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**Chairman:** Mr. Bohdan LEWANDOWSKI  
(Poland).

## AGENDA ITEM 36

**Question of holding an international conference on trade problems (A/5221, A/C.2/214, A/C.2/L.645, A/C.2/L.648 and Add.1-4, E/3631 and Add.1-4) (continued)**

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.2/L.645, A/C.2/L.648 AND ADD.1-4) (continued)**

1. Mr. BLOIS (Canada) said that, in the view of his delegation, the very large measure of agreement in the Committee concerning the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was due to a great extent to the moderation and caution shown by the sponsors of the twenty-eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.648 and Add.1-4) in approaching an extremely difficult and complex problem with care and prudence. Except for one or two points which might be improved to achieve unanimity, his delegation had no difficulty in approving that text.

2. His delegation shared the opinion of those who felt that the composition of the Preparatory Committee should be more representative than that of the Economic and Social Council, the enlargement of which it had advocated for a long time. It feared, however, that if the Committee's membership were increased to thirty, as the twenty-eight-Power draft proposed, the Committee would become less efficient.

3. His delegation was aware of the urgency of the problem to be solved, but serious difficulties might result if it were proposed, as in the draft resolution, to hold the Conference by June 1963. Great care should be exercised both in preparing the agenda of the Conference and in choosing the documents with which it would work. Even the processing of the existing documents would require more time than the draft resolution permitted. Moreover, the Preparatory Committee should have before it the new information and proposals which the Economic and Social Council had requested from GATT, IMF and the International Bank. It could not begin to consider para-

graph 4 of the draft resolution until it had received the report of the group of experts appointed under resolution 919 (XXXIV) of the Economic and Social Council to study the activities of various international organizations on trade problems of particular importance to the developing countries. Lastly, it would be difficult to know exactly what form the Conference would take until the Preparatory Committee had met.

4. He assured the sponsors of the draft resolution that he was not trying to delay the Conference. It must be held, but it must also succeed; and the Second Committee could not yet decide the date of its meeting. That date should be set by the Economic and Social Council on the Preparatory Committee's recommendations. What the Second Committee should do was to make clear that the Conference should be held as soon as possible.

5. His delegation attached great importance to United Nations activities in the field of trade and felt that the problems which had led the Economic and Social Council to call for the convening of a United Nations conference were serious and urgent. With respect, however, to the amendments of the six Powers (A/C.2/L.651/Rev.1), which called for discussion of the establishment of an entirely new agency, it felt that the existing bodies were fully capable of making a thorough study of all those problems. It also attached great importance to GATT, which should play an important part in solving world trade problems; and it could not support any measure which in the long run would weaken GATT and block its efforts to make trade relations easier.

6. Solutions for international trade problems should be sought at various levels and in various bodies, always with the same objective of more expanded and liberal international trade relations. The primary purpose of the next ministerial meeting of the Contracting Parties of GATT would be to prepare a new series of negotiations on customs duties and the reduction of other trade barriers. Those negotiations would be aimed at expansion of world trade and would benefit by the new and very extensive powers conferred on the United States Government with respect to tariff negotiations. They would add something new to all the negotiations which had been held within GATT since 1947. His delegation believed that the GATT conference would find that progress was necessary in fields other than customs duties, for instance, in regard to those of agricultural products, tropical products and primary commodities. GATT's efforts were directed at the solution of many problems also under study by the United Nations. The importance and urgency of those problems, particularly where they affected the developing countries, required constant attention by the United Nations, GATT and other international world trade agencies. Far from conflicting with each other, the proposals made by GATT and the decisions taken at the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development should strengthen one another and thus bring international trade problems nearer to a solution.

7. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that his delegation welcomed the unanimity on the need for holding a conference on trade problems. Some points, however, still gave rise to disagreement and misunderstanding. Several delegations had opposed the inclusion of certain items in the provisional agenda of that conference on the ground that it ought to concern itself only with the problems of the developing countries. That, however, did not follow either from the Cairo Declaration of Developing Countries or from resolution 917 (XXXIV) of the Economic and Social Council.

