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SECOND COMMITTEE
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Monday, 29 November 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWORA (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 71: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/C.2/37/L.22, L.32, L.42, L.45, L.48, L.81, L.84, L.85, L.86 and L.90)

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85

1. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85, entitled "Particular problems facing Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets", was submitted by Mr. Fareed, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.22. The statement of the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.22, contained in document A/C.2/37/L.32, remained valid for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85. He also announced that the delegation of Nigeria had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.22.
2. Mr. MONSHEMVULA (Zaire) drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the wording of paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85 was not exactly the same - although it should have been - as that of paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/61, which was the text on which consensus had been reached in the informal consultations. Accordingly, the French version of the second line of that paragraph, after the word "Afrique", should read: "dans la limite des ressources financières existantes, les moyens ...". He therefore requested that the wording of paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85 should be changed accordingly.
3. The CHAIRMAN took note of the amendment proposed by the representative of Zaire, and pointed out that it only applied to the French version of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.
4. Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85 was adopted.
5. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.85, he would consider that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.22 had been withdrawn by the sponsors.
6. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.42

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, following informal consultations on the draft resolution entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference", it had been agreed that, in the last preambular paragraph, the words "the attainment of" should be replaced by the word "increased". He also announced that Mali had decided to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

8. Mr. HOSKINS (United States of America) said that his delegation had always upheld the principle of regional and subregional co-operation and had always enthusiastically supported the activities of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. For that reason, his delegation had joined the consensus reached in connection with the draft resolution. However, he drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, in his delegation's opinion, the draft resolution placed undue emphasis on the need for the member countries of the Conference to attain total self-reliance because, in times characterized by the interdependence of nations, that might delay the development of some countries in the region.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.42, as amended orally.

10. Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.42 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.45

11. Mr. TUAN (Liberia) and Mr. KABA (Guinea) announced that their delegations wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.45, entitled "Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification".

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.45 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.86

14. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.86, entitled "Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification", was submitted by Mr. Papadatos, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.48. He announced that Nigeria and the Upper Volta had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.48 and indicated that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.86 had no financial implications.

15. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

16. Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.86 was adopted.

17. Mr. GÖTTELMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution in order to show the importance his country attached to the struggle against desertification. After pointing out that his Government had devoted considerable resources to the activities undertaken in that connection, he stressed that, if the Plan of Action was to produce positive results, the countries directly concerned must give it high priority.

18. With regard to paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, his delegation believed that the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control should consist in promoting an exchange of views, not in mobilizing resources.

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19. Mr. KABA (Guinea) announced that his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.2/37/L.48 and A/C.2/37/L.86.

20. Mr. ZIMMERMAN (United States of America) explained that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution so as not to dissociate itself from the consensus. However, in its opinion, the slow implementation of the Plan of Action was explained not only by the lack of financial resources but also, as was indicated in draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.48, by the low priority the affected countries accorded to the struggle against desertification.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.86, he would consider that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.48 had been withdrawn by the sponsors.

22. It was so decided.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/37/L.81 and L.84

23. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.84, entitled "Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues". The draft resolution listed the additional tasks assigned to the regional commissions as a result of the restructuring exercise initiated by General Assembly resolution 32/197. The Joint Inspection Unit was currently conducting a number of studies on the progress achieved in implementing that resolution, and the General Assembly had before it the report of one such study on the Economic Commission for Africa (A/37/119). The General Assembly also had before it the comments of the Secretary-General on that report (A/37/119/Add.1). The purpose of the draft resolution under consideration was to bring to the attention of the General Assembly, at its current session, the specific recommendations made by the Inspectors. Some of those recommendations were relevant not only to ECA but also to the other regional economic commissions and were very important for the effective functioning of the United Nations system as a whole.

24. The draft resolution thus called upon the Secretary-General to investigate new approaches to regional and subregional programming and management of the intercountry projects of the United Nations system in order to ensure that all resources available to the system for regional programming on Africa were programmed in a rational, comprehensive and integrated manner. In that connection, the United Nations system was also requested to assist African Governments in incorporating the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action into their sectoral country programmes and projects. It was obvious that those recommendations were universal in scope. In addition, the draft resolution called upon the Secretary-General to take stock of the progress made thus far in decentralization with a view to determining the specific duties, responsibilities and resources that should be decentralized and the timing of such decentralization. That matter was also of concern to other regional commissions and to all offices away from Headquarters and was fundamental to the effective operation of the Organization as a whole.

