



SECOND COMMITTEE
46th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 20 November 1984
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

DEC 10 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued)
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (continued)
- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (h) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued)
- (n) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (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 DC 2-750, 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 fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/39/SR.46
26 November 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/39/3 (Parts I-II); A/39/56, 71, 88, 95, 110, 118, 126, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 187, 226, 236, 269, 302-304, 314, 323, 331, 448, 495, 536, 554, 560, 581; A/C.2/39/3, 4, 10)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued) (A/39/48, 115 and Corr.1 and 2, 171, 228, 273)
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (continued) (A/39/332 and Add.1)
- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/15, 192, 397, 415, 462, 463, 558; A/C.2/39/L.3 and L.4)
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/37; A/C.2/39/11; A/C.2/39/CRP.2)
- (h) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued) (A/38/172 and Add.1, A/38/334 and Add.1; A/39/94 and Add.1, 97, 281 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr.1, 476; A/C.2/39/CRP.1; A/C.2/39/L.5)
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/566)
- (n) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (continued) (A/39/578)

1. Mr. SAVIČ (Yugoslavia) said that the two regular sessions and one special session of the Trade and Development Board had not opened up perspectives for solving critical issues affecting international economic relations. The developed countries had not been ready to reach concrete agreements on issues of common interest, and the resulting disappointment had become greater with the dramatic worsening of the situation of many developing countries, particularly those with enormous debts. The African countries were in the worst position because they were also faced with the consequences of drought and other natural disasters. Many problems of the world economy, particularly those facing the developing countries, brooked no delay. Given those difficult international economic relations, it was hard to understand why, instead of dealing with substantive issues, some were seeking to focus the attention of UNCTAD on the procedure and work of the secretariat.

2. Although the developing countries were making supreme efforts to solve their own problems, many of them were unable to do so because their reserves and financial and other resources were limited. The burden of the world economic crisis and of the adjustment measures of developed countries had to a great extent been shifted onto the developing countries, thereby creating a number of major problems for which no solution had yet been found.

/...

(Mr. Savič, Yugoslavia)

3. No agreement had been reached regarding the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, nor had there been any agreement on the adoption of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology. There had been no agreement on the programme for the suppression of protectionist barriers or on an international trade system. Furthermore, the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities were still uncertain.

4. Although there had been general agreement on the convening of the Trade and Development Board at a ministerial level in 1985, unexpected difficulties had emerged regarding the agenda. The positions of the developed countries on international co-operation for development were inconsistent with growing interdependence and the increased need for all countries jointly to seek a way out of the current situation.

5. Although three years had elapsed since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, only a few developed countries had taken steps to implement it. The international community should take immediate action to render decisive assistance to the least developed countries and implement the Programme. Yugoslavia fully understood the specific problems and difficulties of the least developed countries and had adopted special measures to facilitate economic co-operation with them.

6. Because of the inflexibility of some developed countries, the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had not been able to fulfil its mandate, but that did not lessen the validity of the objectives of the Strategy, which should be achieved by implementing the policy measures already provided for in the Strategy itself, as well as those which had to be taken during the review and appraisal exercise.

7. The difficulties surrounding the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development were a serious obstacle to implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Further efforts were needed to explore ways of facilitating establishment of the System.

8. There had been little progress in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system because of the complexity of the issues which were predominantly political. No meaningful headway could be made unless the developed countries showed positive interest in development issues so that the sterile dialogue could be transformed into serious negotiations. The General Assembly should be the principal forum for policy-making and for giving overall political direction to the entire system on economic, social and related issues of development.

9. His delegation reiterated its support for the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and hoped that the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the

/...

(Mr. Savič[✓], Yugoslavia)

Charter would contribute to a better understanding of its crucial importance and thereby to the exercise of the necessary political will by developed countries for its full implementation.

10. Mr. SAFI (Afghanistan) said that, because of the crisis in the world capitalist economy and strained international relations, as well as the economic policies applied by certain capitalist countries, the efforts of developing countries to attain the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had been considerably hindered. Afghanistan reaffirmed its support of the Strategy, particularly the target for overall growth in the gross national product and related objectives in the trade, agricultural and industrial sectors. The developed countries' official development assistance must reach 0.7 per cent of their GNP.

11. Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States would enhance international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations and the achievement of international economic and social co-operation. It was regrettable that implementation of that Charter had been slow and inadequate because of the negative attitude of certain capitalist countries. It was important to ensure favourable conditions for the conduct of normal economic relations among all States, irrespective of differences in social and economic systems, and to strengthen international economic co-operation as a means of consolidating peace for the benefit of all. His delegation hoped that the international community would take firm action to outlaw the practice of economic coercion and unlawful sanctions.

12. The disastrous trade situation of the developing countries had further deteriorated owing to increasing protectionism, which had a negative impact on the development of international trade and the flow of exports from those countries. Protectionism must be stopped, and international trade must be restructured by instituting fundamental changes in the international monetary and financial systems.

13. The increasing pressures exerted by certain capitalist countries on international financial institutions had resulted in the cancellation or suspension of loans from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other capitalist financial institutions to a number of developing countries, including Afghanistan. Afghanistan rejected all forms of economic aggression and the use of threats or sanctions by capitalist countries against the developing countries.

14. The generalized system of preferences should be simplified and also improved in terms of tariff reduction and product coverage. The capitalist countries should ensure that their trade regulation and procedures did not unjustifiably impede the trade of other countries, in particular that of developing countries.

15. The goals and objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) should be backed by measures to ensure its implementation. Only a substantial increase in official development assistance in real terms during the 1980s would

(Mr. Safi, Afghanistan)

enable the least developed countries to fulfil their national programmes, but the range of international support measures outlined in SNPA had not materialized, and there had actually been a decline in the growth rate of the least developed countries.

16. At its twenty-eighth session, the Trade and Development Board had decided to convene, in May 1985, a meeting of the representatives of the least developed countries, donor countries and representatives of multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions to prepare the mid-term global review of progress towards implementing SNPA. His delegation supported that decision and hoped that the results of that meeting as well as the mid-term global review, to take place in September 1985, would accelerate the implementation of SNPA for the second five years.

17. Afghanistan was a land-locked least developed country, and various forms of external assistance were vital to it. Its revolutionary Government was seeking to implement the national measures set forth in SNPA through intensified planning and domestic mobilization of some 50 per cent of its resources for development. If the goals and objectives of SNPA could be implemented, most of the socio-economic problems of the least developed countries would be solved.

18. Mr. FOLDEAK (Hungary) said that his country supported the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and applied them in its international relations. It was regrettable that certain capitalist countries were abandoning those principles in their external economic relations and ignoring the duties set forth in that Charter. The recent increase in discriminatory and restrictive measures applied for political reasons against socialist and developing countries not only impeded economic recovery but also aggravated the already tense international political climate.

19. Economic progress in the developing countries was being impeded by the most diverse forms of neo-colonialism which, unless they were eliminated, would prevent real economic progress in third-world countries. Hungary devoted special attention to expanding and improving mutually advantageous economic relations with developing countries.

20. Peace and international security were indispensable for establishing equal partnerships and a new international economic order. The possibilities for economic and social progress would be significantly enhanced by halting the arms race and adopting concrete disarmament measures, which would release enormous material resources for economic development, particularly in favour of developing countries.

21. The delay in establishing a new international economic order was directly influenced by the fact that the economic achievements of developing countries lagged far behind the targets set in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy in 1984 had not been a success. The shortfalls from

/...

(Mr. Foldeak, Hungary)

the targets of the Strategy were due to the unwillingness of certain countries to engage in substantive discussions and to the fact that the Strategy's production and export targets had been set at a time when rapid economic growth in some developing countries was giving rise to excessive optimism. In addition, the worsening world economy had had a destructive effect on the economies of most developing countries: while external assistance played no small role, it was insufficient for restructuring their economies and could not replace the mobilization of available internal resources and the implementation of necessary economic reforms.

22. There were signs that, after long years of stagnation and setbacks, all trade was expanding again at a slow rate. The growth was rather limited and was observed mainly in trade between industrially developed countries. The long-awaited dynamic expansion was hindered by the economic plight of the indebted countries and the growing wave of protectionism in trade relations. Many had hoped that GATT would be able rapidly and effectively to end protectionism and discriminatory practices, but the facts proved otherwise. The unsound trend in world trade, which was associated with protectionism, not only hindered East-West trade, but also had a considerable adverse effect on developing countries. In the interest of eliminating those tendencies his delegation supported the Group of 77's call for the establishment of a just and equitable multilateral trading system, the elimination of restrictive market practices and discriminatory measures and stability in the generalized system of preferences.

