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MEETING

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## CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Statement by the Chairman</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Election of the Vice-Chairman</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Election of the Rapporteur</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Organization of the Committee's work</i> . . . . .	1

*Chairman:* Mr. Richard M. AKWEI (Ghana).

### Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the honour it had bestowed on the African continent, his country and himself in electing him Chairman.

2. An international economic order which assured to all peoples a standard of living befitting human dignity was the only real prerequisite for lasting peace. As the end of the United Nations Development Decade approached, however, the disparities in the world economic system had become more acute: the modest objective of a 5 per cent aggregate rate of growth for the developing countries had not been attained and the proportion of the rich nations' resources made available for their development had declined. While the developing countries acknowledged that their economic development was primarily their own responsibility, the international community necessarily had to provide the impetus for action to help them.

3. The Committee would have the opportunity for a frank discussion of the results of the second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the work of its continuing machinery. Indeed, in the light of its review of the institutional arrangements of UNCTAD, it might recommend measures to make that machinery better attuned to its objectives. Such changes would not, however, in themselves bring results without a sincere desire among the members of UNCTAD to find solutions to the problems of international trade and development. One such problem, that of the transfer of external financial resources for development, would be discussed by the Committee under agenda item 42. The target set by the second session of UNCTAD for such transfers should, in his opinion, be regarded as an incentive rather than a ceiling.

4. The role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the economic development of the developing countries was equally important. Its success was, of course, dependent not only on its ability to meet those countries' need for accelerated

development but also on the resources made available to it for that purpose.

5. Some progress had been made at the previous session towards bringing the United Nations Capital Development Fund into operation and he hoped that further steps could be taken at the current session towards making it fully operational.

6. The remaining years of the current United Nations Development Decade should be employed by the international community in fashioning for the 1970s an international development strategy which, in the light of the lessons of the first Decade, would embody specific goals, supported by a systematic array of measures for achieving them. Two years was not too long for such an immense task. One area of great potential for the developing countries was agriculture. The effort to reduce foreign exchange expenditure on food imports and to avert the health hazards of protein deficiency offered a great challenge to imaginative planning of food production, a form of planning which could, moreover, be related to existing resources in the developing countries. Item 46 (Increase in the production and use of edible protein) was accordingly one of the most important of those to be considered by the Committee.

### Election of the Vice-Chairman

7. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) nominated Mr. Jan Mužík (Czechoslovakia).

8. Mr. KASPRZYK (Poland), Mr. FRANZI (Italy), Mr. SCHMID (Austria) and Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Mužík (Czechoslovakia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

### Election of the Rapporteur

9. Mr. DUBEY (India) nominated Mr. Kjell K. Christiansen (Norway).

10. Mr. BELFRAGE (Sweden) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Christiansen (Norway) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

### Organization of the Committee's work (A/C.2/242, A/C.2/L.1000)

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.2/242) listing the items which the Assembly had allocated to the Second Committee. He invited delegations to comment on the tentative proposals for the organization of the Committee's work contained in his note (A/C.2/L.1000).

12. It should be noted, in connexion with the suggested arrangements for the week beginning 28 October, that it was expected that the plenary meetings on that date would be devoted to the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its second session (item 34 (a)), which was provisionally scheduled for discussion by the Committee in the week of 25 November. He had suggested no date for the discussion of item 36 (United Nations Capital Development Fund), since he understood that consultations about the date of the Pledging Conference for that Fund were still in progress.

13. The arrangements for a preliminary discussion of item 37 (United Nations Development Decade) in conjunction with the general statements did not mean that the consideration of the item would be concluded at that time. In fact, there might be detailed discussion of the second Development Decade at a later stage, possibly in conjunction with item 34 (UNCTAD). The general statements would be preceded by an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

14. In conclusion, he drew attention to the note (A/INF/124) on the control and limitation of documentation, which the Secretary-General was required under operative paragraph 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2292 (XXII) to present to members prior to each session.

15. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) observed that the allocation of only three days during the week of 14 October seemed insufficient for consideration of three important items: item 39 (Permanent sovereignty over natural resources), item 42 (External financing of economic development of the developing countries) and item 40 (Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament).

16. He suggested that item 34 (UNCTAD) should be taken up as soon as possible after the report of the Conference on its second session had been considered in plenary on 28 October. Lastly, after consultations with a number of delegations, his delegation proposed that the Pledging Conference for the United Nations Capital Development Fund should be deferred until 18 November and that the relevant agenda item, item 36, should be considered shortly thereafter.

