



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)

later: Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

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- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (A/40/15, vols. I and II, 596, 717, 798, 815; A/C.2/40/L.8 and L.9)
- (e) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/40/39, 579 and Corr.1, 581, 656 and Add.1)
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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Mr. McINTYRE (Deputy Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), supplementing the written statement which the Secretariat had distributed in response to earlier requests by delegations, said that during recent weeks there had been some heartening news about the world economic situation. The proposals made at the meeting held in Seoul would help to alleviate the serious problems facing debtor countries. Furthermore, the principle had been accepted that the process of adjustment in those countries should be aimed at reactivating their growth and development.

2. Three worrying problems remained, however. First, the lessening of economic activity in the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) should be noted. According to the most recent estimates, the economies of those countries would grow at a rate of only approximately 2.5 per cent in 1985. Even if, during the remainder of the decade, the OECD countries experienced an annual growth rate of 3 per cent, by 1990 the level of per capita income in developing countries would probably be no higher than the levels reached in 1980, which would mean a decade of zero development. The OECD countries should therefore co-ordinate their macro-economic policies more closely with a view to accelerating their growth and that of the world in general.

(Mr. McIntyre)

3. Secondly, commercial banks should be mentioned as sources of credit. It was expected that in the next three years loans from those banks would increase at an annual rate of 2.5 per cent. Although that was an improvement over the current situation, developing countries would continue to encounter serious problems. One of the positive results of the Seoul meeting was the commitment to ensure that lack of resources would not stand in the way of increasing loans from the World Bank. That underscored the decisive role that the World Bank had to play in furnishing the external financial resources required to generate sustained growth and development.
4. Thirdly, the low level of commodity prices should be mentioned. The seriousness of the situation had recently been reflected in the closure of international tin markets to avoid huge losses, which would have endangered the very existence of the International Tin Agreement.
5. Despite the importance of the question for many developing countries, no major progress had been made in the area of commodities. The Common Fund for Commodities had still not begun operations and the voluntary contributions received, which could be used to promote development, had not been used.
6. In view of that situation, it was essential to stimulate co-operation between commodity producers and consumers, to introduce structural changes in supply and demand for the main commodities, to liberalize commodity trade and to allocate part of the World Bank and IMF loans to strengthen that sector. The developing countries' export earnings should also be stabilized. In that regard, the decision taken by the European Economic Community (EEC) to extend its import earnings stabilization system (STABEX) to all the least developed countries should be welcomed, as should the announcement by two developed countries that they were considering the possibility of adopting similar measures.
7. On a more general level, the international community should take urgent action on the problem of protectionism and ensure that exports of commodities and manufactures from developing countries would be guaranteed improved access to markets. It was to be hoped that the process initiated through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would considerably strengthen the international trade system.
8. The problems of indebtedness and of trade and development were not only the outcome of cyclic disturbances in the world economy, but also a reflection of profound structural changes, which would no doubt modify production and consumption patterns, including their geographical distribution. The extent of the repercussions of those changes was not yet known. The international community should therefore undertake a careful analysis of the way in which the changes would affect the world economy and the process of development.
9. In that regard, the seventh session of UNCTAD could provide the setting for a dialogue on those changes. That session, if well prepared, could lead to the reactivation of multilateral economic co-operation and of the North-South dialogue,

(Mr. McIntyre)

and provide an opportunity for working out a common approach for the future, which could obtain the support of the international community. That was an ambitious undertaking, but the very future of the developing countries was at stake.

STATEMENT BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS

10. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis) said that over the past year the Secretariat had repeatedly emphasized the seriousness of the present disarray in the world economy and the risk of its deteriorating further. The economic challenges facing the international community had not been so great since the post-war period.

11. Confirming that sombre view, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had recently revised downward its estimates for growth in output, the volume of exports, world trade and export income in the developing countries for 1985, as well as for primary commodity prices, with the exception of oil prices, which were expected to fall by some 11 per cent rather than the 2.25 per cent foreseen, with a consequent deterioration in the terms of trade with respect to prices of manufactured goods. In addition, private bank loans to developing countries and official development assistance (ODA) would not increase at the expected rate.