23. Some 33 per cent of Hungary's foreign trade was with developed market-economy countries and it was often beset by restrictions and discriminatory measures. During the debate in the Second Committee, the representative of the European Economic Community (EEC) had called for the rolling back of existing protectionist measures and had supported the strengthening of the open international trading system. Hungary expected EEC to remove the artificial barriers applied against it in violation of the market rules within a reasonable time in accordance with their treaty obligations undertaken when Hungary had joined GATT.

24. Hungary based its foreign trade on the principles of most-favoured-nation treatment, non-discrimination and fulfilment in good faith of contractual obligations, and expected its partners to act likewise. The share of developing countries in Hungary's total trade showed the most dynamic rate of increase: in order to increase its foreign trade with them, in 1972 Hungary had introduced a system of preferential tariffs with no built-in restrictive measures. In addition, all products imported from the least developed countries had been fully exempted from duty in 1978.

25. The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had been a success. Faster implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would require a better international political climate and a better world economy affording the developing countries wider scope for implementing scientific and technological development programmes. The efficiency of national programmes should likewise be enhanced.

(Mr. Foldeak, Hungary)

26. Hungary attached great importance to co-operation in the information field and remained ready to participate by following its current practice of exchanging experts with developing countries. The tendency towards self-reliance in the developing countries should be strengthened in that field, and the Vienna Programme of Action should be implemented primarily at the national level.

27. Mr. ONOBU (Nigeria) said that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade remained largely unimplemented, even though its objectives were still valid. It was regrettable that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Strategy had not completed its work because of a lack of political will on the part of certain developed countries. Those countries should show greater flexibility to permit conclusion of the review and hence the adoption and implementation of comprehensive measures by the developed countries to reverse the set-backs suffered by developing countries during the last few years. The review of the Strategy was in fact so important that the General Assembly should decide forthwith on measures for completing it preferably in the first half on 1985.

28. With regard to science and technology for development, his delegation supported the decision of the Intergovernmental Committee to adopt a selective approach whereby it would consider only one or two specific themes, within its mandate, to be determined two years in advance of a session. It also supported the selection of the mobilization of resources for science and technology for development for developing countries and technology applied to agricultural development as the themes for consideration by the Committee in 1986. Nigeria remained committed to the early implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. It was therefore regrettable that negotiations to establish the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development had not been concluded and that, at the preparatory meeting held in late October, only a few countries had announced pledges. The work of the Interim Fund over the past four years had been useful. More than 78 projects had been designed and implemented for enhancing the capacity of developing countries in science and technology, and his own country had received support from the Financing System in the development of its metallurgical technology. The disheartening response of some Member States to the critical problem of resources for the Financing System was clearly part of the wider question of North-South co-operation for development and the weakening of multilateralism.

29. Nigeria called for the ratification as soon as possible of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities by those States which had not yet done so, to enable the Fund to begin its operations. In view of the need to halt and roll back protectionism, it was to be hoped that the commitment made by the seven major industrialized countries at the economic summit meeting in London in June 1984 to liberalize trade would be translated into action so that the benefits of the emerging recovery might spread world wide.

30. Progress in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s had been disappointing. The official development assistance target established in the

/...

(Mr. Onobu, Nigeria)

Programme was far from being achieved and, unless great efforts were made, would still not be attained by 1985. In addition, resolution 165 (S-IX) of the Trade and Development Board on the provision of debt relief to the least developed countries required urgent implementation if their debt burden was to be alleviated. The forthcoming review of the Substantial New Programme might be an occasion to discuss the problems of the least developed countries in a forthright manner in order to facilitate further implementation of the Programme. The developing countries had repeatedly demonstrated their political commitment to strengthening the process of international economic co-operation for development with their partners in the North, and it was to be hoped that that commitment would elicit a corresponding response from the developed countries.

