

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
29th meeting
held on
Friday, 2 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997 AND
RELEVANT DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE MAIN COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 87: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA
(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,
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.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.29
8 November 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997 AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE MAIN COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/45/3, Chap. VI, Sect. C, A/45/6, A/45/16 (Part I) and Add.1, A/45/16 (Part II), A/45/279; A/C.2/45/6)

1. Mr. BLANCA (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 had been prepared at a crucial time in the history of the United Nations. The Organization had just emerged from a long and difficult process of reforms, which had lasted three years, and at the same time had been entrusted with new responsibilities. Perhaps for the first time it was in a position to achieve the objectives laid down in the Charter, particularly the maintenance of international peace and security on the basis of economic and social progress.

2. As the Secretary-General had stated in the introduction to the proposed plan, during the period in question, the activities of the Organization would focus on two general priorities: peace-making and peace-keeping activities and enhancement of the well-being of all those who constituted, in the words of the Charter, "the peoples of the United Nations". The proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993 had established four priorities: peace-making, Africa, international drug control and the environment and development. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had added to that list the economic development of the developing countries. He expressed satisfaction that major programme III had provided for a programme on the critical economic situation and the recovery and development of Africa, which also related to his Office's field of activities. During the implementation of the medium-term plan, Africa should be the focus of concerted and sustained attention by the Member States, intergovernmental agencies and the Secretariat. In his introduction to the plan, the Secretary-General had underscored various specific priority areas, such as the new consensus reflected in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, and in the international development strategy, the debt crisis, multilateral trade negotiations, the use of technological advances to promote development, the situation of the least developed countries and multilateral technical co-operation.

3. In view of the fact that most of those questions were multidisciplinary and multisectoral and since the United Nations system had only limited resources, it was essential to improve co-ordination in order to ensure the rational and efficient use of those resources. Furthermore, during the six years of plan implementation, both the world situation and the Organization itself might undergo considerable change, which would make it necessary to modify the priorities laid down so that the Organization's activities did not lose relevance. The events taking place during that period included the forthcoming UNCTAD Conference in 1991, the Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the International

(Mr. Blanca)

Conference on Population in 1994. The first review on the plan would be carried out in 1992.

4. The Committee should transmit to the General Assembly its views and recommendations on the plan, which would be very useful to the Fifth Committee in its own consideration of the plan.

5. Mr. ZULETA (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that some programmes in the proposed plan under consideration did not give sufficient attention to the legislative mandates adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies, while others set forth concepts and strategies which had not been agreed upon by the General Assembly. Those shortcomings were possibly due to the fact that some programmes had been formulated before the adoption of important documents such as the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (1991-2000) and the Declaration and Programme of Action for the 1990s for the Least Developed Countries. The Group felt that it was necessary to reformulate some of the programmes contained in the proposed medium-term plan in order to incorporate elements from those documents.

6. In that connection, he said that in the case of programme 12, entitled "Global development issues and policies" and, in particular, subprogrammes 3 and 6 on external debt and development, and development and the environment respectively, no account had been taken of certain legislative decisions on implementation measures. Furthermore, programme 13, entitled "International trade" overemphasized the structural adjustment programmes to be carried out in the economies of developing countries, while the legislative basis actually referred to the structural adjustment of international trade in order to facilitate market access for the exports of developing countries. The structural adjustments should be referred to as they had been defined in the relevant UNCTAD resolutions, which also provided for adjustments in developed countries. Furthermore, programme 13 failed to include an issue considered on many occasions by UNCTAD and the General Assembly itself, for example, in resolutions 38/197, 39/210, 40/185, 41/165, 42/173 and 44/215: namely, the use of economic measures by some developed countries as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries. That was a practice which the United Nations had rejected and intended to eliminate. Accordingly, the programme should be reformulated in order to include that point. The Group had also felt that priority should be given to subprogramme 4, on transfer of technology, and that that subprogramme should include the question of environmentally sound technologies.

7. With regard to programme 14, entitled "Development finance, resource flows and external debt", the proposed objectives were not in accordance with the measures provided for under General Assembly resolutions 43/198, 44/205 and 44/232. Furthermore, paragraphs 14.5 and 14.6 referred to strategies that had not been formulated by United Nations bodies that were competent in those areas.

(Mr. Zuleta, Bolivia)

8. The Group felt that it was necessary to reformulate subprogramme 1, entitled "External financing and international monetary issues", since it avoided the question of reverse transfers due to existing terms of trade, and stressed that the various United Nations strategies should be in accordance with the provisions of relevant resolutions. The new formulation should take account of recent progress made in the field of development and the transfer of resources, such as the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, particularly the revitalization of the economic growth and development of developing countries, adopted by the General Assembly on 1 May 1990. Programme 16, on the environment, did not reflect the relationship recognized by the United Nations between environmental problems and development and did not refer to General Assembly resolution 44/228, concerning the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992. The programme had been formulated from an exclusively ecological point of view. Furthermore, it included the concept of environmental security, which had not been accepted by the General Assembly.

9. He pointed out that those comments did not reflect the definitive position of the Group of 77 on the various programmes of the plan and said that they might serve to illustrate the type of difficulties which the Group had encountered in the proposed plan. The Committee should have further time to conduct a detailed analysis of the programmes in view of the fact that the plan would become the main policy guideline for the United Nations system in the period 1992-1997.

