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SECOND COMMITTEE  
25th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 27 October 1981  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RINGWALDA (Netherlands)

later: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
(A/36/3/Add.2, Add.4, Add.13, Add.14 and Add.29, A/36/15, A/36/37, A/36/39,  
A/36/45, A/36/47, A/36/116 and Corr.1, A/36/240, 333, 356, 380, 419 and Add.1,  
421, 477, 483, 497, 528, 536, 538, 566, 573, 576, 577, 584 and 605, A/CW.11/12  
A/CONF.100/11; A/CONF.104/22; A/C.2/36/L.2 and L.3) (continued)

1. Mr. ABDALLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.12, submitted under agenda item 69 (j), said that remnants of war, especially mines, hindered his country's development process. Tens of thousands of square miles of his country were still mined, although the Second World War had ended three decades earlier. Minefields were a phenomenon of terror and reminders of the destruction caused by the Second World War. Thousands of innocent people were still being killed or mutilated by the mines which had been planted by the imperialist forces of occupation. Furthermore, much arable land was not being developed because of mines. The countries which had planted the mines had data and charts in their archives but, despite his country's repeated requests, they had still not provided them. Consequently, they bore the responsibility for the continuing damage to his country and its people.
2. The draft resolution was in line with General Assembly resolution 35/71 and stressed, inter alia, that the countries which had implanted remnants of war should bear the cost of removing them and that the States affected had the right to compensation for their losses. In view of the limited response from Member States received so far by the Secretary General, the draft resolution appealed to all States to co-operate with him in order that he could make specific recommendations in his next report on the matter. Madagascar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen and Ethiopia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.
3. Mr. ATTAF (Algeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.13 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, submitted under agenda item 69 (k), said that it reflected three concerns: the need to recognize the grave and worsening situation of the homeless in the developing countries; the need to solve the problem and thereby to contribute to national development; and the need to mobilize co-ordinated and concerted action at all levels because of the complexity and magnitude of the problem. The Group of 77 was submitting the draft resolution in pursuance of Economic and Social Council decisions and resolutions on the matter, and was convinced that the holding of the year could mobilize public opinion and goodwill and yield significant results.
4. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.14 dealt with food problems and the report of the World Food Council and was submitted under agenda item 69 (g). The order of the ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs should be reversed. It was in line with many similar resolutions sponsored by the Group of 77 and incorporated all the demands of the developing countries with respect to food problems. It drew attention to the lack of progress towards the solution of agricultural trade problems, including trade barriers, which seriously affected the exports of developing countries despite the decisions of the World Food Council and the

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(Mr. Attaf, Algeria)

General Assembly. It called upon developed and other donor countries to achieve without delay the minimum targets of the 1980 Food Aid Convention and of the International Emergency Food Reserve, reaffirmed the need for urgent consideration of a revision of the target of the 1980 Food Aid Convention, and urged developed and other donor countries and international institutions to increase external assistance to the food sector.

5. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.15 on the International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology was submitted under agenda item 69 (c). It had been formulated because of the concern of the developing countries at the inability of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology to conclude its work and the fact that several issues remained outstanding. It invited the General Assembly to take note of the progress that had been made at that Conference and to recognize the importance of the unresolved issues. In order to resolve them, the General Assembly was invited to establish an interim committee to make proposals to ensure the final adoption of a code at the Conference's fifth session. The Group of 77 hoped that the Committee would be open for the participation of all member States of the Conference and that its rules of procedure would be those of the Conference.

6. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.16 on technical co-operation among developing countries was submitted under agenda item 69 (h). It referred to the second session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, invited the General Assembly to take note of the report of that session and to urge all Governments to take immediate steps to implement the agreements reached by it, and requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to convene the next session of the Committee in 1983.

7. Mr. IGLESIAS (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy) said that the Conference had been a historic event in the life of the United Nations and of the international community, not only because of the importance of the topic but also because of the spirit of co-operation shown by Governments, which had inspired the preparations for it throughout the entire United Nations system. He hoped that that spirit would continue to prevail during the implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action.

8. From the very beginning, the Conference had approached the energy transition by analysing the role that new and renewable sources of energy could play in it in order to broaden the world's energy base, reduce excessive dependence on hydrocarbons and support the developing countries in their efforts to increase and diversify their energy sources. The Conference had also been part of the international movement to establish a new international economic order, and he welcomed the fact that the Heads of State meeting at Cancún had endorsed its results.