31. Mr. GRECU (Romania) said that, 10 years after the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, considerable efforts were still required to make it a genuine instrument and code of conduct to be used by all States in their mutual relations. An analysis of the current economic situation and international co-operation indicated that relations among States were still based on inequality and inequity. The widening gap between the developing and the developed countries, the limited access of the developing countries to the markets of the developed countries and the decline in international assistance demonstrated once again the urgent need to fulfil the commitments assumed under the Charter. Its implementation would merely be a first step towards placing economic relations on a new, democratic and equitable basis, and should ultimately lead to the adoption of a general treaty on new principles of international economic relations.

32. Romania applied the Charter as fully as possible. It was convinced that international economic co-operation could play an important role in facilitating economic and social progress in all countries and had put forward a large number of specific proposals for eliminating inequalities and inequities in international economic relations.

33. The Committee on the Review and Appraisal had not fulfilled its mandate under General Assembly resolution 37/202. While the causes of failure were complex, they were ultimately due to a lack of political will on the part of certain developed States to meet the demands of developing countries and to make the Strategy an effective instrument. The developed countries must understand that it was in their economic and political interest to participate in a dialogue with the developing countries for the economic development of all. Every effort must be made to resume the review and to adopt the measures required for implementing the Strategy. Romania would continue its efforts in that regard, in close co-operation with the other members of the Group of 77.

34. The issues of trade, development financing and the monetary and financial system could not be dealt with separately; they called for the active collaboration of UNCTAD, GATT and IMF. Because of a decline in international trade and a rise in protectionism in recent years, the developed countries should undertake not to introduce any new trade restrictions and to promote free and equitable trade in order to eliminate existing barriers, especially those affecting the exports of developing countries.

(Mr. Grecu, Romania)

35. The resumption of world-wide development was not possible unless appropriate solutions were found to the serious problems caused by the unprecedented indebtedness of the developing countries. One of the most important ways for them to repay their debts was to increase their export earnings substantially and that meant creating favourable conditions for facilitating the access of their products to the markets of developed countries and the elimination of trade barriers.

36. The work of the second Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Reverse Transfer of Technology had yielded positive results. It was regrettable, however, that some developed countries had once again not been present. The Meeting's conclusions and recommendations would serve as a basis for the experts to continue their activities with a view to fulfilling their mandate. One of the Meeting's major conclusions had been the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach to the problems of the reverse transfer of technology. His delegation supported that conclusion as well as the recommendation that an agreed set of definitions, principles, guidelines and standards should be established on all facets of the reverse transfer. It was important to step up efforts within the United Nations to halt the outflow of skilled manpower from developing countries by means of an international convention or agreement. His delegation also supported the conclusion of the Inter-Agency Group on Reverse Transfer of Technology concerning the need to move from actual recommendations to substantive conclusions to prevent the "brain drain" and eliminate its adverse impact on the developing countries. It was to be hoped that the Group would hold meetings regularly and that all Member States would participate in future meetings of governmental experts on that issue.

37. Mr. MALIK (India) said that the direction which economic development would take in the second half of the Third United Nations Development Decade depended on the decisions and agreements arrived at on some of the issues under consideration. The basic question was whether it would be possible to regain the momentum of development or whether cyclical economic ups and downs would continue.

38. His delegation regretted the absence of substantive results from the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy caused by a lack of will to negotiate. The failure to progress did not reflect on the goals and objectives of the Strategy; it indicated that it had not been possible to translate commitments reached at the conceptual level into action. The review and appraisal was, in itself, not as important as the realization that States, in their day-to-day activities and policy-making, should bear in mind the goals and objectives of the Strategy. Despite agreements to implement the policy measures of the Strategy, the developed countries had shown little interest in acting.

39. In trade and development, one problem common to all the developing countries was the strain of external payments. Of major concern to them were the problems of commodity prices, on which their export earnings were dependent, and the rising tide of protectionism. The steady decline in commodity prices, which was expected to continue through 1985, emphasized the urgent need to attain the objectives of the Integrated Programme of Commodities, of which the Common Fund was an important

/...

(Mr. Malik, India)

part. It was to be hoped that all countries would ratify that Fund and enable it to operate as an instrument of the Integrated Programme. It was also regrettable that protectionist measures were multiplying despite commitments on a standstill and roll-back. Progress towards implementing the GATT programme of work and even the limited agreements reached at UNCTAD-VI on protectionism and structural adjustments continued to be sluggish. It was essential to honour existing commitments and to facilitate market access for the exports of developing countries. Moreover, protectionist barriers were taking on such insidious forms as voluntary restraints and non-tariff barriers specifically designed to keep the issues out of the international purview.

