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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/45/3, 15, 442, 453 and Add.1, 565 and 588)

(c) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (continued) (A/45/695)

1. Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) said that export-led growth was essential for countries caught in the vicious cycle of low growth, excessive indebtedness and internal economic disorders, and for the revitalization of their development process. An unconditional commitment to free trade was necessary in order to enable the developing countries to play a more active role in the world economy.

2. The developed countries, whose economic success had been founded on free trade, were currently engaging in restrictive trade practices. A substantial portion of international trade was subject to protectionist policies which limited the access of developing countries' exports to the markets of developed countries. The situation did not seem to be improving, and there was much uncertainty about the future. Moreover, the developing countries' terms of trade played a critical role in development, as was evident from the slow-down of the development process in some developing countries. Tariff liberalization by the developed countries would stimulate both exports and imports.

3. Falling commodity prices throughout the 1980s had dealt a severe blow to many developing countries which relied almost exclusively on commodities for their export earnings. The least developed countries had been severely affected as the prices of their primary commodity exports declined at an annual rate of 1.7 per cent between 1980 and 1988. That problem had been further aggravated by the developed countries' imposition of restrictions on imports of agro-industrial products. Tariffs on imports from developing countries were usually higher than those on imports from developed countries, and tariffs tended to rise as the degree of processing increased. Such protectionist and restrictive policies must be abandoned in order to facilitate the establishment of a just international trading system and to allow the developing countries to channel their resources to development.

4. The proposed international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade reiterated the developing countries' concern that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations should focus on an equitable balance of interest between developed and developing countries, the adaptation and reform of the system to ensure its relevance to changing patterns of international trade, and the need to ensure greater co-ordination between international trade and financial policies. Compliance with those commitments would ensure the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round.

5. The establishment of a free trading system would bring about trade expansion on the basis of mutual advantage. Measures such as the elimination of restrictive

(Mr. Hassan, Pakistan)

and discriminatory measures incompatible with the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), intra-industry specialization on the basis of dynamic comparative advantage, special and preferential treatment for developing countries' exports, and the speedy return to the normal trading rules of GATT in the textile sector were essential for the expansion of world trade on an equitable basis. Trade could also be enhanced by South-South co-operation.

6. Mr. REVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, in the search for solutions to critical economic problems, including problems relating to international trade and development, maximum use should be made of existing mechanisms for multilateral co-operation, first and foremost those of the United Nations system. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should focus its attention on ensuring sustainable and predictable development in the interests of all States, and on the interrelationship of the global problems of economic development and trade. In the light of the unprecedented impact of environmental problems on world development, UNCTAD should carry out a study of the interrelationship between the environment and development. Increased international co-operation in the elaboration of measures to ensure environmentally sound growth would be a real contribution to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The work of UNCTAD in the drafting of recommendations on principles and policies in the area of world trade deserved support.

7. The first concrete steps which had been taken towards real disarmament had led to new opportunities for development. The proposed structural changes in national economies warranted the participation of UNCTAD and its secretariat in research on, and the analysis of, problems relating to the conversion of military production for civilian purposes.

8. His delegation was in favour of a greater role for the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the solution of global economic problems, including problems of trade and development, and was interested in the discussion on the implementation of organizational changes in the mechanism of multilateral trade and economic co-operation. In that regard, serious consideration should be given to the idea of establishing an international trade organization. The Ukrainian SSR attached great importance to the effective preparation for the eighth session of UNCTAD in 1991, and was pleased that the Trade and Development Board had finally agreed upon an agenda for that session.

9. The radical economic reforms taking place in Eastern Europe, including the Ukrainian SSR, were increasingly having an impact on international trade and economic relations. Undoubtedly, the success of such reforms would in large part depend on how fully the economies of those countries were integrated into the world economic system. UNCTAD should take part in a study of those issues, within the framework of the overall problem of the impact of integration processes in various parts of the world on international trade. That would be in keeping with the provisions of the Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly in which the Assembly had reaffirmed its support for the efforts of the Eastern European States to carry out radical economic transformations.

(Mr. Reva, Ukrainian SSR)