9. Since 1978, when the General Assembly had approved the idea of holding a Conference, technical preparations had been carried out vigorously. Hundreds of qualified technological experts had been invited to write reports, and a group had worked to synthesize and give cohesion to the voluminous material received.

(Mr. Iglesias)

Regional commissions had played an active role in the preparations and all of the departments and specialized agencies of the United Nations system had made useful contributions by organizing seminars and meetings on subjects closely related to the Conference. As a result, the international community had gained a better scientific understanding of the problem, and the Nairobi discussions had conducted realistic and constructive analyses on which action could be based.

10. Three messages had emerged from the Nairobi Conference. The presence of five Heads of State and attendance by 125 Governments, some represented at the ministerial level, had shown that there was interest at a high political level in the subject of energy. The preparatory work had facilitated the finalization and adoption of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and the seminars involving collaboration between various United Nations agencies, the exposition to which over 20 countries and organizations had contributed and the constructive participation of non-governmental organizations had been concrete achievements. Finally, the Conference and the Nairobi philosophy had mobilized the entire international community to participate in the efforts to accomplish the energy transition.

11. The Programme of Action had been thoroughly discussed at the Conference; it was coherent and furnished clear indications as to how it should be implemented. There had been a universal consensus on many of its principles, for example, the importance of the energy transition and of the fact that it should be achieved through a collective effort by all States. The Conference had maintained a realistic approach, stressing the fact that new and renewable sources should play an important role in the future, but that no limits should be placed on the development of conventional sources or on conservation measures. It had been agreed that what needed to be done would not be easy. As the technical experts had admitted, it was difficult to decide which were the best technological solutions. A high-level consensus had also been reached on the fact that stress should be placed on rural problems, the fuelwood and charcoal crises and urban-industrial energy. Technical activities should be concentrated in several areas, including energy assessment and planning, research, development and demonstration, transfer, adaptation and application of mature technologies, information flows and education and training. It had been agreed that the international community must immediately begin co-operating with the developing countries especially in enhancing their energy capacities, infrastructures, decision-making abilities and understanding of the problems, if the Nairobi message was to be translated into reality.

12. The Programme of Action had also reflected a consensus on the fact that the developing countries themselves should be responsible for efforts to achieve the energy transition. National action was fundamental and international co-operation should be concentrated on it. The preparations for the Conference had been very useful in that regard in mobilizing domestic efforts.

13. Since the implementation of the Programme of Action required the participation of various sectors of the United Nations system, South-South co-operation and the involvement of the private sector, the Programme of Action

established machinery for political and secretarial co-ordination and made a specific appeal for financial support. It did not propose establishing any new funds or institutions, but without adequate financial resources it would not yield the desired results.

14. As to how the message of the Conference could be translated into programmes and projects to support national and regional action, the immediate approach should be based on three "pillars": the constitution of a political body to implement the Programme, concerted action on the part of all participants mentioned in the Programme and concentration on priority areas.

15. No consensus had been reached on the political body to be responsible for implementing the Programme, but it had been agreed that an Intergovernmental Committee would meet in 1982 to begin to carry out that task. Its first meeting was of crucial importance and four matters should be taken up then: the recommendation of political guidelines for the various bodies of the United Nations system, the formulation of general action plans, the mobilization of resources and recommendations to financial organizations.

16. In order to further the discussions of the political body a second pillar was necessary: the various participants in the United Nations system must be mobilized. Accordingly, departments, institutions and agencies would review their current and future plans in the light of the results of the Conference and tell the Intergovernmental Committee what the system's institutional answer to the Nairobi challenge should be. At the same time it was necessary to determine what national, regional and global initiatives Governments might take in the next few months so as to provide a picture of the supply of institutional capacity, on the one hand, and of the demand of Governments and regions, on the other. That would give the Intergovernmental Committee an over-all context in which to place the immediate action required of the United Nations system.

17. The third pillar consisted of choosing the key aspects on which to start the action. That seemed the most practical way of tackling implementation of the Programme. Additional details could be found in the report of the Conference.