17. Mr. SCHMID (Austria) associated himself with the previous speaker's suggestion concerning item 34. His delegation agreed with the work programme proposed by the Chairman and hoped, in particular, that the Committee would begin its work on 4 October.

18. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) supported those observations. His delegation doubted, however, whether the whole of the week of 11 November needed to be set aside for consideration of item 47 (Outflow of trained professional and technical personnel at all levels from the developing to the developed countries, its causes, its consequences and practical remedies for the problems resulting from it); it was possible, of course, that any time saved might have to be utilized for the discussion of one or two agenda items which might, at a later stage, be referred by the General Assembly, to the Committee.

19. It was to be hoped that those delegations which decided to combine their general statements with

statements on the United Nations Development Decade (item 37) would defer detailed comment on the machinery for the Decade until the subject was discussed at a later stage of the Committee's proceedings, possibly in conjunction with item 34, as the Chairman had suggested.

20. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) supported the suggestions of the representative of Tunisia concerning the date of the Pledging Conference on the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the time-table for the discussion of items 34 and 36. He also wished to suggest that, besides item 44 (Operational activities for development), items 45 (Multilateral food aid) and 46 (Increase in the production and use of edible protein) should be taken up in the week of 4 November.

21. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) supported the observations of earlier speakers concerning the discussion of item 34. His delegation was concerned, however, at the short time set aside for the discussion of items 45 and 46 and hoped that it would be possible, as the representative of Upper Volta had suggested, to devote more time to them at an earlier stage.

22. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 34 (UNCTAD), which dealt with the report of the Conference on its second session and the fourth annual report of the Trade and Development Board, respectively, must be considered together, since the Board had taken a number of important decisions on matters that had been referred to it by that Conference. It was therefore to be hoped that, at its first series of meetings, the Economic and Social Council would take up the report of the Trade and Development Board, so that the Second Committee might consider item 34 during the week of 4 November, as had already been suggested. The views on the United Nations Development Decade put forward during the general statements would no doubt be confined to general political considerations, leaving more detailed discussions on planning machinery for the Decade to a later stage, as the United Kingdom representative had proposed. The Indian delegation agreed that some of the time allocated to items 47, 35 (UNIDO) and 43 (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) should be used for discussion of the important items on multilateral food aid (item 45) and on the increase in the production and use of edible protein (item 46).

23. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) felt that the Committee should not attempt to take any final decision regarding the organization of its work for the forthcoming session. Instead, it might agree on the schedule for October, and decide in principle which items should be discussed during November, thereby retaining a measure of flexibility. The two most important items before the Committee would certainly be the United Nations Development Decade (item 37) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (item 34); those items could be discussed in greater depth if the time allocated to items 47 and 44, which were of lower priority, was reduced. He also hoped that the Committee could find some way of minimizing interruptions of its work resulting from meetings of other bodies.

24. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) agreed that the Committee would not be able to make any final

decisions regarding its work programme, and that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs should make a statement on 4 October. The organization of the Committee's work depended to some extent on the order in which the Economic and Social Council discussed the items before it during its resumed forty-fifth session, since, for example, items 45, 46 and 34 (b) would have to be considered in the Council before being discussed by the Committee. He would like to hear from the Secretary of the Committee about the Council's plans for considering such items.

25. There were several points at which time could probably be saved for discussion of the two major items before the Committee, since the consideration of items 35, 43, 44 and 47 would probably not take as long as indicated in the Chairman's note (A/C.2/L.1000). Moreover, the allocation of one week for meetings of the Council's Economic Committee in early December seemed excessive, since there would probably be insufficient documentation and information from specialized agencies and Governments before that Committee at that time.

26. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) agreed with the view that the United Nations Development Decade was of such overriding importance that delegations should be able to state their views on it under every item on the Committee's agenda. The Belgium delegation also felt that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs should make his statement on 4 October.

27. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) suggested that a further meeting should be devoted to the organization of the Committee's work, which was complicated by external factors. The items relating to the United Nations Development Decade and UNCTAD were clearly of major importance and should be accorded priority in the work schedule. In setting the date for the consideration of item 34, account should be taken of the fact that the report of the Trade and Development Board was to be taken up first in the General Assembly. Further consideration should be given to the extent to which general statements should be focused on the Development Decade, which might be regarded as a key question closely linked with all other items. Importance should also be attached to item 39 (Permanent sovereignty over natural resources).

28. Mr. LOPEZ URZUA (Guatemala) said it appeared from the debate that the Committee had to decide whether to adopt its calendar of work as submitted by the Chairman (A/C.2/L.1000) or to introduce changes in it. For his part, he considered that the calendar as submitted was only of a tentative nature and could be amended both in terms of the periods of time to be allotted to the various items and as to the order in which those items were to be discussed. The priorities reflected in the calendar could be subject to change.