10. The Ukrainian Parliament's adoption of the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of the Ukraine and the Economic Independence Act had laid a solid political and legal basis for the radical transformation of the Ukrainian economy and its greater integration into the international division of labour. State sovereignty had enabled the Republic to broaden and strengthen its foreign economic relations and establish a new system of co-operation with foreign countries, based on equity and mutual advantage.
11. Mr. NATHON (Hungary) said that countries such as his own, which had only a limited influence on world economic development while being greatly influenced by the international economic environment, should work together to find solutions to the world's basic economic problems. Individual countries were primarily responsible for their own national prosperity, and it was only on that basis that assistance could be expected from other nations. That awareness had prompted Hungary to embark on a lengthy and comprehensive transformation of its economy. The success of that endeavour presupposed assistance from partners capable of assessing Hungary's capacities, as well as a supportive external economic environment.
12. Many members of the international community had not only expressed willingness to support Hungary's plans but had provided practical assistance. So far, Hungary had received a fair amount of external support, which had not diverted attention from, or diminished the resources available to, the developing countries. The successful transition of Hungary and other Central and Eastern European countries to a market economy would have a positive effect on the economic situation of other regions and of the world in general. Once its situation improved, Hungary intended to provide assistance to the least developed countries.
13. It was essential to find solutions to the debt crisis and to create financial resources necessary for the economic recovery of the indebted developing and middle-income countries. Hungary attached great importance to the global aspects of that question despite the fact that the position of the middle-income countries, which included Hungary, differed from that of the most severely indebted developing countries. Hungary believed that it must comply with its international financial obligations, and it would repay its debts.
14. Over the past year, Hungary had considered reducing restrictions and limitations on its economy, especially in the area of foreign trade. It had begun a fundamental transformation of its foreign economic relations and had taken steps to bring about the country's full integration into the world economy. However, recent developments, including the crisis in the Persian Gulf, had adversely affected the Hungarian economy.
15. As a net exporter of agricultural products which had suffered heavy losses as a result of market restrictions and continuing subsidized competition in world agricultural trade, Hungary attached paramount importance to the negotiations on international agricultural trade within the Uruguay Round. The current critical situation might endanger the success of the Round and frustrate possible agreements

(Mr. Nathon, Hungary)

in other areas. The failure of the Round could jeopardize the entire system of international trade and cause great damage to the small- and medium-size participants in world trade. Hungary was convinced that all countries and groups of countries had a fundamental interest in ensuring the operation and efficiency of the system of international trade under GATT rules, in widening its scope, in establishing a set of rules imposing equal obligations on all and, ultimately, in maintaining smooth flows of international trade which would benefit all participants.

16. Mr. LU Ruishu (China) said that the developing countries were encountering numerous obstacles which prevented them from improving their trade prospects. Their exports, especially exports of manufactured goods, textiles and clothing, were subject to various kinds of tariff and non-tariff restrictions by developed countries. Moreover, the regional integration of developed countries, strengthened bilateral arrangements and unilateral action by a few major trading countries could adversely affect the trade of developing countries.

17. So far, progress in the final stage of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations had been uneven. There had been no breakthrough in the negotiations on textiles and agricultural and tropical products which were of great concern to the developing countries. An unbalanced result of the negotiations would severely impair the interests of the developing countries and work against the expansion of world trade. Therefore, all countries participating in the Uruguay Round, in particular the major trading countries, should endeavour to ensure the complete success of the Round.

18. As a result of low commodity prices, unstable markets, deteriorating terms of trade and reduced export earnings, the developing countries, especially those heavily dependent on commodity exports, had encountered serious difficulties in their economic development. Existing measures for solving the commodities problem should be strengthened so that they produced maximum results. The commodity agreements and the Common Fund for Commodities could play a positive role in stabilizing commodity prices and facilitating the diversification of developing countries' exports. Producer and consumer countries should work together to improve the functioning of the existing commodity agreements and negotiate new ones.

19. Despite the adoption of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices in 1980, restrictive business practices remained an obstacle to the expansion of international trade. To some extent, those principles and rules had not been effectively implemented because of their own imperfections. It was to be hoped that the United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices would conduct a scrupulous review and issue recommendations to remedy that situation.

20. The eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would be of great significance in promoting international trade, strengthening international economic co-operation and, particularly, revitalizing the economies

(Mr. Lu Ruishu, China)

of the developing countries. His delegation wished to express appreciation to the Government of Uruguay for its offer to host the Conference. The Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly and the proposed international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade formed a sound basis for the preparations of the eighth session of UNCTAD. His delegation hoped that all parties would participate seriously in the preparatory process.

21. Mr. MENON (Singapore) said that the 1980s had witnessed a steady increase in international economic co-operation; that co-operation was embodied in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and in the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session. It also formed the basis for arrangements such as the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the single European market and the Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum (APEC) launched in 1989. The 1980s had confirmed that free markets and free trade were more effective than central planning, self-sufficiency and import substitution. International trade in goods and services was a key element in the recent shift towards market-oriented policies. In that context, the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was particularly significant.

22. As a small country with virtually no resources, Singapore was wholly dependent on international trade and an open multilateral trading system for its economic survival. Indeed, Singapore's total trade figure was equal to three and one half times its gross domestic product and two thirds of its goods and services were exported. It was therefore with deep concern that his delegation observed the lack of progress in the Uruguay Round, particularly in core areas such as agriculture, textiles and clothing and trade in services.

23. If the current trading system were replaced by economic blocs - also known as "economic fortresses" - developing countries would be at a particular disadvantage unless they could somehow gain market access to those "economic fortresses". Already there were signs that the United States, Europe and Japan would dominate the rest of the world. Competition among the countries in those privileged blocs could aggravate unfair trading practices and protectionism, with grave consequences for world trade and, in particular, the growth of developing countries.