18. The question of financing was difficult since it involved national and international problems. At the same time it had been recognized that, while the question of energy was important to all, it was vital to the developing countries since the only way for them to increase their economic development was to broaden their energy base, a process which required knowledge of appropriate technology and substantial investment resources. Sufficient resources must be mobilized to enable the developing countries to triple their energy supplies by the end of the century. That would require international as well as national efforts, for the developing countries would otherwise have to divert resources from other essential sectors such as food production and social development.

19. However, financing was not the only problem. From his consultations with such institutions as the World Bank and UNDP he had seen that substantial efforts were being made to increase the financing available for energy projects. There was



(Mr. Iglesias)

also the problem of the supply of projects and the identification of programmes due to the lack of knowledge of appropriate technology, the lack of economic surveys, institutional problems and problems relating to the adaptation of technology. Accordingly, particular attention should also be given to the financing of the infrastructure since the absence of infrastructure was a very serious constraint.

20. Many participants in the Nairobi Conference had expressed a willingness to provide additional funds for investment and pre-investment activities. Accordingly, the political body would have to reconcile the supply of institutional capacity with the demand in the light of available resources. Ways were suggested in the Programme for strengthening the resources of the international organizations. One possibility mentioned was the establishment of financing consortia.

21. The consensus achieved at Nairobi was a tribute to the manner in which the preparations for the Conference had been carried out and the United Nations system had lived up to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 33/148. The Conference had neither over-emphasized nor under-emphasized the problem of energy but had tackled it realistically, seeking to relate energy to economic development.

22. Replying to a question from Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan), the CHAIRMAN said that the text of the introductory statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would be circulated to Committee members in the near future.

23. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme), introducing the report of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (A/36/39), said that, in taking note of the efforts of the United Nations system to promote technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), the High-Level Committee had expressed concern over what it considered the slow progress being made in the practical utilization and expansion of that important dimension of development. Since it was ultimately the responsibility of developing countries to see to the implementation of TCDC activities, with the active support of the United Nations system, the Committee had again invited those countries to continue their efforts to promote technical co-operation among themselves and, at the same time, had reiterated its invitation to developed countries to consider increasing their support for that co-operation. It had also requested governing bodies of organizations of the United Nations system to support developing countries in their implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and to ensure maximum utilization of the capacities of developing countries in the implementation of their development projects.

24. The Committee had requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Administrator of UNDP, to work towards making the different information networks within the United Nations system more compatible so that they might respond more effectively to countries' specific needs. It had also requested UNDP to continue implementing the proposal for a Development Information Network. He was pleased to announce that the Government of Italy was considering making a substantial contribution in support of that project.

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(Mr. Morse)

25. Other decisions related to the promotion of horizontal co-operation among developing countries in scientific and technological research and to the expansion of transport and communication networks. The Committee had endorsed the adoption of new institutional arrangements and administrative mechanisms for TCDC. It had also taken note of a number of issues, including the potential of TCDC in increasing agricultural production and promoting rural development, measures to facilitate joint ventures and proposed modifications in the policies and procedures of UNDP designed to facilitate the use of country Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) for TCDC activities.

26. The Committee's continued support for TCDC had been reflected in its decisions on all those matters. It had strongly reiterated its invitation to Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take measures to promote the integration of women in development through the TCDC process.

27. The clear reaffirmation of the fact that TCDC must be initiated and managed by developing countries themselves - and that the role of the United Nations development system should be primarily a supportive one - was particularly significant in the case of TCDC, the purpose of which was to promote individual and collective self-reliance.

28. In that context he drew attention to the Information Referral System (INRES) the aim of which was to provide developing countries with the types of information that they currently lacked. Another kind of support activity was the first orientation seminar in TCDC which was planned for early 1982 for government officials in the Asia and Pacific region. He hoped that similar seminars would follow in other regions.

29. The Committee had indicated that the most important priority areas contributing to the implementation of TCDC involved finance and administrative arrangements - both basic issues which applied to all developing countries. On the other hand, it had been recognized that sectoral items could be best handled by the appropriate specialized United Nations agency, while items of regional interest might more appropriately be handled by regional bodies, including the regional economic commissions.

30. Accordingly, the Committee appeared inclined to focus in future on basic organizational and supportive issues and its provisional agenda for its third session was therefore shorter. The Committee had proposed that, at its third session, there should be a plenary session and one working group rather than two working groups. That proposal required approval by the General Assembly.