12. It should not be forgotten that the initial estimates, if achieved, would still have meant inadequate rates of expansion for the remainder of the decade, with unsustainable patterns of trade, current account imbalances and the transfer of resources from developing to developed countries. It would now be necessary to face those imbalances under even less favourable conditions, which cast deep uncertainty over the prospects for the next few years.

13. The positive side of the situation was that some important policy shifts had been made. They included the initiative of the five key-currency countries to harmonize monetary policies and co-ordinate intervention to correct monetary misalignments, and the affirmation by the United States that the solution to the debt crisis, which had loomed large in the general debate in the Assembly, must be sought in growth and expansion of the world economy.

14. The full significance of a growth-oriented approach could be seen if account were taken of the fact that the problems of the world economy had for many years been aggravated by the pursuit of policies designed to rectify internal or external imbalances that had obstructed growth or reversed it, at great economic, social and political cost to many developing countries.

15. The developed countries had built elaborate systems to contain financial crises, but there was currently no adequate machinery to stabilize the new international financial market that had emerged in the last decade. The IMF had been conceived for the post-war world, not the current world in which money flowed freely but trade was constrained. Moreover, account should be taken of the fact that the current economic troubles were closely linked and could not be approached in a fragmented way, given the extent of the economic integration of the world.

(Mr. Ohlin)

16. Although there was currently consensus that the situation required sustained recovery in the developed market economies and in world trade, the resumption of long-term investment and growth in developing countries, a fall in real interest rates for debtors, a rise in commodity prices, less protectionism in developed countries, larger financial flows and successful adjustment in debtor countries, little or nothing had been seen of any of them and the situation of the developing countries had deteriorated.
17. It was therefore essential to put an end to stop-gap solutions. IMF and the World Bank were obliged to consider situations case by case, but the debt crisis was the result of the malfunctioning of the international system and called for examination at the global level. International monetary and financial problems were of vital concern to all and they would not solve themselves.
18. It was therefore important for the Second Committee at least to pursue the achievement of a shared view of the situation, since that would facilitate the approach to the numerous interrelated areas which required action. There were a number of such issues which the Committee could put on its agenda.
19. Firstly, the Committee should examine the far-reaching implications of the decision to respond to the debt crisis by growth, when the present adjustment to the international financial situation remained essentially deflationary. The contraction of international bank lending was of such a magnitude that present arrangements for official financing were insufficient.
20. Secondly, the increase in private capital movements had also transformed monetary arrangements, and international liquidity had largely escaped the control of central banks and IMF. In connection with that issue, the Committee should also examine the social and political consequences of the current international liquidity crisis.
21. The crisis had highlighted the fact that, in a highly integrated world economy, the borderline between domestic and foreign economic policies was becoming increasingly blurred. The concern with domestic policies was currently manifested in the conditionality of the international financial institutions and in the discussion of surveillance and macro-economic co-ordination among the major economic Powers.
22. The Group of Ten and the Group of 24 attached particular significance to multilateral surveillance, especially of those countries which most influenced the international economic environment. But that raised important questions as to the feasibility of and appropriate arrangements for the co-ordination of policy in a world of profoundly heterogeneous nations.
23. Lastly, the Committee should study the problems related to commodity trade, with which a number of specialized bodies were concerned, in the context of their importance for the producer countries, the world economy and the solution of the debt crisis.



(Mr. Ohlin)

24. With regard to the report on immediate measures in favour of the developing countries (A/40/597 and Corr.1), the review undertaken had demonstrated the wide-ranging response of the United Nations system to the problems of the past few years, including the food emergency in sub-Saharan Africa. Although Governments had made special contributions to meet the emergency situation in Africa, in the deliberative bodies they had been unable to achieve agreement on more far-reaching measures to support the rehabilitation and the long-term economic and social development of African countries.

25. Referring to the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations, he said that experience had shown that the liberalization of trade resulting from the new round would not be felt before the end of the decade. It therefore remained urgent to halt the advance of protectionism, lift protectionist measures already adopted and reinforce the Compensatory Financing Facility (CFF) and other schemes established to meet the situation created by shortfalls in commodity export earnings.