40. To restore confidence in trading it was necessary to have a just, non-discriminatory surveillance system and to build in strong elements of international accountability, but that was precisely what the major Powers had been evading. Perhaps nothing placed the paralysis affecting the North-South dialogue in a clearer perspective than the demand by those countries that the ministerial session of the Trade and Development Board should restrict itself to an exchange of views and not negotiations. Unfortunately, the lack of international accountability was not limited to trade alone. On a broad range of issues, there was no collective management of the international economy, as visualized at Bretton Woods; instead there was an assertion of the national priorities of a few, expressed either directly or through the market. A case in point was IMF conditionality, whereby the very countries which demanded stringent conditionality from deficit States opposed surveillance of the countries with surpluses and reserves. Many of the international economy's current problems derived from the "efficient recycling" of the world's surpluses of the 1970s and were compounded by the problems of volatile exchange rates. It had thus been possible for the country with the major reserve currency to attract an unprecedented amount of capital from the rest of the world, which, if it continued to lend such large sums, would necessarily have little left for its own investment. Forty years after Bretton Woods, taking a fresh look at the international monetary and financial system was all the more urgent because of the recent accumulation of problems such as growing indebtedness, large and unstable capital movements and the volatility and misalignment of exchange rates. The Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi in March 1983, had proposed the convocation of an international conference on money and finance for development. The need for change had been universally accepted and it was to be hoped that, during the current session, it would be possible to initiate a process of consultations which would result in preparations for that conference. It would also be useful if the extended meetings of the Interim Committee and the Development Committee of IMF and the World Bank were to be apprised of the concerns expressed and approaches suggested in the plenary Assembly and the Second Committee.

41. Mr. KOLEV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation shared the views expressed by others regarding the inability of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal to achieve substantive results. The attempts to revise the basic provisions of the Strategy - together with continued neo-colonial exploitation of the developing countries - were deplorable. Confidence in international relations should be

(Mr. Kolev, Bulgaria)

restored and trade and economic co-operation with the developing countries should be expanded. The Strategy should continue to be the basis for future efforts to improve international economic relations, and every effort should be made to accelerate the review and appraisal process.

42. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/39/332 and Add.1) was disappointing for many important issues had either been omitted or insufficiently covered. Member States should concentrate on implementing the provisions and principles set forth in that Charter rather than on debating whether to recognize the role of the Charter in promoting the economic development of the developing countries.

43. His delegation attached particular importance to the development of international trade and was dismayed by the attempts to belittle the role which UNCTAD could play in restructuring international economic relations. UNCTAD should intensify its activities with a view to strengthening its role in international economic relations and in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

44. Bulgaria also attached major importance to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. Due weight should be given to the training of scientific cadres. His Government had provided substantial assistance in that area and was ready to expand its scientific and technological relations with developing countries.

45. It would be useful to formulate objectives for the promotion of science and technology for development and to encourage closer co-ordination between the various organizations of the United Nations system in that area.

46. Mr. SOEDALTO (Indonesia) said that he supported the proposal for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States which, like the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, remained largely a dead letter. The question facing the international community was: what could be done to salvage the Strategy for the balance of the Decade? While research might be needed to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to foresee trends, a more immediate priority was to seek a political consensus on the necessity to reinforce and strengthen the policy measures of the Strategy. He was deeply concerned at the failure of the Committee responsible for reviewing the Strategy to submit a substantive report. Efforts must be made to build upon what had already been achieved in the review exercise and his delegation saw merit in the recommendation that the Second Committee should consider the necessary arrangements for a meaningful mid-term review and appraisal.

47. The state of international trade was largely responsible for the poor performance of the Strategy. His delegation was increasingly concerned by the trend towards more trade controls, particularly by the use of non-tariff barriers affecting products of particular interest to developing countries. He reiterated

/...

(Mr. Soedalto, Indonesia)

the appeal to the developed countries to honour their commitment to reverse protectionist pressures and improve market access for the exports of developing countries. He expressed the hope that the work programme on protectionism and structural adjustment adopted by the Trade and Development Board would be implemented. The positive role of the Generalized System of Preferences should be stressed and the procedures of the System should be simplified. He echoed the call made by the Trade and Development Board for financial support for UNCTAD's technical co-operation programme for the System.