31. While caution was always required in the efforts to institutionalize any process, he expressed the belief that, under the guidance of the High-Level Committee, a promising beginning had been made on TCDC activities.

32. Turning to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, he said that he shared the concern expressed by the respective Secretaries-General that the issues raised and actions proposed should be given full support. Nothing

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(Mr. Morse)

could be more destructive of the collaborative commitment to development goals than that their results should be lost sight of in the crush of competing financial priorities facing all countries.

33. UNDP was preparing for its added responsibilities in that respect, and it was ready to respond to any requests for support in the preparation of consultative groups. Any added workload was expected to be absorbed within the existing establishment. The same was true with respect to its obligations under the Nairobi Programme of Action. He drew attention to the added measures of assistance requested under the UNDP-administered Energy Account, the Revolving Fund for the Exploration of Natural Resources and the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and to the intensified activities under UNDP's country and intercountry programming. Specific instructions had been circulated to the field on UNDP's expected role in the implementation of the Programme of Action, incorporating also the work of UNDP's allied funds, and the Programme was actively collaborating with the World Bank in preparing for the surveys of financial resources required for supporting actions and pre-investment operations in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. The action taken by UNDP could provide a diversified range of development services in a co-ordinated manner and at little additional cost.

34. Mr. Verceles (Philippines) resumed the Chair.

35. Mr. DOMOKOS (Hungary) said that the current status of the world economy was receiving more than usual attention, with a view to identifying the causes of the disappointing progress of recent years, exploring future trends and seeking ways of eliminating adverse developments. Views concerning the causes of the crisis and ways of remedying it differed sharply. His delegation did not share the artificially optimistic approach of analysts in the developed capitalist countries, which were themselves the focal points of the crisis. The World Economic Survey for 1980-1981 gave a true picture of the alarming state of the world economy. The pattern of international economic, commercial and financial relations had been destabilized. Economic growth had slowed or halted in a number of industrialized market economies, while inflation and unemployment rates were rising. Only part-time job opportunities were available for an increasing proportion of the labour force. A growing number of countries were faced with worsening balance-of-payments problems. The instability of the capitalist monetary system was increasing, and it seemed unlikely that demands for energy and raw materials could continue to be met.

36. The blame lay largely with the arms race imposed on the world by aggressive imperialist circles. Arms expenditures drained away the financial resources needed for development-related investments and made it impossible to raise living standards. The rising tension ensuing from the arms buildup also led to a deterioration of international economic relations.

37. The problems that the developed capitalist countries were experiencing weighed even more heavily on the developing countries. On the one hand, they were less capable of withstanding the crisis and, on the other, the stronger economies

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(Mr. Demokos, Hungary)

sought to shift the burden to the weaker ones. A number of developing countries were experiencing growing difficulty in finding resources for development projects and coping with grave food shortages. The export of manufactures made possible by industrialization was blocked by the protectionist measures of the importing countries. The indebtedness of the developing countries was assuming unprecedented proportions and debt servicing was increasingly difficult.

38. The long-standing and grave crisis of the capitalist world had an adverse effect on the socialist countries also. The cause lay not only in economic interdependence but in deliberate attempts to thrust the burden onto the socialist countries as well. Clearly, the crisis that had persisted in the capitalist sector of the world economy for nearly a decade was not a short-term phenomenon and could not be remedied by the methods used earlier. Such simplistic solutions as giving rein to free enterprise, improving the climate for private investment, or opening markets for transnational corporations were not convincing. It was those methods which had led the world economy into the present blind alley. Such concepts would merely weaken the developing countries still further and enable the developed capitalist countries to improve their already advantageous positions.

39. In order to cure the ills of the world economy, international economic relations must be radically transformed on a just and democratic basis. Achieving that goal would call for the consistent implementation of the many resolutions adopted by the United Nations over the past years. Restructuring should encompass all spheres of the world economy, including trade.

