

**General Assembly**

Fifty-sixth session

**Official Records**Distr.: General  
28 December 2001

Original: English

---

**Second Committee****Summary record of the 40th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 12 December 2001, at 5 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Seixas da Costa . . . . . (Portugal)**Contents**Agenda item 95: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

- (a) Trade and development (*continued*)
- (c) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 96: Sectoral policy questions (*continued*)

- (a) Business and development (*continued*)
- (b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*)

Agenda item 97: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

- (b) Human resources development (*continued*)

Agenda item 98: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

- (a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)
- (c) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.



Agenda item 99: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

- (a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)
- (b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (*continued*)

Agenda item 102: Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic (*continued*)

Agenda item 104: Training and research (*continued*)

Agenda item 106: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)

- (b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (*continued*)

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

Draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 2002-2003

Completion of the Committee's work

*The meeting was called to order at 5.20 p.m.*

**Agenda item 95: Macroeconomic policy questions**  
(continued) (A/C.2/56/L.2, L.37, L.66 and L.67)

**(a) Trade and development** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries* (A/C.2/56/L.37 and L.66)

1. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.66, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.37. He expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

2. **Mr. Hirata** (Japan) drew attention to some editorial changes in paragraphs 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 22.

3. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) noted that paragraphs 13, 16, 17 and 20 of the draft resolution contained a number of requests by the General Assembly, including a request to the Secretary-General to convene a ministerial meeting preceded by a meeting of senior officials. Those meetings would take place in 2003 over a five-day period, and interpretation and documentation would be provided in all six official languages of the United Nations. The need for temporary assistance could be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003. However, provision was made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 not only for meetings scheduled at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently. Therefore, if the General Assembly adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.66, no additional budget appropriations would be required. Referring to paragraph 20 of the draft resolution, she said that the Secretary General's resource proposals for the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries were contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and were being considered by the Fifth Committee.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.66 was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.37 was withdrawn.*

**(c) Science and technology for development**  
(continued)

*Draft resolutions on science and technology for development* (A/C.2/56/L.2 and L.67)

6. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.67, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.2.

7. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, said that the Secretary-General's resource proposals for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its secretariat were contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and were being considered by the Fifth Committee.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.67 was adopted.*

9. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.2 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 96: Sectoral policy questions** (continued)  
(A/C.2/56/L.18, L.25, L.26, L.69 and L.73)

**(a) Business and development** (continued)

*Draft resolution on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such funds to the countries of origin* (A/C.2/56/L.26 and L.69)

10. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.69, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.26.

11. **Mr. Goffin** (Belgium) said that, where the word "illegal" had been changed to "illicit" in the English version of the draft resolution, the same changes should be made in the French version.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.69 was adopted.*

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.26 was withdrawn.*

*Draft resolution on business and development* (A/C.2/56/L.18)

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.18 was adopted.*

**(b) Industrial development cooperation (continued)**

*Draft resolutions on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) (A/C.2/56/L.25 and L.73)*

15. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.73, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.25.

16. **Mr. Abreha** (Ethiopia) proposed that in the fifth line of paragraph 12 the word “and” be replaced by the words “taking into account”.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted.*

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.25 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 97: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (continued)**  
(A/56/221; A/C.2/56/L.24 and L.74)

**(b) Human resources development (continued)**

*Draft resolutions on human resources development in the context of sustainable development and international economic cooperation (A/C.2/56/L.24 and L.74)*

19. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.74, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.24.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.74 was adopted.*

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.24 was withdrawn.*

22. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the note by the Secretary-General entitled “Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system” (A/56/221).

23. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 98: Environment and sustainable development (continued)** (A/56/19; A/C.2/56/L.11, L.17/Rev.1, L.19, L.41, L.50, L.51, L.70, L.71 and L.77)

**(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (continued)**

*Draft resolutions on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/56/L.11, L.19 and L.71)*

24. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11, contained in document A/C.2/56/L.19, also applied to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71.

25. **Mr. Djumala** (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71, which had been established on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11, said that consensus had been reached on all but paragraph 8 of the document.

26. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) said that while the United States would join the consensus on the draft resolution, because it was committed to working towards a successful World Summit on Sustainable Development, it could not join the consensus on paragraph 8 because it did not agree that the Department of Public Information should receive new funding from the regular budget. The Department should either absorb the costs of the public information campaign by reprioritizing its work or seek voluntary contributions. The United States would be addressing that issue thoroughly in the Fifth Committee.

27. **Mr. Goffin** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation supported the draft resolution as a whole and was committed to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It also recognized the importance of a proactive global information campaign to publicize the Summit. It was vital for Member States to be consulted so as to maximize coordination of the national and global levels of the campaign. However, such a campaign should be financed from the existing budget of the Department of Public Information.

28. **Ms. Girtel** (Canada), speaking on behalf of the CANZ group of countries (Canada, Australia and New Zealand), said that while those delegations favoured a public information campaign to publicize the summit,

they believed that it should be funded from existing resources after a review of the priorities of the Department of Public Information.

29. **Mr. Kokubu** (Japan) said that his delegation, while recognizing the need for a public information campaign, was also concerned about the programme budget implications of such a campaign. His delegation was willing to continue considering the resources needed in the relevant committee of the General Assembly.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71 was adopted.*

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11 was withdrawn.*

32. **Mr. Moeini Meybodi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that those delegations had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71. Naturally, priorities needed to be set for the allocation of resources, but the World Summit on Sustainable Development was vitally important, and it was therefore necessary to secure funding for a public information campaign to promote it.

33. **Ms. Tavora-Jainchill** (Brazil), endorsing the comments made by the representative of Iran, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution which, she believed, would make a valuable contribution to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Publicity was needed to ensure that the Summit was not just a meeting of Government delegates, but also involved many other groups, such as representatives of civil society and the private sector.

34. **Mr. Anaedu** (Nigeria) endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Iran and pointed out that his delegation had no objection to setting priorities for the activities and operations of the Department of Public Information. However, it was vital that there should be enough resources available for that Department to conduct an appropriate publicity campaign for the Conference.

35. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt) suggested that the priorities and programme of work of the Department of Public Information would be more appropriately discussed in the committee dealing with such matters.

36. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the

preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development (A/56/19, Suppl. No. 19).

37. *It was so decided.*

**(c) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa**  
(continued)

*Draft resolution on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa*  
(A/C.2/45/L.17/Rev.1, L.51 and A/C.2/56/L.70)

38. **Mr. Djumala** (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1.

39. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that following the review of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70, it was understood that operative paragraphs 17 and 19 contained the provisions which had already been addressed in the statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1 (A/C.2/56/L.51). On that understanding, that statement applied equally to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70.

40. **Mr. Moeini Meybodi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that since consideration of programme budget implications fell within the mandate of the Fifth Committee, the fact that the statement on the subject (A/C.2/56/L.51) had been presented to the Committee did not mean that it had been considered or endorsed. It was clear that the arrangements provided for in General Assembly resolution 50/115 were still valid. Paragraph 7 of document A/C.2/56/L.51 stated that conference-servicing requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 of meetings of the Conference of the Parties would be met from the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Secretariat had no reason to propose modifying the arrangements mandated by the General Assembly. Moreover, changing the existing arrangements would have a negative impact on the work of the Convention. Unless the General Assembly changed the mandate it was clear that the Secretariat should adhere to the current arrangement.

41. **Mr. Anaedu** (Nigeria) fully supported the statement made by the representative of Iran. Referring to paragraph 11, which stated that it was no longer possible to provide a full range of conference-servicing to the Conference of the Parties, he said that the establishment of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention should not greatly affect the financial arrangements for, although the Conference of the Parties was originally to have met every year, with the creation of the new Committee it would be meeting biennially.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70 was adopted.*

43. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1 was withdrawn.*

44. **Mr. Moeini Meybodi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Group of 77 and China believed that the creation of a financial mechanism for the Convention was an absolute necessity to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and they would continue to raise the issue.

**(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (continued)**

*Draft resolutions on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind in the context of environment and sustainable development (A/C.2/56/L.41, L.50 and L.77)*

45. **The Chairman** drew attention to the statement on programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41 (A/C.2/56/L.50), adding that it applied also to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77.

46. **Mr. Djumala** (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41.