8. The proposal that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should consider the need or advantages of a new international agency for trade problems had aroused objections by several representatives who felt that such a directive would prejudice the decisions of the Conference. Would it not, however, prejudice the Conference's deliberations to deprive it of the advice of experts on that subject and to give the Preparatory Committee a list of questions to discuss as long as that in the twenty-eight-Power draft resolution? In that case, the Conference must be able to consider all the questions which States and groups of States considered most urgent. Since one important purpose of the Conference was to eliminate discriminatory measures, it would not make a very promising start if it began by adopting a measure of that kind itself.

9. The idea of setting up an international trade agency had already been broached a long time ago by the socialist countries. The present unanimity on the convening of a conference on trade problems showed that to be necessary because of the international trade situation and because of organizational difficulties. One could even go further and say that if GATT continued its present trend, it would end by becoming practically a new international agency. His delegation could easily imagine that happening and thought that the agency might very well have its headquarters in GATT and use most of the GATT staff. The creation of a new agency could not therefore be called adverse to the interests of the developing countries, nor ought it to have been condemned as a cold-war move. His delegation hoped that the Committee would soon reach a unanimously acceptable solution.

10. Mr. HIREMATH (India) proposed that the discussion on the draft resolutions concerning item 36 should be adjourned, since some delegations were meeting in an attempt to iron out differences of view and to find ways of attaining unanimity.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

##### The Cairo Declaration of Developing Countries (A/5162, A/C.2/L.650/Rev.1) (continued)

##### CONSIDERATION OF THE JOINT DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.2/L.650/REV.1) (continued)

11. Mr. CUBILLOS (Chile), whose country was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.650/Rev.1) concerning the Cairo Declaration of Developing Countries (A/5162), stated his conviction that a document which was so important for the developing

countries must receive the official sanction of the General Assembly. The Declaration listed the problems confronting the countries which sought to accelerate their economic growth and suggested solutions which appeared to be effective. It had been recognized that international collaboration was the best means of solving the problems of the developing countries. Such countries had to meet mutual problems which called for joint action. Thus, better prices for export projects could not be obtained by bilateral negotiations. Moreover, the developing countries should combine their voices to secure a much larger flow of capital from the international financing bodies and from public and private sectors in the industrialized countries. He was justified in hoping that the advanced countries would understand the spirit of the Cairo Declaration and would acknowledge that its list of basic reasons for under-development was well founded. His delegation recalled that the under-developed countries needed the co-operation of the developed countries if they were to win their fight; and it hoped that the desire of the developed countries to collaborate would take shape in the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

12. Mr. TEZEL (Turkey) assured the sponsors of the draft resolution that his Government had followed with interest the proceedings of the Cairo Conference on the Problems of Economic Development, which it had regarded as a very commendable initiative, although not all the developing countries had been represented there. Undoubtedly, the draft resolution presented the main features of the Cairo Declaration clearly and concisely, and most of the recommended measures deserved particular attention.

13. His delegation had carefully studied the revised text of the draft resolution and would have been pleased to support it if it had not felt some concern over operative paragraph 2. In that respect, it shared the views expressed by the delegation of Nigeria, Jordan and New Zealand. At the preceding meeting, the Afghan representative had said that, as a co-sponsor, he was prepared to consider specific proposals to change operative paragraph 2. Some specific suggestions had been made in the statements of those delegations, which had preferred operative paragraph 2 of the original text (A/C.2/L.650). Moreover, the first preambular paragraph lacked clarity and might give rise to misunderstanding. It noted simply that "a large number of developing countries" had attended the Cairo Conference. In his view it would be more realistic to indicate the exact number of those countries or to name them all. He hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would accept those comments, which he made on behalf of his delegation in a co-operative spirit.

14. Mr. HAJOUÏ (Morocco), whose country had attended the Cairo Conference, said that his delegation unconditionally supported the draft resolution and hoped that the Committee would adopt it. The Cairo Conference had been a truly historic event. It was bound to be exceptionally interesting, for it had brought together the representatives of thirty-six countries from all the continents, moved by the steadfast desire to concert methods of ending all the anomalies in the situation of a large number of developing countries. The Cairo Conference had placed in their true context those countries' economic problems, which called for urgent solutions and concerned all those who endeavoured to create a better world. As the Indian representative had said, that conference had not been

directed against any group of countries. It had endeavoured to consider and to find solutions for the problems and difficulties which slowed the progress of the developing countries. The Cairo Declaration, based on the recommendations made at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly concerning the holding of an international economic conference, contained a series of suggestions and proposals which met the desires of a large number of countries. His delegation sincerely hoped that one day all the countries concerned, the economically developed as well as the developing, would meet round the same table to seek a solution to those problems.