40. Hungary attached great importance to trade relations and their unhampered development on a mutually advantageous basis, not only with its socialist partners but with the developing nations and the developed capitalist countries of the West. Even in the prevailing uncertain situation of the world economy, Hungary was a stable and reliable commercial partner for any country. The development of trade relations was an economic necessity for Hungary, but its interest was also stimulated by its belief in the policy of peaceful coexistence and co-operation and the beneficial effect of trade on the promotion of peace and the reduction of tension. Consistent implementation of that policy had resulted in a significant increase in trade from year to year, particularly with developing countries. Imports from them were increasing faster than the average and manufactures and semi-manufactures accounted for a growing share. High priority was accorded to the export, on easy terms, of the capital goods required for the development of those countries. Although Hungary's trade with Western countries had increased substantially over a long period, in the late 1970s action by some of the latter had given rise to certain problems. Some of them, motivated by ill-conceived economic and commercial interests or by political considerations, had created obstacles to the flow of trade. Restrictive measures, discrimination, boycotts and embargoes were becoming everyday practice in international economic relations. Although protectionism was almost universally condemned, more and more protectionist measures were being taken, chiefly by the industrialized capitalist countries which had least reason to do so. Hungary stood for co-operation instead of restrictions and it expected its capitalist partners to do likewise. Such action was demanded by economic interests and by the international political situation.

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

41. The least developed countries were of course the most vulnerable to the current economic situation and responsibility for their catastrophic plight could be attributed primarily to colonialist and neo-colonialist policy. The transnational corporations held back the progress of the least developed countries particularly. They set the prices of raw materials, controlled trade in them, and pursued an economic policy of protectionism and discrimination. Their handling of about 60 per cent of the international trade flows of the capitalist countries enabled them to influence the economic and even the political decisions of their hosts.

42. Hungary supported the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted at the Conference on the Least Developed Countries. In stating the need to end without delay colonialist, neo-colonialist and imperialist practices, as being the main obstacles to the economic independence and development of the developing countries, the Programme clearly specified the causes of their relative backwardness. It was, of course, primarily for the countries concerned to set the targets and priorities of the programmes designed to end that backwardness and to ensure the implementation of development plans. Hungary was also sympathetic to the view that the developing countries, particularly the least developed, needed assistance from the entire international community in order to eliminate their problems. Hungary's wide-ranging relations with developing countries were already governed by the principles of equality, non-interference and mutual advantage, as well as a spirit of helpfulness.

43. In the light of Hungary's experience, he could say that economic co-operation and technical assistance had produced the greatest results in those developing countries which had adopted such measures as agrarian reform, the extension of the public sector to the major areas of economic life, and the introduction of a planned economy.

44. Hungary's economic, commercial and financial relations with the least developed countries were based on intergovernmental agreements. Under agreements signed with nearly half of those 31 countries, broad relations had been established in respect of technical co-operation, education, agriculture and food production, water management and health services. In 1980, 1,000 specialists from those countries had received training under schemes financed by the Hungarian Government. The Hungarian general system of preferences gave preferential treatment to 584 industrial and agricultural products from developing countries and all articles imported from the least developed countries had been granted duty-free entry since 1 January 1978.

45. As a country poorly endowed with natural resources, Hungary attached great importance to the utilization of energy. It depended heavily on imported energy and had suffered the consequences of the great increase in world market prices. In January 1980, reacting to the impact of external changes, it had adjusted domestic producer prices to world market prices of energy in order to encourage greater economy. A main target of the sixth Five-Year Plan was a saving of about 10 per cent in the crude oil currently used.

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

46. The Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had been, on the whole, useful. It had given experts from all over the world an opportunity to engage in an open and comprehensive exchange of views on economically and technologically feasible energy sources. The Programme of Action adopted provided a framework for national, regional and international activities in that regard. The exploration and exploitation of those energy sources, however, should be carried out with full regard for national plans and priorities. In that respect, Hungary endorsed the statement in the report of the Conference (A/CONF.100/11) that effective energy transition must conform to the principle of full and permanent national sovereignty over natural resources.

47. Hungary was ready to help implement the consensus of the Conference. It would continue to support expert meetings, training programmes and research projects designed to widen the scope of regional co-operation. It also agreed that a committee patterned on the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would provide a suitable forum for solving unsettled questions. The Committee on Natural Resources and the related section of the Secretariat would be the appropriate bodies to carry out the Nairobi Programme within the United Nations system. The question of financial support called for further study and consideration, and in that connexion, Hungary was definitely in favour of the principle of voluntary contributions.