26. The reports on the development of energy resources of developing countries (A/40/511 and Corr.1 and A/40/637), emphasized the importance of promoting the exploration and development of those resources in the developing countries and the policy measures which the energy-deficient developing countries should adopt.

27. Lastly, he stressed the importance of the United Nations as a forum for the comprehensive examination of world economic problems, which permitted convergent views to be reinforced and disagreements to be resolved in order to promote the mutual understanding which alone could provide the basis for common action.

28. Mr. DE RIVERO (Peru), referring to the report on international co-operation in the fields of money, debt, finance, resource flows, trade and development (A/40/708), said that the international crisis was nothing more than an economic and financial battle among the most industrialized countries of OECD, which was reconverting their classical industrialized societies into post-industrial societies dominated by information sciences and services, by harnessing the surplus generated by the expansion of the productive forces of the market economies since 1950 and the unequal trade with the developing countries.

29. As a result of the devaluation of the dollar and the severing of its link to gold, the surplus oil revenues which the United States had attracted, the increase in the preferential interest rate and the deregulation of the financial system, the direction of capital flows from the United States to Europe had been reversed.

30. The financial institutions established at Bretton Woods had been left out of that massive capital transfer between the two sides of the Atlantic. Their place had been taken by banks and transnational corporations, which had spurred expansion of the world market and technology and had unified the Western economic system, creating at the same time, the economic and financial imbalances which currently characterized the structure of the world economy.

(Mr. De Rivero, Peru)

31. The crisis had led to change in the highly industrialized countries. For the great majority of developing countries, however, it had led to economic collapse, social disharmony and the destabilization of democratic Governments.
32. Faced with that structural change, the industrialized countries had adopted stern measures to protect their traditional industries, which were unable to adapt to changes or to withstand the competition from industries that enjoyed a comparative advantage. At the same time, as a result of the post-industrial reconversion which had reduced demand for raw materials, commodity prices remained at low levels.
33. Many developing countries had embarked upon models of development more suited to high-consumption urban industrial societies, which were based on neo-liberal policies and which could not succeed in the current circumstances.
34. That was the context of the debt crisis confronting developing countries, which represented a failure of international co-operation. The crisis had ceased to be a financial problem: it had now become a political reality and an urgent issue of co-operation for development which required the special attention of the Second Committee.
35. The priority task in rescuing co-operation for development was to put a halt to the net outflow of resources from developing countries and to reactivate their growth, thus preventing the demands of debt-servicing from exceeding their economic means or from making inroads into their export earnings.
36. The adjustment mechanisms proposed by the International Monetary Fund had not yielded satisfactory results. Even "positive adjustment" measures, also based on unsuccessful neo-liberal models, had been proposed, their aim being to stimulate economic growth - under the responsibility, however, of other institutions - and to secure payment of the debt by providing guarantees to foreign private investors.
37. In his delegation's view, the debt problem was fundamentally a political one because it affected the stability of democracies. Creditor countries should understand that Governments of debtor countries had been elected by the people for the people and not by the creditors for the creditors.
38. With respect to the urgent tasks before the General Assembly and the Second Committee, he said that, since 1982, the year in which the debt crisis had begun to take on a political dimension, the Second Committee had made no significant direct pronouncement on that crisis, although the crisis represented negation of economic co-operation for development by transforming developing countries into net exporters of resources to developed countries.
39. In order for crises to be resolved they needed to be faced, even when it led to a certain degree of confrontation. Of course it was not a question of negotiating the debt in the United Nations, but rather of securing a declaration from the creditors and debtors to the effect that they recognized that the debt was

(Mr. De Rivero, Peru)

a fundamental problem which directly affected co-operation for development and which should be resolved without jeopardizing the economic and social development of debtor countries and in such a way that its servicing would not absorb a high percentage of the export earnings of debtor countries.

40. Another subject which had not received sufficient attention was the proposal to convene an international conference on monetary and financial resources for development. His delegation hoped that the preparations for the convening of such a conference could be begun at the next session by an intergovernmental committee with the participation of the United Nations system.