29. In regard to the item on the United Nations Development Decade, he felt that the general statements should be made as early as possible so that the Committee would be able to take them into account in its subsequent work. He agreed that the amount of time to be allocated for the discussion of items 47, 35 and 43 should be reconsidered. Those items were important, but there was a general feeling that other

items, such as 45, 46 and 34, should be given higher priority. He suggested that the calendar of work should be reviewed and the necessary changes made.

30. Mr. VARELA (Panama) pointed out that no calendar of work could be observed with strict rigidity, for circumstances would always arise which would make changes necessary. Instead of devoting further meetings to discussing the calendar, his delegation considered that the calendar should be adopted as proposed up to the week of 11 November. Such a decision by the Committee would constitute a vote of confidence in its officers. He agreed that the two weeks allotted for the discussion of items 44 and 47 were excessive, but felt that it would be possible in practice to devote as many as seven working days to item 34 during the weeks of 4 and 11 November.

31. His delegation was rather concerned about the idea of discussing the United Nations Development Decade in the context of the general statements. As an item of major significance, it should be dealt with only after related items had been thoroughly studied. It did not seem logical to consider the Development Decade before the items concerning external financing of economic development of the developing countries (item 42), conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament (item 40), and UNCTAD (item 34).

32. The meeting on 4 October should be devoted to the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and as many general statements as time permitted. The Under-Secretary-General's statement, though very important, need not necessarily be taken into account in statements of policy.

33. The Committee's officers should be entrusted with making the arrangements necessary to move the discussion of item 34 to an earlier date.

34. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) said that his delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representative of Panama. He felt that the work programme should be reconsidered with a view to reorganizing the work of the first five or six weeks. On 4 October, the Committee could hear the statement by the Under-Secretary-General, as well as any general statements which were ready by that time. It appeared that the time allocated for general statements was insufficient, and the situation was further complicated by coupling them with consideration of the United Nations Development Decade (item 37). Like the representative of India, he felt it would be advisable for the general statements to refer to the Development Decade only in a general way; more detailed discussion of the matter as a separate item should be postponed until a later date. By postponing the United Nations Capital Development Fund Pledging Conference, the Committee might be able to complete its discussion of item 35 (UNIDO) during the week of 21 October. In addition, the time allotted for item 47 could be reduced to enable the Committee to accomplish other work.

35. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Economic and Social Council would be considering a number of items during its first period of meetings, some of which would later be considered by the Second, Third and Fourth Committees. Three items

in particular were of importance to the Second Committee, namely, multilateral food aid (item 45), increase in the production and use of edible protein (item 46), and the report of the Trade and Development Board (item 34 (b)). It had originally been thought that the Board's report would not be available until mid-November, but it now appeared that that item, together with the item concerning natural disasters, could be considered during the Council's first series of meetings. Because of arrangements with the specialized agencies, it would be impossible to change the date of the Council's second series of meetings. The executive heads of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund were scheduled to appear at the Council's third series of meetings in early December. The last series of meetings—those of the Council's Economic Committee—which would deal with the decisions taken by the Assembly's Second and Third Committees, would take place only after the work of those Committees had been completed.

36. The CHAIRMAN said it appeared that some revision of the Committee's work programme would be necessary, as had been anticipated. He hoped that the work of revision could be accomplished within a few meetings. He suggested that agreement should be reached on a work programme for the entire session, on the understanding that it would not be overly rigid.

37. He suggested that it would be advisable to adopt the Indian compromise proposal to the effect that the United Nations Development Decade (item 37) should

be discussed in the context of the general statements; the question could be examined in greater detail in conjunction with item 34 (UNCTAD). He would try to ensure that the report of the Trade and Development Board was discussed by the Second Committee as soon as possible after its introduction in the plenary on 28 October.

38. A revised work programme would be prepared after consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the views expressed in the Committee, and would be available at the next meeting.

39. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) said he agreed that the discussion of the work programme should be continued at a subsequent meeting.

40. He noted that Mr. McNamara, President of the World Bank, and Mr. Schweitzer, Managing Director of the Fund, would appear before the Economic and Social Council on 9 December to present their reports. However, according to the work programme submitted, the Second Committee would have no opportunity to hear them or to discuss the reports. He requested that arrangements be made to provide the Committee with such an opportunity.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that the comments of the representative of Chile would be brought to the attention of the Executive Heads of the Bank and the Fund and that efforts would be made to arrange for their appearance before the Second Committee.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*