48. Speaking next as Chairman of the East European group of socialist countries, he turned to the report of the Secretary-General concerning the study on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/356). The socialist States firmly believed that disarmament and arms limitation, particularly the limitation of nuclear weapons, were prerequisites for the economic and social progress of all nations. The arms race was not only fraught with the danger of a nuclear holocaust but was a waste of the precious resources needed to combat famine, disease and illiteracy as well as to solve such economic and social problems as those of energy and raw materials. The arms race stopped countries from taking full advantage of the international division of labour, impeded normal trade relations and prevented broader development assistance.

49. The commitment of the socialist States to the principle of the close relationship between the struggle for peace and security and disarmament and development objectives was well known, as were its initiatives in that area in the United Nations. He expressed their appreciation to the Chairman of the Group of Experts for the work done by the Group in preparation for the study of the relationship between disarmament and development and for her introductory statement. The report was to be discussed in the First Committee as well as the Second Committee, an organization of work which should be useful in determining directions for further activity. The study was particularly appropriate at a time when preparations were being made for the second special session of the General Assembly on disarmament.

50. The report contained a number of correct conclusions, including its emphasis on the senseless nature of the arms race, the damage caused by it to economic and social development and its incompatibility with the goals of the New International

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(Mr. Domokos, Hungary)

Economic Order. However, it failed to reflect a number of important provisions of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the third International Development Strategy, particularly concerning the relationship between development and efforts to ensure peace, security and disarmament, the need to eliminate the obstacles to the development of developing countries created by policies of colonialism, imperialism and neo-colonialism, and the objective of achieving social and economic change in the developing countries, including the strengthening of the public and co-operative sectors.

51. The report contained striking data regarding the serious difficulties experienced by developing countries because of their position in the world capitalist economy, particularly in regard to rising payments deficits and external indebtedness, and the deterioration in their terms of trade caused by increased protectionism on the part of certain Western States. It was not accidental that the aggravation of the economic problems of newly independent States coincided with the deterioration in the international situation resulting from the efforts of imperialist forces to accelerate the arms race and revive the cold war.

52. The socialist countries endorsed the report's conclusion that East-West trade had suffered from attempts on the part of certain developed market economies to gear economic co-operation to their strategic and political goals. Chapter VII, on the need to increase development assistance, ignored the existence of two opposite socio-economic systems with basically different foundations for their economic relations with developing countries. The socialist countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) extended assistance of many kinds to new nations, strengthening their self-reliance and helping them in such crucial tasks as eliminating colonial structures, developing previously backward areas, improving the standard of living, solving food problems, and providing employment for their population. CMEA assistance was mainly directed towards establishing and developing enterprises in the key industries of the public sector, which was the basis for independent development.

53. The assistance of socialist countries was not provided in payment for past or present exploitation, nor was it recompensed by the transfer of profits from the developing countries. There were no grounds for addressing to socialist countries the demands that the developing countries addressed to the developed capitalist States for the losses they had suffered from colonialist plundering and neo-colonialist exploitation. The magnitude of the developing countries' losses as a result of the activities of foreign private capital, and transnational corporations in particular, was illustrated by the figures in the report indicating that, in 1980, the outflow of financial resources from those countries to OECD countries in the form of investment profits and debt servicing had amounted to \$33.7 billion, whereas the total official development assistance of those countries had been a mere \$26.7 billion. Several sections of the report contained assessments of the economic development of the socialist countries. Some of them were based on individual factors of a temporary nature instead of comprehensive analysis and gave a distorted picture of the true state and prospects of national economic development in those countries. The socialist delegations hoped that their preliminary comments would be taken into account in any further United Nations study of the relationship between disarmament and development.

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54. Mr. TREHOLT (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic delegation, said that the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the Conference on the Least Developed Countries bore witness to the capacity of the United Nations to produce important results in areas vital to international economic co-operation.

55. The constructive atmosphere of the Nairobi Conference had led to tangible results which were a contribution to the wider North-South dialogue. The Nordic countries were gratified that the Nairobi Programme of Action had been adopted by consensus and would work for its implementation. It provided a good basis for further work within the United Nations system to promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy. Problems related to the fuelwood crisis should receive priority consideration and action. The Nordic countries were also pleased by the emphasis on the role of women in the development of new and renewable sources of energy and the importance attached to environmental concerns.

