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FORTY-NINTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

SECOND COMMITTEE  
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Tuesday, 29 November 1994  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KHAN (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 88: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
(continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/49/L.45 and A/C.2/49/L.49

1. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and also on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.45 entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership", noting that it was based on General Assembly resolution 48/165 which had been adopted by consensus and which constituted the basis for renewing the dialogue in a spirit of partnership. In the draft resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need to strengthen constructive dialogue and partnership and also reaffirmed that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits and that the United Nations should play a central role in promoting international cooperation for development. The Secretary-General was requested to propose various issues that represented mutual interests and were relevant to the elaboration of an agenda for development.

2. He then went on to introduce, on behalf of the same sponsors, draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.49, entitled "United Nations conference on South-South cooperation", which reaffirmed the importance of strengthening international cooperation and stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to that end. Since the idea of convening a conference on South-South cooperation in 1996 had been accepted, the main purpose of the draft resolution was to request the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly a comprehensive analysis of South-South cooperation with a view to convening that conference and to request the General Assembly to establish an intergovernmental ad hoc working group of experts to recommend substantive issues to be discussed at the conference.

(e) INTEGRATION OF THE ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE WORLD ECONOMY

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.44

3. Mr. LUEDIG (Estonia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Japan, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.44 entitled "Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy". The text, which was similar to General Assembly resolution 48/181, contained no new elements and had no budgetary implications. It welcomed the measures undertaken by the United Nations system to assist the economies in transition as they transformed their economies and integrated them into the world economy and urged the Organization to continue the activities outlined in the earlier resolution. In order to rationalize the Committee's work the sponsors requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the efforts of the United Nations system every two years to the General Assembly.

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4. The draft was the result of discussions in which many delegations had participated, and he therefore hoped that consensus could quickly be achieved during informal consultations.

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.43

5. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.43 entitled "Assistance to the newly independent and developing land-locked States in central Asia and their transit developing neighbours" on behalf of the sponsors who had been joined by Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Following the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 48/170 on the same subject, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had prepared a report on the transit transport systems of the land-locked States in central Asia and their transit developing neighbours. As that report represented a first approximation only towards a fuller elaboration of more concrete programmes of action, it had been deemed necessary to request UNCTAD to continue its work in that area. The text of the draft resolution under consideration had been prepared following consultations with various western European countries and the Group of 77. Its various paragraphs were based on the previous year's resolution and on the UNCTAD secretariat report. It should therefore be easy to adopt the text by consensus.

(b) FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.40

6. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.40 entitled "Food and agricultural development". The draft resolution reaffirmed the validity of a number of international commitments on that question, highlighted the deterioration in the world food and freshwater resources situation and urged the international community to place food and agricultural development high on the development agenda and to mobilize the resources required for food security in the developing countries. The draft resolution gave pride of place to the question of freshwater resources by recommending that an assessment be carried out of global freshwater resources, that such resources be used rationally and that strategies be established to avoid a global freshwater crisis. To that end, relevant regional and international organizations were requested to assist developing countries in the management of their water resources. The draft resolution also noted that the agreements reached in the context of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round would have an important impact on the development of food production and global food security. It requested support for the Food and Agriculture Organization's special programme concerning the possible negative effects of those agreements on least developed and food-importing developing countries.

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AGENDA ITEM 89: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.25/Rev.1

7. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.25/Rev.1 entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" which was the revised text of a draft decision on procedural issues. In it, the General Assembly welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and decided to consider the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention at its fiftieth session.

8. The third preambular paragraph had been amended by the Group of 77 and China to read:

"Deeply concerned about the alarmingly high rate of loss of biological diversity, and determined to spare no effort for the conservation of the biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,".

