

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records



SECOND COMMITTEE, 1090th
MEETING

Tuesday, 6 December 1966,
at 10.55 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 37:</i>	
<i>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: report of the Trade and Development Board (continued)</i>	395

Chairman: Mr. Moraiwid M. TELL (Jordan).

AGENDA ITEM 37

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: report of the Trade and Development Board (continued)* (A/6303/Add.1, chap. I; A/6315, A/6501, A/C.2/L.909/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.911, A/C.2/L.923 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.924 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.925 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. CHADHA (India) stated that, following informal discussions, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.907 had agreed to divide it into four new draft resolutions. While the draft resolution relating to the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was still under discussion, those relating to the second session of the Conference (A/C.2/L.923), technical assistance in trade and related fields (A/C.2/L.924) and international monetary reform (A/C.2/L.925) were before the Committee.

2. He introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.923 and indicated the points in which it differed from the original text (A/C.2/L.907, part B). In the first preambular paragraph, the words "ways and means of implementing the recommendations" had been replaced by the words "consideration of further action for the implementation of the recommendations", in order to bring the wording closer to that of the draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Conference. In the second preambular paragraph, the words "and to seek to achieve" had been replaced by the words "with a view to achieving", in accordance with the suggestion of the Mexican delegation. In the same paragraph, the nature of the negotiations was specified; a similar change had been made in operative paragraph 2. In order to obtain a wider measure of agreement, the specific reference to developed countries in the last preambular paragraph had been deleted.

3. The dates for the second session of the Conference suggested by the Argentine delegation had been incorporated into operative paragraph 1, and the words "for

seven weeks" deleted; as a result of that action, Argentina joined the list of co-sponsors. The references to consultations among the members of regional economic commissions and to inter-commission consultation in operative paragraph 4 had been omitted in order to avoid the implication that joint meetings, rather than consultation between secretariats, were envisaged. In operative paragraph 5, the word "other" had been deleted, since the bodies referred to in that paragraph were not all fully international.

4. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would receive the Committee's unanimous approval.

5. Mr. OLUMIDE (Nigeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.924, said that the provision of United Nations technical assistance in trade and related fields would greatly assist UNCTAD's endeavours. The draft resolution was intended to enable UNCTAD to give full substantive support to technical assistance activities in trade and such fields as export promotion, shipping, insurance and tourism, without duplicating existing machinery or incurring additional expenditure. Because the United Nations, of which UNCTAD was a part, was a participating agency of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the proposal to make UNCTAD's Secretary-General a full member of the UNDP Inter-Agency Consultative Board would enable UNCTAD to utilize fully the various operational and administrative services of UNDP without itself becoming a participating agency. The draft resolution was therefore intended to amend paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) to that effect.

6. The Nigerian delegation hoped that the draft resolution, which was non-controversial, would receive unanimous approval.

7. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) pointed out that the reference to General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) had been erroneously omitted from operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

8. Mr. OLUMIDE (Nigeria) said that the paragraph in question should in fact read:

"Decides to amend operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965 so as to include the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as a member of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme".

9. Mr. HAMEED (Ceylon) stated that draft resolution A/C.2/L.925 incorporated the ideas relating to international monetary reform contained in part C of draft resolution A/C.2/L.907. In an earlier statement (1079th meeting), his delegation had referred to the

*Resumed from the 1087th meeting.

very serious liquidity problems of developing countries, many of which had restricted their imports and foreign exchange payments. The acute need which those countries already had for additional reserves could be expected to rise with economic growth and increased trade, and it was essential that international participation in vital decisions closely affecting developing countries should be as broad as possible. The need for such full representation in all discussions and decisions leading to international monetary reform was recognized in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, without any specific reference to the exact form which consultations should take. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) could invite the participation of either the group of thirty-one developing countries which had presented a memorandum on international liquidity¹ or the Secretary-General of the United Nations together with the members of the Group of Experts on International Monetary Issues. All groups which the sponsors had consulted had agreed that the system of reporting on developments, referred to in operative paragraph 2, was vitally necessary for solving international liquidity problems.

10. Mr. LAMPREIA (Brazil), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.909/Rev.1, said that the words "to conclude a Cocoa Agreement" had been added at the end of operative paragraph 1 in order to avoid the inference that the United Nations Cocoa Conference of 1966 had been a total failure. The appeal contained in operative paragraph 4 had been strengthened by extending it to both consumer and producer countries, and the sub-paragraphs of operative paragraph 5 had been omitted, in order to meet the objection that the General Assembly should not prescribe the specific methods by which a cocoa agreement might be reached.

11. The Brazilian delegation hoped that the revised draft resolution, which represented a compromise, would receive the Committee's unanimous support.

12. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) said that his delegation was gratified by the sponsors' decision to deal with the matters covered in the original draft resolution in separate draft resolutions. He thanked the sponsors for incorporating his delegation's suggestions into draft resolution A/C.2/L.923; his delegation would vote in favour of that document and of draft resolution A/C.2/L.909/Rev.1.

13. The third preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.925 did not, however, add anything of value to the guide-lines set out in operative paragraph 1 for the participation of the developing countries in decisions on international monetary reform and should be deleted.