10. Mr. ANDRIJEN (Sweden), speaking for the Nordic countries, said that the establishment of clear priorities was crucial in order to increase the efficiency and impact of the Organization's work. He was pleased that the Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly had been used as a point of reference for the issues of international economic co-operation and believed that the International Development Strategy would be very useful in planning the activities of the United Nations. In that connection, he underlined the role the United Nations could play in human resources development, including the social aspects of development. Recent events had once again demonstrated that the United Nations system had an important role to play in the co-ordination of emergency assistance and humanitarian relief operations, and its capacity in that respect should be strengthened.

11. It was possible that the medium-term plan would undergo far-reaching revisions in terms of the environment and development as a result, among other things, of the conference to be held on that subject in 1992. The Nordic countries therefore regarded that part of the plan as provisional. With regard to the United Nations Centre for Human Habitation (Habitat), it was their view that its work programme should be based on the global strategy, which should also serve as a guide for the medium-term plan.

12. Although the Nordic countries agreed that priority should be given to population issues, they would have liked more clarification concerning the goals of the programme and the results that were expected to be achieved. With regard to the programme on transnational corporations, they believed that it reflected in a realistic and balanced way what could be expected from the work of the United

(Mr. Andreen, Sweden)

Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations and hoped that the Centre would play an increasingly important role, as it was able to take a global view of the various problems connected with such corporations. They also welcomed the increased recognition to be given to the critical situation in Africa, which unquestionably deserved being given continued priority.

13. The Nordic countries looked forward with great interest to the Secretary-General's report on the reform of the work of the United Nations in the economic field and hoped that it would contain substantial proposals. They hoped that the current session of the General Assembly would prove to be the appropriate place and time for pursuing and broadening the debate on those crucial reform issues. There seemed to be general agreement that there was both room and need for further streamlining of the organizational structures so that the United Nations would be able to function more efficiently in the economic and social fields.

14. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said that his delegation strongly supported the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as stated in document A/45/617, and urged that its recommendations be endorsed by the General Assembly. If they were, the medium-term plan would become more relevant to the work of the United Nations. The plan, as approved by the General Assembly, was intended to constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and the basis for the Organization's programme budgets over the next three biennia. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the time had come to address seriously the issue of whether the medium-term plan, in its current form, fulfilled the criteria set out in the programme planning regulations and rules and that, despite important improvements in the current draft plan, much remained to be done if it was to be of real use to the Member States and the Secretariat.

15. His delegation shared the Secretary-General's belief that the Organization's objectives for the next six years and into the twenty-first century should reflect the recent positive international developments. The enhanced capabilities those changes had given the Organization, together with the reform process, had renewed the confidence of his delegation and others that progress could and would be achieved in the priority areas the Secretary-General had addressed in his introduction.

16. The Secretary-General's ambitious agenda for the United Nations provided an excellent framework for future efforts. Implementation of the objectives established by the Secretary-General would go a long way towards establishing the world community envisaged by those who had drafted the United Nations Charter almost a half-century ago.

17. It should be noted that the plan included a number of activities which the United States did not support. The reservations it had expressed with regard to those activities at the meetings of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination remained in effect and would be recorded in the Committee's report.

18. Mr. FONDI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the twelve member countries of the European Community, said that he was in agreement with the conclusions of the report submitted to the Committee and understood that they could be included in the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 so that they could be approved by the General Assembly at a plenary meeting. He would nevertheless have preferred to consider the conclusions at an earlier stage of the negotiations, before decisions on them were taken. In particular, he hoped that the documents would be available when the medium-term plan was being revised.

19. Mr. TENNEY (Israel) said that the chief goal of the United Nations was to eradicate the seeds of war throughout the world and to promote economic and social development. His delegation deplored the inclusion of the item entitled "Question of Palestine" in the framework of a task so noble; that item, by its nature, had no place among such praiseworthy goals. Israel therefore could not accept the medium-term plan if programme 5 was included in it.

20. The CHAIRMAN put before the Committee a draft decision reading: "The Second Committee, having considered the relevant sections of the draft medium-term plan for 1992-1997 and its related documents, decides to transmit to the Fifth Committee the views expressed by Member States during the debate." If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision.

21. It was so decided.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

22. The CHAIRMAN announced that Colombia and Costa Rica had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.25, entitled "Prevention and control of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)".

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/C.2/45/L.9, A/C.2/45/L.10, A/C.2/45/L.15, A/C.2/45/L.16, A/C.2/45/L.17, A/C.2/45/L.18, A/C.2/45/L.19* and A/C.2/45/L.20)

23. The CHAIRMAN announced that Colombia and Costa Rica had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.9, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of the Republic of Yemen", A/C.2/45/L.15, entitled "Special assistance to the front-line States", A/C.2/45/L.16, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon", A/C.2/45/L.17, entitled "Operation Survival Sudan" and A/C.2/45/L.20, entitled "Emergency assistance to Somalia"; Costa Rica had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.10, entitled "Special economic assistance to Chad"; Brazil, Costa Rica and Suriname had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.18, "Assistance to Mozambique" and Colombia, Costa Rica and Suriname had joined the list of sponsors for draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.19*, "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti".

AGENDA ITEM 87: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA
(continued) (A/C.2/45/L.14*)

24. The CHAIRMAN announced that Colombia and Costa Rica had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.14*, entitled "International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola".

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.