47. **Mr. Moeini Meybodi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that since consideration of programme budget implications fell within the mandate of the Fifth Committee, the fact that the statement on the subject (A/C.2/56/L.50) had been presented to the Committee did not mean that it had been considered or endorsed. It was clear that the arrangements provided for in General Assembly resolution 50/115 were still valid. Paragraph 5 of document A/C.2/56/L.50 stated that conference-servicing requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 of

meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention would be met from the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Secretariat had no reason to propose modifying the arrangements mandated by the General Assembly. Moreover, changing the existing arrangements would have a negative impact on the work of the Framework Convention especially in terms of measures by its secretariat to implement the Bonn and Marrakesh agreements. Unless the General Assembly changed the mandate, it was clear that the secretariat should adhere to the current arrangements.

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77 was adopted.*

49. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 99: Operational activities for development (continued)** (A/56/174; A/C.2/56/L.13, L.64 and L.72)

**(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (continued)**

*Draft resolutions on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/56/L.13 and L.72)*

50. **Ms. Simonova** (Czech Republic), Rapporteur, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.72, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.13. It had no programme budget implications.

51. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.72 was adopted.*

52. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.13 was withdrawn.*

**(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (continued)**

*Draft decision on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (A/C.2/56/L.64)*

53. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said the last paragraph of the draft decision should be replaced with the following: "Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the general item of the plenary 'Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations', a sub-item entitled 'Cooperation between the United Nations

and the Southern African Development Community” and that the words “and requests the Secretary-General to present the current report updated on this item to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly” should be added to the last paragraph.

54. *Draft decision A/C.2/56/L.64, as orally revised, was adopted.*

55. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/56/174).

56. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 102: Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic (continued)**  
(A/C.2/56/L.39, L.40, L.75 and L.76)

*Draft resolution on the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)*  
(A/C.2/56/L.39 and L.75)

57. **Mr. Djumala** (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.75, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.39, and recommended it for adoption by consensus. It had no programme budget implications.

58. **Mr. Ramsden** (New Zealand), drew attention to some editorial changes in paragraphs 3 bis, 6 and 7.

59. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.75, as orally amended, was adopted.*

60. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.39 was withdrawn.*

*Draft resolution on strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)* (A/C.2/56/L.40 and L.76)

61. **Mr. Djumala** (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.76, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.40, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

62. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that, since the Governing Council would meet on a biennial basis, it would retain the conference servicing entitlements of its precursor, the Commission on Human Settlements. Those entitlements were already included in the United Nations calendar of meetings for 2002-2003. It was envisaged that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to Habitat would hold an organizational meeting on 23 January 2002, four meetings of half-day duration each in 2002 and 2003, for a total of nine meetings in the biennium 2002-2003. Interpretation would be provided in all six official languages, whereas documentation would be circulated in the language of submission. No translation costs were expected to be incurred for those meetings. On that basis, conference servicing requirements for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at full cost, were estimated at \$59,100. In that regard, the extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance could be determined only in light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the 2002-2003 biennium. Provision was made, however, under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently. Consequently, no programme budget implications were envisaged with respect to the other parts of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.76. Consequently, should the General Assembly approve the recommendations contained in that draft resolution, no additional provisions were expected to arise in the 2002-2003 proposed programme budget.

63. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.76 was adopted.*

64. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.40 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 104: Training and research (continued)**  
(A/C.2/56/L.30 and L.68)

*Draft resolutions on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research* (A/C.2/56/L.30, L.55 and L.68)

65. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.30. The draft resolution sought to set in motion a process to alleviate

the financial difficulties of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and he recommended its adoption.

66. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68, said that as regards the requests contained in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, clarification of administrative arrangements in connection with rental and maintenance costs regarding the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development had been provided in paragraph 10 of document A/C.2/56/L.55; those arrangements did not constitute exceptions to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213. As regards proposals on how to waive or reduce the rental and maintenance charged to UNITAR, that issue would be addressed in the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 12. It was the understanding of the Secretary-General that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68 UNITAR would continue to be responsible for its rental and maintenance costs, payable at commercial rates, and to reimburse the United Nations for accommodation and services provided, consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213. Consequently, adoption of the draft resolution would not give rise to any financial implications under the regular budget of the United Nations.

67. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68 was adopted.*

68. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.30 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 106: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (continued)**

(A/56/208, A/56/297 and Corr.1, A/56/434; A/C.2/56/L.59 and L.78)

**(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (continued)**

*Draft resolutions on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/56/L.59 and L.78)*

69. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.78, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.59.

70. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that, under the terms of paragraph 9, the provisions of the resolution would be implemented within the approved level of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003. In that regard, she noted that the level of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003 was yet to be set, and she drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 Part B, Section VI. She also recalled that the requirements for the establishment of the Office of the High Representative referred to in paragraph 1 were contained in documents A/56/645/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Corr.2. The manner in which those requirements would be provided would be decided by the General Assembly at the current session on the recommendations of the Fifth Committee.

71. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.78 was adopted.*

72. *Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.59 was withdrawn.*

73. **Mr. Goffin** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the adoption of the resolution by consensus. The European Union attached great importance to the institutional follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and it intended to play a role as the main development partner of the least developed countries.

74. **Mr. Thoppil** (Canada) said his delegation's understanding was that the draft resolution would not lead to an increase in the regular budget of the United Nations. The total cost of establishing the Office of the High Representative would have to be funded within the approved level of the biennium 2002-2003 budget and through extrabudgetary resources.

75. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the effectiveness of the functioning of the Unit for Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (A/56/208); the report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/56/297 and Corr.1); and the Note by the Secretary-General on resources available to the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least



Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/56/434).

76. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting was suspended at 7.17 p.m. and resumed at 8 p.m.*

**Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)** (A/56/3 and Add.1 and 2, A/56/459, A/56/127-E/2001/101 and A/56/127/Add.1-E/2001/101/Add.1)

77. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should take note of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3 and Add.1 and 2, mainly chapters I to V, VII, sections A to C and E to H, and IX), the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/56/459) and the report of the Secretary-General on the five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225 on public administration and development (A/56/127-E/2001/101 and A/56/127/Add.1-E/2001/101/Add.1).

78. *It was so decided.*

**Draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 2002-2003** (A/C.2/56/L.60)

79. **Mr. Xiong Lixian** (Chief of the Documentation and Monitoring Unit) introduced the draft biennium programme of work for the Second Committee for 2002-2003 and provided updated information in the light of developments after the publication of the document. Such information would be incorporated into the Committee's report to the plenary of the General Assembly under agenda item 12.

80. **Mr. Mirafzal** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, proposed that the words "environment and" should be deleted from item 5 of the programme for the year 2002 and item 4 of the programme for the year 2003, since environment was one of the three pillars of sustainable development as agreed at the Rio Conference.

*The meeting was suspended at 8.20 p.m. and resumed at 8.25 p.m.*

81. After a discussion in which **Mr. Goffin** (Belgium), who spoke on behalf of the European

Union, **Mr. Traub** (United States of America), **Mr. Moeini Meybodi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), who spoke on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon) took part, **the Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note of the proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

82. *It was so decided.*

83. **Mr. Moeini Meybodi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 and China would raise the issue at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly and would monitor it closely during the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

84. *The draft biennial programme of work, as orally revised, was adopted.*

**Completion of the Committee's work**

85. **The Chairman** said that, while the events of 11 September had brought about considerable consensus on some aspects of the functioning of the Organization, there was still a considerable divergence in views within the international community as to how to develop strategies for closing the gap between rich and poor countries. The Committee endeavoured to arrive at a consensual, multilateral approach with respect to areas that were vital to the future of billions of people. In that regard, he welcomed the spirit of compromise and flexibility that had prevailed throughout the session, which had allowed solutions to be found to very complex issues. Indeed, the multilateralism permitted even the poorest countries to have an equal say on all matters.

86. **Mr. Mirafzal** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed gratification at the spirit of cooperation and consensus that had prevailed. That had enabled the Committee to adopt a variety of draft resolutions, including on very sensitive issues, by consensus.

87. **Mr. Goffin** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the excellent cooperation among delegations and the fact that the Committee had worked almost exclusively on the basis of consensus.

88. **Ms. Girtel** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Andorra, Australia, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America as well as the Russian Federation, noted the

very difficult circumstances under which the Committee had carried out and successfully completed its work during the current session.

89. **The Chairman** declared that the Committee had completed its work for the fifty-sixth session.

*The meeting rose at 9 p.m.*