56. The Conference had decided that a Committee patterned on the Preparatory Committee for the Conference should be set up to launch the Programme of Action. The General Assembly would have to endorse that recommendation and decide what Secretariat services would be needed. That decision would of course be without prejudice to the final arrangements to be agreed upon at the thirty-seventh session. The Nordic delegations believed that there should be a strong and efficient follow-up in the Secretariat and looked forward to the Secretary-General's recommendation. **Interagency** co-ordination would be particularly important. Mobilizing the financial resources needed to implement the Programme of Action represented a major challenge. Although individual countries must continue to bear the main responsibility for financing their own energy development, external financial support would be essential. The Conference had not created any new financing mechanism, relying instead on those already in existence. That was a correct approach in a sector where financing requirements were particularly large. The recommended arrangements included consultative meetings of multilateral and bilateral donors and interested recipient countries at the global, regional and subregional levels. The Nordic countries looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the progress made towards such meetings. Within the general framework of their over-all development assistance, they stood ready to increase their support for energy purposes, in accordance with the preferences of recipient countries. They also strongly supported the establishment of an energy affiliate within the World Bank; it would be able to mobilize important additional capital in connexion with new and renewable sources of energy.

57. The Conference on the Least Developed Countries had been very timely and important. A concerted effort by the international community to assist the least developed countries was long overdue. The New Substantial Programme of Action called for a realistic and well-balanced combination of internal policies and external support. It recognized that the main responsibility for development lay with the least developed countries themselves, but it also recognized the need for a substantial increase in support from the international community in the years to come. The Programme, which had been approved by consensus, incorporated objectives and measures for both national and international action of a magnitude well beyond present levels, particularly in regard to social development.

(Mr. Treholt, Norway)

58. It also recognized that the least developed countries represented a special case for international economic co-operation. It had been accepted that the Programme could only be successfully implemented if there was a substantial increase in the flow of resources to those countries. The subtarget of 0.15 per cent of GNP should increase the flow significantly. The Nordic countries endorsed the special target on the whole, but it should be viewed within the context of over-all targets and time-frames for official development assistance as set out in the latest International Development Strategy. The objective must be to increase the total flow at the disposal of the developing countries and not to redistribute existing flows.

59. The Nordic countries supported the agreement reached on the follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Programme. At the country level, an appropriate role had been assigned to the United Nations resident co-ordinators. The Nordic countries welcomed the emphasis given to consultative arrangements such as those led by the World Bank, as well as the round tables sponsored by UNDP and the Sahel club. They also endorsed the recommendation that the follow-up should be financed from existing funds under UNDP administration, such as the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and hoped that they would be supported by an increasing number of donors.

60. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development had produced an interesting, innovative and comprehensive report which deserved careful consideration. The report had been submitted to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its resumed third session but the Committee had not been in a position to adopt any recommendations in regard to it. As far as the substance of the report was concerned, the Nordic Governments were of the view that any financing system should be based on predictability and burden-sharing. The system outlined in the report was a useful framework for further deliberations. The experience of the Interim Fund had shown that voluntary contributions could not be relied upon unless they were co-ordinated.

61. As far as institutional arrangements were concerned, existing organizations and institutions should be used as far as possible. The Financing System could benefit greatly from the practical experience of UNDP and the co-operation with UNDP should be maintained. It would be premature to consider making new institutional arrangements before agreement on the financial arrangements themselves had been reached. In the meantime, the staff and resources of the Interim Fund should be used. The Committee on Science and Technology for Development had not yet settled the issue of the transfer of technology. The Nordic delegations considered that the issue should preferably be dealt with elsewhere, to avoid duplication and allow the Committee to concentrate on other important questions.

62. Turning to UNCTAD, he said the situation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, one of the most important elements of the New International Economic Order, gave cause for concern. After the agreement to establish a Common Fund

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(Mr. Treholt, Norway)

for Commodities, slow but steady progress had been made in working out the details of its implementation. However, the number of countries which had signed and ratified the agreement to date was far from encouraging. The renewed agreements for cocoa and tin were welcome but the over-all results of five years of negotiations since the establishment of the Integrated Programme for Commodities remained unsatisfactory. The Nordic delegations hoped that new impetus could be given to the negotiations for individual commodity agreements, without which the Common Fund would be unable to function properly.