14. Mr. NEDIVI (Israel) said that operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.925 answered most of the questions his delegation had had in mind in submitting amendment A/C.2/L.911; the amendment was accordingly withdrawn. He agreed with the observations of the representative of Mexico on the third preambular paragraph. As the text stood, the operative part could be interpreted as referring only to the unsatisfactory informal arrangements mentioned in that paragraph. He suggested that the

text should be amended so as to refer specifically to the informal participation of certain developing countries in the meetings concerned.

15. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the suggestion of the representative of Mexico. The text of draft resolution A/C.2/L.925 would be clearer and more realistic if the third preambular paragraph was deleted.

16. Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Committee) informed the Committee that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/L.923 would have the following financial implications. As operative paragraph 1 provided for the second session of the Conference to be held in New Delhi in February-March 1968, the original provision in the 1967 budget estimates for \$1,833,000 to cover preparatory work for the session would be reduced to \$295,500 which would cover certain pre-conference documentation and other expenditures.

17. Mr. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) proposed that the meeting should be suspended for a short time to permit delegations to hold consultations concerning the draft resolutions just introduced.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.

18. Mr. Donald MACDONALD (Canada) said that his delegation was prepared to support the four draft resolutions. It attached particular importance to the appeals in operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.923 to pay special attention to preparations for the second session. It was to be hoped that the preparatory work would lead to specific recommendations on priorities and thus enable the tentative list of topics to be reduced to manageable proportions.

19. One of UNCTAD's achievements had been to induce the international community to acknowledge the importance of international trade as a factor in any new world strategy for development. The first essentials of any policy for expanding international trade were, as the Canadian Minister of Finance had recently pointed out, the conclusion of reasonable commodity agreements, the elimination of tariffs on tropical products, with appropriate compensatory arrangements for producing countries which benefited from existing preferences, and the development of a world financial system capable of supporting an increased volume of trade and solving balance-of-payments problems. The aim of the second session of the Conference should be to lay the foundations for a system in which the action of donors and recipients was mutually adjusted and it would therefore be profitable for it to concentrate on a limited number of issues of the types he had mentioned.

20. Mr. CHADHA (India) announced that, in response to suggestions by a number of delegations, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.923 had decided to add the following fifth preambular paragraph:

"Noting with satisfaction the proposal to hold a Ministerial-level meeting of the developing countries in preparation for the second session of the Con-

¹/ Official Records of the Trade and Development Board, Third Session, Supplement No. 14, annex I.

ference and the recommendation of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 November 1966, that the meeting be held at Algiers."

21. The sponsors realized that the adoption of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution would probably require the Trade and Development Board to rearrange its calendar of meetings for 1967 and might necessitate the convening of a special session of the Board for that purpose. They accordingly proposed that the Committee should adopt the following decision, which would be included in its report:

"The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Trade and Development Board be invited to hold a special session for one day, to be convened in New York as soon as possible, in order to review the calendar of UNCTAD meetings for 1967 which it adopted at its fourth session in the light of the decision to postpone the second session of the Conference."

22. Mr. CAMEJO ARGUDIN (Cuba) said that his delegation hoped the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.923 would explain whether the proposed meeting of developing countries at Algiers would include all developing countries, or only those which were members of the group of seventy-seven. His country was not a member of that group, although it co-operated closely with it on all matters of common interest, and his delegation was therefore concerned at the possibility that the General Assembly would be required to express its satisfaction at arrangements for a meeting from which one developing country was excluded.

23. Mr. MARTIN WITKOWSKI (France) proposed that, in accordance with rule 121 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.925 should be deferred. The text differed in some respects from that agreed upon in informal consultations and further consultations might help to produce a document acceptable to all.

24. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the draft resolution on international monetary reform (A/C.2/L.925) was extremely complex and required further study. He therefore hoped

that it would not be put to the vote for two or three days.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee seemed to be ready to vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.909/Rev.1 but he would allow a reasonable time to elapse before putting the other texts to the vote.

26. Mr. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) said that his delegation would have great difficulty in accepting the preambular paragraph which the representative of India proposed to add to draft resolution A/C.2/L.923. It would constitute a bad precedent if the General Assembly were to note with satisfaction private meetings being held by various groups of countries. He therefore hoped that the sponsors would not press that proposal.

27. Mr. CHADHA (India) said that, as certain of the sponsors also had difficulty with the additional paragraph, he would withdraw it.

28. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, although India had withdrawn the paragraph, his delegation wished to re-introduce it. He was not convinced by the arguments put forward by the United States representative and saw absolutely no objection to the inclusion of the paragraph. References to groups of States had been included in other resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) establishing UNCTAD.

29. His delegation agreed that the Trade and Development Board should be asked to hold a special session to review the calendar of UNCTAD meetings in 1967.

30. His delegation did not consider that there were any constitutional objections to the participation of Cuba in the Algiers meeting.

31. Mr. CAMEJO ARGUDIN (Cuba) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for his understanding attitude. During the first session of UNCTAD Cuba had not been allowed to participate in the meetings of the seventy-seven developing countries although it obviously belonged to that category. It would therefore be highly improper for the General Assembly to note with satisfaction a meeting of the developing countries from which Cuba was excluded.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