48. His delegation was deeply disturbed at the sharp decline in commodity prices. Given the bleak economic climate, the Integrated Programme for Commodities had become more relevant than ever. The failure to negotiate new commodity agreements or to renegotiate existing ones was therefore regrettable. The General Assembly must generate the necessary political impetus to ensure the success of the various ongoing commodity negotiations.

49. It was regrettable that international financial co-operation had not offset the declining commodity prices and worsening terms of trade. Official development assistance was stagnating. He therefore urged the developed countries and the international financial institutions to generate increased financial flows.

50. The debt problems of the developing countries had attained such proportions that they must be solved in a global framework. Multilateral dialogue between debtor and creditor countries was needed in order to achieve a lasting solution; he recalled the proposal made by the non-aligned countries regarding the convening of an international conference on money and finance for development.

51. He expressed great concern at the continuing plight of the least developed countries and stressed the need for concerted international efforts to achieve full and effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

52. While appreciating the efforts being made to implement the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, he expressed disappointment at the failure to resolve the important issue of financial arrangements, and hoped that ongoing consultations on the matter would yield satisfactory results.

53. Mr. LIEFER (Austria) said that his delegation also had been disappointed by the lack of progress made towards an agreed text on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy. It renewed its commitment to the Strategy.

54. A major cause for the current stalemate appeared to be the inability of the international community to agree on how to deal with the interdependence of the various organizations of the system, which affected the activities of UNCTAD. His delegation was concerned at the insufficient progress made by UNCTAD and hoped that renewed efforts would be made to achieve progress on matters of substance. The success of those efforts would depend to a considerable degree on developments in other forums of the United Nations system and on the measure of consensus reached on the type of contribution UNCTAD could make on each issue involving trade and

(Mr. Liefer, Austria)

development. There was also a need to adapt the machinery and working methods of UNCTAD to the new requirements.

55. Efforts to reverse the deterioration in the economic situation of the least developed countries must remain a major priority. He stressed the need for careful preparation of the forthcoming mid-term global review of the Substantial New Programme of Action and expressed the hope that the assistance provided by donors would be properly evaluated in terms of the aid targets acknowledged by them. Other essential elements would be the evaluation of the country review meetings and of the experience of the round tables. He welcomed decision 284 (XXVIII) of the Trade and Development Board.

56. His delegation hoped that co-operation between the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Intergovernmental Committee on the same subject would increase and that the latter would adopt a bilateral cycle of work. It was concerned at the difficulties being encountered in establishing the Financing System and welcomed the suggestion that a working group should be established to explore the various possibilities. However, unless some substantial change occurred in the attitude of major donor countries it was hard to see what such a group could accomplish.

57. Given the importance of integrating women in the development process, the United Nations system should set the example for Member States by ensuring that its activities in all areas promoted full integration of women in development.

58. Austria remained committed to the restructuring exercise - which was an evolving process - and to the search for a new consensus for development. Efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council should be pursued in a mutually supportive manner. He welcomed the decision of the Council regarding a biennial programme of work for the Second Committee.

59. Procedural measures must, however, be accompanied by a serious effort to deal with substantive issues. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, particular attention must be devoted to emerging social trends and to the promotion of an approach to development that fully took into account the social aspects of economic policies. The Council should persevere in its efforts to formulate appropriate conclusions and recommendations as part of its general debate on the world economic and social situation. His delegation continued to believe that the convening of subject-oriented or special sessions of the Council should be considered. It was supporting efforts to promote a dialogue between Member States and the heads of the various organizations of the United Nations system.

60. The CHAIRMAN, referring to agenda items 12 and 83 as well as item 80, announced that Ecuador had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.22 and L.25; the Dominican Republic had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.39; the Dominican Republic and the Gambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.40; the Gambia had become a sponsor of draft resolution

/...

(The Chairman)

A/C.2/39/L.41; Cyprus and Viet Nam had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.42; Cyprus, the Gambia and Viet Nam had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.43; Mongolia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.44; Cyprus had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.51; Cyprus and the United States of America had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.57; the Gambia and Nepal had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.59; Ecuador had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.61; and Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.71.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.