat to produce far too much documentation. He therefore urged the Committee to exercise restraint in requesting reports of the Secretary-General.

81. Mr. FJAERTOFT (Norway) endorsed the remarks made by the representatives of Senegal and [illegible] United Kingdom and expressed his delegation's confidence in ths Chairman and the Secretariat,

82. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said he wished to emphasise that his comments had not been intended as a personal attack on the Chairman) however, he was concerned at the suggestion by the representative of the United Kingdom that the developing countries were requesting too many reports. What procedure did the representative of the United Kingdom think the Committee should follow? He appeared to wish to change the Committee's methods of work.

83. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat regretted the late appearance of documents. The matter had been discussed in the Second Committee and in the Economic and Social Council for many years, which suggested that it was perhaps time to consider whether the Secretariat might not be facing a situation of documentation overload,

84. The CHAIRMAN said he would have preferred the passion displayed during the current exchange of views to have been directed towards discussion of the statements made during the general debate.

85. Mr. (United Kingdom) said he wished to correct a misapprehension on the part of the representative of Colombia, He had not said that any particular group of countries was guilty of requesting reports; his own delegation had joined in the consensus on numerous draft resolutions calling for reports. His appeal had been intended for all delegations.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.