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

25. Another issue which transcended the operations of ECA was the call to all regional commissions to increase staff exchanges in order to foster the interchange of experience between regions. When the Executive Secretary of ECA was requested to institute regional, subject-oriented and high-level interagency meetings to discuss common issues with a view to developing firm guidelines for co-ordinated action towards attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, that request was also directed to the other regional commissions. The strengthening of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office was very useful as it provided, particularly to government representatives stationed in New York, up-to-date information on the work of the commissions.

26. As to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit which concerned ECA directly and were designed to improve the administrative, financial and personnel functions of the Commission, the draft resolution provided for their immediate implementation.

27. He said that he would not dwell on the matter of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of ECA, which were very significant for the immediate and future economic development of Africa, since they were the subject of a separate draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.19), which had already received the full support of the members of the African Group and the Group of 77. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

28. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.81 entitled "International year for the mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa", he said that the final text was not quite ready and that he would submit it at a later date.

28a. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the States members of the Group of 77 supported draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.81.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.90

29. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said the Committee would recall that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.40 entitled "Development and international economic co-operation: new international human order: moral aspects of development", submitted by his country, had on two occasions been the subject of informal consultations after which it had been agreed to transmit the text to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration. It had in fact appeared that intergovernmental consideration was warranted and that the draft would benefit from a further elaboration. For that reason the Philippines had decided to submit a new draft, which was also sponsored by Indonesia, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Thailand.

30. The draft resolution simply indicated the procedure to be followed for the transmission of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.40 to the Economic and Social Council, with the request that it should consider the matter at its second regular session of 1983, taking into account the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. In the draft resolution, Governments were requested to

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(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

submit their comments on that question before 30 April 1983 to the Secretary-General for transmission by him to the Economic and Social Council at that session, and the General Assembly would decide to take up that question at its thirty-eighth session on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council. As draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.40 had already given rise to two series of informal consultations, he hoped that to save time the Second Committee would simply take note of the new draft and that it could be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 72: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/37/L.87 and L.89)

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.87

31. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.87 on the United Nations Children's Fund, announced that the following countries should be added to the list of sponsors: Bangladesh, China, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria and Norway. Norway had been inadvertently omitted from the original list.

32. The preamble of the draft resolution contained two major elements: recognition of UNICEF policy and its basic services approach and concern about trends in multilateral financing. Those two questions were referred to again in the operative part in which, after recalling resolution 1982/51 of the Economic and Social Council, the sponsors urged UNICEF to intensify its efforts to adapt the basic services approach for children in the light of the current economic crisis, and commended the Executive Director and the secretariat for their efforts to enlarge the income of the Fund and implement its programmes.

33. He expressed the hope that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.87 would be adopted by consensus.

34. Mr. ZIMMERMAN (United States of America) recalled that over the years his country had strongly supported UNICEF and said that he associated himself with the sponsors of the exceptionally lucid draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.89

35. Mrs. LOECKX (Belgium), introducing, on behalf of its 19 sponsors, draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.89 entitled "United Nations technical co-operation activities", said that its primary purpose was to give greater visibility to a department which had been established fairly recently, namely, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, whose activities were ever increasing. The preamble recalled the functions of the Department, which reported to the Governing Council of UNDP in its capacity as executing agency for the Programme. The General Assembly should however receive the same information, since the Department also handled funds which were not under the authority of the Governing Council. With regard to the information required under paragraph 2, most of the data were already available but were transmitted to the Fifth Committee or the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. What was being sought essentially was an effort at qualitative and quantitative compilation and analysis.

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(Mrs. Loeckx, Belgium)

36. She said that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.89 had already been the subject of very lengthy consultations, which its sponsors were prepared to continue, and that the secretariat concerned had been kept closely informed of its progress. She expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 74: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/C.2/37/L.82 and L.88)

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.82

37. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the African Group, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.82 entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator" (UNDRO), which was also sponsored by Kuwait and Turkey. The draft resolution stressed the necessity to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office. That required the provision of adequate additional financial resources and the necessary qualified personnel. In addition there must be coherent and effective co-ordination, on a system-wide basis, of all activities in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. By the draft resolution the Assembly would recognize the valuable work done by the Office, the donor countries, and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the importance of the contributions of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the disaster-prone and disaster-stricken countries. The Assembly would also recall its resolution 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it inter alia reaffirmed the mandate of UNDRO and entrusted it with the additional responsibilities of dealing with complex disasters of exceptional magnitude such as the ones it had handled so competently in Chad and Lebanon. The Assembly would call upon all the organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 36/225, to co-ordinate their efforts at all stages of the action undertaken by the international community to deal with natural disasters and other disaster situations, in order to eliminate wasteful duplication of resources. That was particularly necessary at the present time, when the increase in disasters was outrunning the availability of resources to deal with them, including voluntary contributions, which placed additional economic burdens on the developing countries and caused serious disruption to their development process. For all those reasons, he trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

38. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the members of the Group of 77 supported draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.82 which had just been introduced by the representative of Kenya.