AGENDA ITEM 91: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46

9. Mr. UKPONG (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46 entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" which reproduced certain elements of General Assembly resolution 48/207 and reflected the discussions which had been held on that subject. Since its main aim was to ensure that UNITAR would be able to continue to discharge its responsibilities, the sponsors requested the Secretary-General to provide, free of charge, and without financial implications for the United Nations, office space in Geneva, which was where the Institute had moved to, as well as liaison office space in New York. The sponsors, who had now been joined by Argentina, Australia, Austria and the Niger, hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

10. Mr. MOHAMED (Sudan) and Mrs. MONTAÑO (Bolivia) announced that their countries had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.42

11. Mr. SHINODA (Japan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.42 entitled "United Nations University" on behalf of its sponsors, pointed out that in the English text, the word "organizations" in the fourth line of paragraph 2 should

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be replaced by "agencies", and that in the last line of paragraph 4, the word "General" should be added before "Assembly".

12. The University faced three major problems. It must increase its visibility and make its work better known; it must also strengthen its ties with United Nations agencies; finally, it must improve its financial situation. In order to overcome those problems it must have the help of the Secretary-General and all Member States of the United Nations. He hoped that the draft resolution, which had been carefully formulated by its sponsors, would help to solve those problems and would be adopted by consensus.

13. He pointed out that Romania had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

14. Mr. FLORES (Honduras) and Mr. UKPONG (Nigeria) announced that they had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 92: AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.41

15. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.41 entitled "An agenda for development". The draft dealt with procedural matters, namely the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to further elaborate an action-oriented, comprehensive agenda for development and to consider appropriate modalities for the convening of a United Nations conference on development. It would be desirable to have that group begin its work as soon as possible.

16. He proposed that, in the second line of paragraph 2, the words "on its work" should be deleted, as they had no meaning in that context.

AGENDA ITEM 158: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolutions A/C.2/49/L.47 and A/C.2/49/L.48

17. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.47 entitled "United Nations conference on international migration and development". The idea of holding such a conference had been debated in Cairo in September 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development, and had just been considered in plenary by the General Assembly, and had gained support from many Member States on both occasions. Migrations were a major phenomenon that affected countries of origin and host countries alike. Without pre-judging the tenor of the discussions that might take place at a conference on migrations, draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.47 requested the establishment of a preparatory committee and invited the United Nations Secretariat to facilitate the preparations for that meeting at the regional and subregional levels.

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18. He announced that Mexico had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

19. Turning to draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.48, entitled "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development", and speaking also on behalf of China, he said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to preserve the momentum generated by the Cairo Conference and the recent adoption by the General Assembly of the Programme of Action of that Conference. The text was formulated in the terms that had been negotiated at Cairo and it even repeated some passages of the Programme of Action. He drew attention to paragraph 21 on the strengthening of the Population Commission, to be renamed the Commission on Population and Development, which would become the principal intergovernmental mechanism to monitor the follow-up to the Cairo Conference. He also drew attention to paragraph 22, in which the Economic and Social Council was requested to consider the possibility of establishing a separate executive board of the United Nations Population Fund.

AGENDA ITEM 89: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.19

20. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations, said that consensus had been reached on the text of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.19, entitled "Observance of a World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought", but that some amendments had been made to the text. In the fourth line of the second preambular paragraph, the word "subregional", should be inserted between "national" and "regional". The fourth preambular paragraph should read as follows: "Recognizing the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, in accordance with the Convention adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,". In the fifth line of paragraph 2, the words "the effects of" should be inserted between the words "and" and "drought". Paragraph 6 should be deleted.

21. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution as orally amended.

22. It was so decided.

23. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.19 and expressed the hope that the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification would be promptly implemented and that the necessary resources would be allocated.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/49/L.20 and A/C.2/49/L.24

24. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) informed the Committee that Cuba, Nicaragua and South Africa had joined the sponsors of draft

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resolution A/C.2/49/L.20, entitled "Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas".

25. She further announced that the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Singapore and South Africa had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.24, entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas", and requested that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions under agenda item 89 should be postponed 24 hours.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that request.

27. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.