15. Mr. URTUBEY (Argentina) said he had already expressed his country's appreciation of the Cairo Declaration, which, except perhaps for a single passage in section I which was not entirely clear, was a very useful document. Accordingly, he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously. To that end, it would be best to replace operative paragraph 2 by that of the original text. Alternatively, the present wording could be amended slightly by substituting the word "Invites" for "Requests" and the words "the action they consider suitable" for "appropriate action".

16. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) thought that, since the text of operative paragraph 2 seemed to raise some difficulties, the sponsors of the draft resolution should study carefully all the suggestions aimed at unanimous agreement. They were not prepared, however, to reinstate the text of document A/C.2/L.650, which, through faulty drafting, had seemed to propose special action on some passages of the Declaration at the expense of others. Moreover, the first text, which had never been formally submitted to the Committee, had not been sponsored by the same countries as the revised draft resolution. Some countries, including Afghanistan, had joined the sponsors of the first text precisely because operative paragraph 2 had been changed.

17. The Argentine representative's suggestion for the insertion of the words "they consider suitable" did not seem acceptable, since it left the parties free to do nothing if they did not consider any action suitable.

18. Mr. M'BAYE (Guinea) hoped that the Committee would adopt the thirty-Power draft resolution unanimously and thus establish the economic charter of the developing countries.

19. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded the meeting of his delegation's great interest in the Cairo Declaration, particularly in its provisions concerning the elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism, the acceleration of development and especially of the process of industrialization, and the elimination of discriminatory practices in international trade. On the other hand, the USSR had to state that it could not entirely agree with some points, although very few, of the Declaration, for instance the question of compensatory financing and the recommendation of the General Assembly that 1 per cent of the combined national incomes of the economically advanced countries be allocated for the economic development of former colonies or dependent nations. The USSR had already made known its position on that subject and need not do so again. Subject to those reservations, it would vote for the revised draft resolution.

20. Mr. DAVIS (Australia) was not surprised that a document as detailed as the Cairo Declaration should include provisions to which some Member States could not subscribe; it therefore seemed clear that operative paragraph 2 of the revised draft resolution should be changed. The sponsors had said that they were prepared to consider amendments. Australia could give immediate support to the Argentine proposal. He hoped that other suggestions would be made, for his delegation could not vote for paragraph 2 in its present form.

21. Mr. IBARRA SAN MARTIN (Uruguay) recalled that his country had attended the Cairo meetings as an observer and generally shared the views of the signatories. Accordingly, it supported the revised draft resolution. It was pleased that the Declaration favoured the co-operation of the developing countries with all countries. It had noted with interest the importance which the participating countries attached to the mobilization of national resources for the realization of their development programmes. Those which had not sufficient resources would have to receive more assistance, and it could be noted that the International Bank had liberalized its credit policy and that financial assistance would benefit from being granted multilaterally. His delegation associated itself with the Argentine representative's suggestion.

22. Mr. EL BANNA (United Arab Republic) was surprised that the Turkish representative had proposed deleting the mention of a large number of developing countries in the first preambular paragraph, for it was a fact that many countries had taken part in the Cairo Conference. To enumerate the participants and observers, as the Turkish representative suggested, would make the draft resolution unduly long; besides, the preamble mentioned document A/5162 which listed all the countries. In regard to the amendment suggested by Argentina, the sponsors of the draft resolution were prepared to discuss any constructive proposal, as the Afghan representative had already said.

23. Mr. PEZEL (Turkey) explained that his only concern had been for precision. Why not say "attended by thirty-six countries"? That was a large number. To do so would make no difference to the value of the Declaration; the fact that all delegations noted it with appreciation proved that even the non-participating countries subscribed to it.