41. While recognizing the fundamental importance of co-ordination with regard to procedure, his delegation was of the view that, in the absence of a definition, such co-ordination could easily be transformed into a mechanism to ensure that certain political approaches were adopted with respect to the competence of the different intergovernmental forums which dealt with the economic development of developing countries.

42. The General Assembly in various resolutions had defined the sphere of competence of its various forums. In resolution 1995 (XIX), it had defined the mandate of UNCTAD, and it was on that basis that that organ could and should continue to contribute to the achievement of the development objectives of the United Nations. His delegation pledged to lend all its support to the United Nations system and to co-operate with the Second Committee in adopting common measures during the critical stage currently facing co-operation for development.

43. Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) took the Chair.

44. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that trade had always been an agent of prosperity and, at the same time, an indicator, both of the level of development of a people, and of the world political situation, particularly regarding the willingness of countries to co-operate in different fields to their mutual benefit.

45. World economic and political issues were closely linked. International development had reached a stage which could not be surpassed unless the arms race were halted. The promotion of just international economic relations would also help to strengthen peace and détente.

46. With respect to the crisis which had affected the world's capitalist economies since late 1980 - particularly the problem of the foreign debt of developing countries, which was a direct result of negative and destabilizing trends in the economies of the developed capitalist countries themselves - and the outflow of financial resources from developing countries, he said that, while the quantitative factor was important, it was essential to understand the complex mechanisms which facilitated that outflow in order to adopt effective measures to stop it.



(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

47. The capital outflow from developing countries was due not only to the increase in debt-servicing costs and the commercial banks' loss of confidence in developing countries, as the authors of the document on immediate measures in favour of the developing countries (A/40/597) claimed, but also to the fall in commodity prices and the corresponding reduction in export earnings, as stated in the study prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, as well as to the loss of foreign exchange due to higher interest rates.

48. The solution to trade, financial and monetary problems was further complicated by the growth of protectionism in the developed capitalist countries. According to UNCTAD, 40 per cent of the exports of the developing countries was subjected to various kinds of restrictions. Furthermore, according to press reports, the United States Congress was studying approximately 300 new proposals for imposing additional restrictions on its trade competitors.

49. At the same time, the imperialist States continued to apply discriminatory trade measures against the developing and the socialist countries in order to exert political pressure on them, as had been correctly indicated in the report on economic measures taken by developed countries for coercive purposes, including their impact on international economic relations (A/40/596). Unfortunately, that report did not contain information on the contribution in that area made by such United Nations bodies as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which in its decisions had condemned those illegal economic sanctions.

50. The United Nations should continue its efforts to put an end to such policies. In that respect, UNCTAD could continue to make an important contribution by adopting measures aimed at restructuring the international economic order; formulating recommendations for counteracting protectionism; furthering international economic co-operation as well as economic and trade co-operation among countries with different socio-economic systems; drawing up a code on the transfer of technology in order to end the "brain drain" from the developing countries; and paying greater attention to the trade and economic aspects of disarmament, in particular by contributing to the preparations for the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

51. With regard to trade between the Soviet Union and the developing countries, in 1984 that trade had increased by 8 per cent while imports from those countries had increased by 11 per cent. In its foreign-trade policy, the Soviet Union took into account, in particular, the special needs of the least developed countries. In 1982-1983, its trade with that group of countries had increased by 8.8 per cent, and the rate of growth of its imports from those countries had exceeded that of its exports to those countries.

52. Thus, the Soviet Union had fulfilled the promise made at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to at least double the volume of its economic and technical co-operation with the least developed countries during the period 1981-1985, as had been demonstrated by the fact that, in the first four years of the Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

1980s for the Least Developed Countries, the Soviet Union's net economic assistance to that group of countries had risen to 4.2 billion roubles, or 0.15 per cent of its gross domestic product.

53. The Soviet Union believed that the Substantial New Programme of Action was a highly important document. Soviet experts had therefore actively participated in the UNCTAD High-level Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries, which carried out a mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme.