63. The decision that the General Assembly would have to take on the future of the negotiations on an International Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology was important. The Nordic countries regretted that the fourth session of the negotiating conference had ended without progress on any of the major issues outstanding, despite a narrowing of disagreement on some important questions. The results achieved in the course of several years of negotiations on the Code were too important to be wasted and further efforts should be made to complete the negotiations.

64. An interesting new feature of the latest session of the Trade and Development Board had been the Secretary-General's report for 1981, which had formed the basis for a broad and stimulating debate. The Nordic countries welcomed that new initiative and felt that such a general review would further confirm UNCTAD's role as one of the major instruments of the United Nations for reviewing problems of international trade and related areas of international economic co-operation. It also welcomed the decision of the Board at its twenty-second session for an annual review of developments concerning protectionism and structural adjustment.

AGENDA ITEM 72: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)  
(A/36/3/Add.28, Add.31 and Add.32, A/36/38, 73 and Add.1, A/36/183, 208 and Add.1, 259, 261-267, 268 and Corr.1, 269-278 and 599; E/1981/16 and Corr.1, E/1981/37 and Corr.1 and E/1981/86, A/C.2/36/L.4)

65. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/36/208 and Add.1 and 2), said that the report was very encouraging and that significant further progress had been made since the report was issued. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had sent missions to all States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), except Chad, resulting in the formulation or further development of a number of important project proposals. The number of projects receiving UNSO support in connexion with drought-related recovery and rehabilitation had increased from 52 in 1975, costing at approximately \$153 million, to 116, requiring a total financing of over \$656 million. By mid-1981, approximately \$380 million of that amount had become available from various sources as well as over \$57 million contributed by Governments through the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities.

66. Part of the funds mobilized under UNSO's desertification control mandate also benefited States members of CILSS. As of mid-1981 there had been

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(Mr. Morse)

105 desertification control projects in the region sponsored by UNSO, requiring a financing of over \$300 million of which about \$100 million was already available. It was expected that, by December, more than \$11 million in additional funds would pass through the Trust Fund for use in developing and implementing additional projects in the Sahel. Those developments did not include intensified bilateral and multilateral participation in project activities receiving UNSO support. The UNSO-assisted all-weather feeder road system in the Sahel was rapidly approaching 900 kilometres, representing a gain of nearly 300 kilometres in the past year. That programme, begun as a modest venture, was becoming an important element in the over-all development process of the Sahelian countries. Since the roads were acquiring the character of a permanent transport infrastructure, there was a need for further and urgent provision for their long-term maintenance. That issue had major financial implications and UNSO was studying its various facets.

67. So far, UNSO's assistance had been provided largely on an individual project basis. However, there was greater appreciation of the need for a more systematic approach to the problems of drought and desertification. Accordingly, increasing attention was being paid to those issues within the context of national planning exercises and development strategies.

68. A number of new trends were emerging, mainly in terms of the order of sectoral priorities. In particular, there was growing emphasis on range management and conservation measures, control of water resources with special attention to surface water harvesting, improved food production, intensified reforestation and afforestation, development of national capabilities, increased institutional support for national units to deal with the problem of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation, and development of new and renewable sources of energy. The last-mentioned was particularly important since more than 80 per cent of the energy consumed by the population of the region came from wood and urgent measures were required to prevent major ecological damage.

69. In all those activities and developments UNSO maintained a constructive relationship with CILSS and there was every reason to believe that it would be possible to continue successfully to implement the programmes and priority projects established by the States members of CILSS. The projects were sound and the personnel involved capable of achieving impressive results with a minimum of resources. Small though those resources were in comparison with the scope of the problem, they were vital. Accordingly, he appealed once again to the Governments of the more fortunate countries to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities.

70. Mr. OULD SIDI AHMED (Mauritania) thanked the Administrator for his excellent presentation, adding that the needs of the countries in the region were well known and had been translated into sound projects. What was needed now was the technical and financial means to implement the projects. He joined with the Administrator in appealing to all who were in a position to help to do so.

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

71. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of Cape Verde, the United Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic were co-sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.6, and Cape Verde had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.7.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.