39. Mr. GÖKÇE (Turkey) confirmed that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.82 and that it had decided to become a sponsor. However, his delegation wished to propose the following amendment to the text of the draft resolution. In his opinion, the following new paragraph should be inserted between paragraphs 2 and 3:

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(Mr. Gökçe, Turkey)

"Notes that the Governments of Chad and Lebanon have expressed their appreciation of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in Chad and Lebanon and requests the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to continue his emergency relief activities in these two countries."

He also said that he withdrew a similar amendment which he had submitted in respect of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.67.

40. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) and Mr. HAGGAR (Chad) supported the amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.82 proposed by the representative of Turkey.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.88

41. Mr. KUMAR (Fiji) announced that Bangladesh and Saint Lucia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.88 concerning assistance to Tonga. Its purpose, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/132, was to remind the international community of the economic problems and the needs of that country, whose difficulties had been compounded by a series of natural disasters. He outlined the salient features of Tonga to emphasize the constraints on its development, in particular its isolation and the dispersion of the islands. Tonga was heavily dependent on the export of a few agricultural products. Its principal export earner was copra, whose price fluctuated dramatically. During the past decade, its imports had grown faster than its exports, giving rise to a growing trade deficit, despite tourism and remittances from Tongans working abroad. Domestic savings were insufficient and capital expenditure would have to be financed externally. The Government was finding it hard to finance development activities and serious difficulties had arisen in meeting counterpart contributions to development projects. Donors were therefore urged to consider full-cost financing of specific projects.

42. He then spoke of the ravages caused in March 1982 by hurricane "Isaac". In that connection he mentioned the work of the multi-agency mission which had visited Tonga in October and drew attention to the Secretary-General's report in document A/37/583. The Government had presented the mission with 48 projects oriented towards short-term or medium-term needs, in conformity with the priorities of the five-year development plan. The cost of those projects, taking into account the economic impact of the hurricane, was \$58.1 million.

43. The Committee would recall that the international community had already shown that it was not insensitive to the problems of the archipelago, since, according to UNDR0, \$3.8 million had been received following the hurricane, from Governments, the United Nations system, the European Economic Community and voluntary agencies. The draft resolution now before the Committee was designed merely to assist a country which had to overcome severe handicaps in promoting its development. In its present form it should therefore be the subject of a consensus. However, its sponsors were ready to reconsider any aspect of the text, if necessary.

44. Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand) welcomed the initiative of the sponsors of the draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.88 in bringing the precarious situation of Tonga to the attention of delegations. While the South Pacific island countries had many points in common with the developing countries, they also had to face problems caused by their particular situation: the fact that they were small and scattered, the vulnerability of an economy dependent on a small number of products, and the frequency of hurricanes. He trusted, therefore, that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.88, as well as the Secretary-General's report to which the representative of Fiji had referred, would help to make the international community aware of the fate of the people of the region and would stimulate its generosity.

45. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the following countries had become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.2/37/L.33 (Assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the Central African Republic): the Sudan; L.35 (Assistance to Sao Tome and Principe): Nigeria, the Sudan and Zaire; L.36 (Assistance to drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda): Nigeria; L.37 (Assistance to Botswana): Nigeria and the Sudan; L.38 (Assistance for the development of Liberia): the Sudan and the United States; L.41 (Specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries): Nigeria; L.43 (Assistance to Democratic Yemen): Nigeria and the Sudan; L.50 (Special economic assistance to Benin): Mozambique; L.51 (Assistance to Cape Verde): Nigeria and the United States; L.52 (Assistance to Djibouti): the Sudan; L.54 (Special economic assistance to Chad): Belgium and the United States; L.55 (Special economic assistance to Guinea-Bissau): the Sudan; L.56 (Assistance to Nicaragua): the Sudan; L.57 (Assistance for the development of Sierre Leone): the Sudan and Zaire; L.58 (Assistance to the Gambia): Madagascar, Nigeria and the Sudan; L.59 (Assistance to Lesotho): Nigeria and the Sudan; L.60 (Assistance to Mozambique): Benin, Cuba and the Sudan; L.61 (Assistance to Uganda): Madagascar, Nigeria and the Sudan; L.65 (Protection against banned, severely restricted and non-approved products): Nigeria; and L.67 (Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon): Ecuador, Madagascar and Nigeria.

46. Mr. KABA (Guinea) announced that his country wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution on special economic assistance to Chad (A/C.2/37/L.54).

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.