54. Although the Meeting had adopted interesting resolutions on various topics, it should have also made recommendations on such urgent issues as the external debt of the least developed countries, the reduction of interest rates on loans granted by private banks, the protectionist measures which had been adopted, compensation for losses caused by the economic crisis, the relationship between economic problems and disarmament, and the need to achieve progress in establishing the new international economic order.

55. Economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries was another highly important aspect of the activities of UNCTAD, to which the Soviet Union contributed through its programmes of technical co-operation with the developing countries, carried out as part of its economic and trade relations with those countries. United Nations bodies should fulfil their mandates in that area by making use of available resources in a rational and effective manner, improving co-ordination among themselves and avoiding any duplication of tasks.

56. Unfortunately, the report of the Secretary-General on that subject (A/40/579) was purely descriptive, and its authors had neglected the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-fifth session (A/40/38, paras. 723-734), that the report should contain a critical assessment of the role of the United Nations system and of the relationship between the system's activities and mandates.

57. International co-operation in the area of energy resources should be strengthened on a mutually advantageous basis. The Soviet Union supported the efforts of the developing countries in that area - in particular those related to the development of energy resources and the training of personnel in that field - taking full account of the national development plans of the countries concerned and the socio-economic transformations taking place in those countries.

58. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on development of the energy resources of developing countries (A/40/511), his delegation supported the conclusions on the improvement of planning and the need for international co-operation. However, the Soviet Union considered that the report contained some unacceptable recommendations (such as those which urged the developing countries to ensure favourable conditions for foreign capital and to offer them guarantees against the risks to their investments) which bordered on interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries. Moreover, the report contained no reference to the adverse effects on those countries of the activities of transnational corporations and banks.

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

59. He also noted that the report on the United Nations Symposium on Financing of Petroleum Exploration and Development in Developing Countries (A/40/637, annex) contained no reference to the experience of the socialist countries in that area, which had been discussed in detail at the Symposium.

60. His delegation supported the measures taken within the United Nations system to consolidate the co-ordination of energy programmes as part of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and had no objections in principle to the convening of consultative meetings with a view to mobilizing resources for the utilization of those sources. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union opposed attempts to transform those meetings into a mechanism which would allow private capital to penetrate into the developing countries via the United Nations. It also believed that those meetings should be financed solely through the voluntary contributions of their participants.

61. The Soviet Union would continue to co-operate, within the United Nations, in the area of international co-operation and the restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic and just basis, because it considered that such co-operation was of the greatest political importance and contributed to the strengthening of peace and coexistence among States with different socio-economic systems. At the same time, it rejected all forms of discrimination in economic, trade and cultural relations, aimed at exerting pressure on other States.

62. Mrs. de DEL CUETO (Mexico) said that, in light of the conclusions of the Secretary-General's reports on international co-operation in the fields of money, finance, debt, resource flows, trade and development (A/40/708) and on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 (A/40/519), as well as the reports of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the General Assembly should redouble its efforts and adopt appropriate measures to reverse current negative trends.

63. The capacity for action of the United Nations was limited only by the will of its Member States, and in the past major successes had been scored in different fields. She then reviewed the main resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on economic matters since the founding of the Organization, all of which reflected the growing interest of the United Nations in the economic development problems of the developing countries and the idea that their development was a joint responsibility.

64. Over the years the concept of interdependence, clearly expressed in the Declaration formulated by the developing countries prior to the first session of UNCTAD, had been refined. That interdependence was now at risk: the developed countries were adopting economic measures without taking into consideration their implications for the more vulnerable countries, and that was leading to a split between the developed and the developing countries which, in the long run, would be to the advantage of neither.

(Mrs. de Del Cueto, Mexico)

65. At the same time, measures were being taken in the light of current trends and, in the long run, they would create major problems. Such was the case, for example, of restricting imports, the proliferation of protectionism directed against the developing countries' products and the serious distortion of capital flows.