24. Mr. Lychowski (Poland) considered the revised draft resolution a document of the greatest importance for world economic development. For the first time in history thirty-one countries had jointly signed a document containing a complete programme of accelerated economic development, and had proposed rational solutions for the manifold problems confronting them. Poland, as a former under-developed country, understood the full import of what the signatories of the Cairo Declaration were trying to do. The Polish delegation would therefore refrain from suggesting certain minor amendments and would vote for the revised draft resolution.

25. Mr. KOCHUBEI (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) stressed the importance of a document prepared by the developing countries themselves and proposing effective national and international measures. He was glad to note that countries representing a third of the world's population had proclaimed their attachment to the principle of international co-operation; it was his conviction that such peaceful

co-operation must spread to all countries, whatever their social system or level of development. Although the Ukrainian delegation did not subscribe to some provisions of the Cairo Declaration, it would vote for the revised draft resolution.

26. Mr. TOMEH (Syria) said his delegation would vote for the draft resolution and regarded the Cairo Declaration as one of the most promising portents of economic development.

27. Mr. YAKER (Algeria) stated that his country, as a participant in the Cairo Conference and a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, regarded the Declaration as a document of cardinal importance for the solution of economic development problems in developing countries. The principles it enumerated were realistic, for they corresponded to the international economic situation. The Declaration was thus a charter of co-operation in economic development which no one could ignore. Algeria was appreciative of the General Assembly's interest in it and its decision to include it on the agenda. It was now time to pass from proclaiming principles to putting them into effect and basing practical proposals on the Declaration. He did not think there were any good grounds for criticizing the wording of paragraph 2. It was not proposed that the Member States, the Council and the other United Nations bodies should adopt the Declaration, but only that they should consider it. For those reasons, Algeria reasserted its unreserved approval of the revised draft resolution, which it hoped would be adopted unanimously.

28. Mr. VELARDE DORADO (Bolivia), whose country had taken part in the Cairo Conference, hoped too that the revised draft resolution would be adopted by the Committee unanimously. That would give great encouragement to developing countries and show that all countries, great and small, no matter what their ideological differences, were anxious to help in solving the problems of economic development.

29. Mr. PRIMELLES (Cuba) recalled that his country had taken part in the Cairo Conference and in drafting the Declaration; its delegation would therefore naturally support the revised draft resolution. Unanimity was desirable, and the sponsors would therefore be well advised to study the proposed amendments and find a formula acceptable to all.

30. Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) supported the draft resolution, for his country had taken part in the Cairo Conference and fully approved of the Declaration then drafted. He hoped that the wording of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, which he himself accepted, would be adjusted so as to satisfy all dele-

gations, for it was important that so fundamental a document be adopted unanimously.

31. Mr. AKADIRI (Nigeria) still thought that the original wording of operative paragraph 2 was better than the new. It was surely difficult to ask States which had not taken part in the Cairo Conference to apply its decisions. Further, it would be preferable to bring the Cairo Declaration to the attention of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. He thought it perfectly in order to do so in operative paragraph 2 of the initial draft resolution (A/C.2/L.650), for, although the Declaration had not been formally submitted, it had nevertheless been filed, since it constituted an official United Nations document. In repeating his suggestions, he was merely trying to find a solution which would satisfy all members of the Committee, for he too hoped that the Cairo Declaration would be unanimously adhered to by the United Nations. In his opinion, operative paragraph 2 could well be improved without detracting in any way from its substance.

32. Mr. BOLT (New Zealand) noted that the sponsors of the draft did not want to go back to the text of document A/C.2/L.650, and wondered whether they would be ready in that case to reword the revised text of operative paragraph 2 as follows:

"Recommends Member States, the Economic and Social Council, other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to take into consideration the principles of the Cairo Declaration when dealing with problems of economic and social development."

33. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) thought that the text suggested by the New Zealand representative would satisfy the delegations which had expressed doubts in regard to operative paragraph 2.

34. Mr. CHOCRON (Venezuela) hoped that all the ideas put forward would be embodied in the final text, for by giving the Cairo Declaration a universal character, the United Nations would prove that it was genuinely interested in the problems of the underdeveloped countries.

35. Mr. VERAS (Brazil) recalled that his country had taken part in the Cairo Conference and was a signatory of the Declaration. The Brazilian delegation had therefore become a co-sponsor of the revised draft resolution and would be ready, for the sake of unanimity, to accept some of the amendments proposed by New Zealand.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.