66. As pointed out by the Secretary-General in his report on international co-operation (A/40/708), the root of the problem lay in the fact that co-operation was not easy in a world that was more integrated economically than it wished to be politically. Hence it was incumbent on the General Assembly to promote political harmony in order to overcome economic stagnation.

67. Monetary, financial and trade questions were closely linked and required the adoption of specific measures based on the arrangements suggested by the Secretary-General in his report (A/40/708) which were nevertheless not exhaustive and should be supplemented by other measures, for example, those concerned with international indebtedness.

68. Measures would also have to be adopted in connection with the interest rates of the accumulated debt (the level of which might be determined, for example, on the basis of average rates in times of expansion, the foreseeable growth rate of real income and the real value of exports) and with the conditions applying to loans; and measures for intensifying capital flows on favourable terms were also required. In addition, it must be made clear that the adjustment processes should be positive and not recessive, and it must be recognized that priority had to be given to the development process.

69. Mr. Birido (Sudan) resumed the Chair.

70. Mr. AL-HADDAD (Democratic Yemen) emphasized the importance of UNCTAD and of its function in promoting international economic co-operation, adding that the international community should assist it in carrying out the mandate assigned to it by the General Assembly, especially in the matter of multilateral negotiations. The Group of 77, which had been closely linked with UNCTAD since its outset, firmly supported the efforts to further international economic co-operation.

71. International economic problems had not evinced an adequate response from some developed countries which tended to act unilaterally, applying protectionist measures inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and measures leading to market instability and falling prices. Those measures not only were detrimental to the developing countries but also violated the principle of multilateralism which ought to serve as a guide for solving world problems.

72. The crisis could be overcome only if the principle of justice and equality, the application of which was necessary for promoting a North-South dialogue capable of initiating the structural changes demanded by the prevailing situation, was respected.

(Mr. Al-Haddad, Democratic Yemen)

73. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was one of the main objectives of the third-world countries which considered it to be both indispensable for solving the serious economic and social problems confronting them in their efforts to develop and a means of putting into practice the principle of collective self-sufficiency endorsed by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 in 1979.

74. Since the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action, which had established the framework for economic co-operation among developing countries, those countries had been trying to make good use of the possibilities available for mutual complementarity and, for that purpose, had stressed the need for global measures in the fields of technology, agriculture, food, energy, commodities, finance and industrialization.

75. On that subject his delegation attached great importance to the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, especially as that co-operation had become more necessary than ever because of the mounting world economic crisis.

76. Seven years had passed since the approval of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, but its objectives were far from being achieved. The international community and the United Nations system must therefore redouble their efforts so as to give fresh impetus to technical co-operation among developing countries. His delegation emphasized, in particular, the practical recommendations and relevant points made in paragraphs 61 to 66 and 70 of document A/40/39, and in section III of A/40/581.

77. With regard to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, he said that unfortunately, as had been emphasized by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries, implementation of the Programme had fallen short of expectations: actually the economic and social situation of the least developed countries, in which over 300 million people lived in abject poverty, had worsened owing to the fall in commodity prices, the negative impact of the international crisis and the effects of natural disasters.

78. His delegation had taken note of the documents approved by the Intergovernmental Group at its sixth session and hoped that the recommendations adopted then would be implemented. It also hoped that the spirit of co-operation and solidarity would prevail and that the international community would decide to act to help solve the problems of those countries.

79. In the matter of energy resources, many developing countries faced serious difficulties in meeting their energy needs and in utilizing new and renewable sources of energy. The major obstacles thereto were the shortage of necessary funds and the technical problems involved in formulating plans and programmes because the countries concerned lacked the necessary skilled personnel and technology. The international community must therefore redouble its efforts to solve those problems.



AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/C.2/40/L.14 and L.15)

80. The CHAIRMAN announced that Lebanon, Malaysia and Somalia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.15, and that Malaysia had joined the sponsors of draft decision A/C.2/40/L.14.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

81. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee authorized him to request the Secretary-General to distribute as soon as possible the report and recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons established to Conduct Public Hearings on the Activities of Transnational Corporations in South Africa and Namibia and, on behalf of the Committee, to invite the Chairman of the Group to present the report.

82. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.