24. The current deadlock in the Uruguay Round could be broken if the necessary political will were shown by all parties. Developed countries must make greater efforts to facilitate market access for the products of developing countries. Developing countries, in turn, should contribute according to their development, financial and trade capabilities.

25. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) welcomed the consensus reached in Paris on measures to provide assistance to the least developed countries. At a time of growing economic interdependence in the world, the expansion of world trade continued to benefit very few countries and protectionist practices by the developed countries continued to undermine the efforts by the developing countries to become more integrated in

(Mr. Kaabachi, Tunisia)

the world economy. Prior to its accession earlier that year to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Tunisia had substantially reduced its customs duties and rolled back most of its non-tariff measures. The developed countries on the other hand, despite their avowed support for strengthening the multilateral trading system, were increasingly pursuing policies that were not conducive to free and open trade.

26. With the initiation of the Uruguay Round, the developing countries had hoped that the trend towards "managed" and "compartmentalized" international trade would be reversed. And yet, as the negotiations drew to a close, the commitments undertaken on standstill and roll-back had barely been implemented. The integration of the textile and clothing sector in GATT through the roll-back of mechanisms established by the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) was crucial to the developing countries, including Tunisia. However, its provisions had not been sufficiently heeded.

27. Customs duties of developed countries, graduated according to the degree of openness and stage of processing, were a major handicap to the industrialization of developing countries and the promotion of their exports. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities and hoped that it would become operational at the earliest possible date.

28. The generalized system of preferences (GSP) did not sufficiently benefit developing countries and its legal aspects were constantly being called into question. Admittedly, the administrative services of developing countries were not able to make full use of GSP. None the less, the real solution lay in stabilizing the system and adapting it to real exports from developing countries.

29. Bridging gaps must be the sole purpose of revising GATT articles. The revision would be a futile exercise if it upset the balance of the rights and duties of all parties or ignored the need to accord more favourable treatment to developing countries.

30. The profound changes in productive structures and telecommunications had made the services sector one of the most dynamic in the economies of many countries. The efforts to reach a framework agreement on services in the Uruguay Round were therefore commendable. However, as had been stipulated in the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este, development objectives must be respected and the services sector must be liberalized gradually. To that end, sectoral negotiations would be particularly useful.

31. Convinced that regional economic integration would promote trade and accelerate development in each country concerned, the five countries of the Maghreb were in the process of establishing a Maghreb economic community.

32. The establishment of an international trade organization was a major question which merited close attention. Two fundamental questions which should be addressed in that connection were the full participation of developing countries in the trading system and the cross-sectoral linkages derived from growing sectoral

(Mr. Kaabachi, Tunisia)

interdependence. In conclusion, Tunisia welcomed the consensus on the theme of the eighth session of UNCTAD: strengthening national and international action and multilateral co-operation for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy.

33. Mr. ROKOTUIVUNA (Fiji) welcomed the documents produced by the UNCTAD-sponsored meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries, held in New York in June 1990. His delegation also supported the statement by the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77, concerning the special needs of island developing countries.

34. As the Uruguay Round drew to a close, progress on the issues of trade and development, so vital to the growth of developing countries, was not assured. The seventh session of UNCTAD had not sufficiently involved the developing countries or devoted adequate attention to their concerns.

35. As a developing country, Fiji relied heavily on exports but had encountered numerous hurdles in attempting to gain access to markets in the industrialized economies. Non-tariff barriers as well as subsidies and tariffs, imposed by the developing countries, distorted trade in agricultural products and undermined the ability of developing countries to operate in stable markets. As a member of the Cairns group of agricultural exporters, Fiji had participated in efforts to achieve a balance between the interests of importing and exporting countries. It was disappointed by the inflexibility of certain countries, which had stifled progress in the Uruguay Round.

36. The island developing countries welcomed the role which UNCTAD had recently assumed in focusing international attention on their specific needs. The June 1990 meeting on island developing countries had provided a framework for future action. His delegation supported the periodic review of the socio-economic performance of island developing countries and the review of appropriate indicators of social and economic progress, other than the gross national product. It also welcomed the focus on the implications of environmental questions such as global warming, sea-level rise and climate change, and natural disaster and hoped those issues would be considered at the eighth session of UNCTAD.

37. Fiji and its neighbors in the South Pacific were among the world's most fragile developing countries. Their size, location and isolation made them highly vulnerable to hurricanes; they had few resources and little productive capacity and would be severely affected by any division of the international trading environment into competing blocs. They required external assistance in order to secure markets for their products and establish basic productive capacity. In that regard, bilateral partners and United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had been of considerable assistance.

38. Fiji was currently implementing new economic policies, which focused on privatization and the promotion of exports. Preferences in certain developed countries, in particular, with Australia and New Zealand under the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA), the United States

(Mr. Rokotuivuna, Fiji)

under the generalized system of preferences and the European Community under the Lomé Conventions, had provided a basis for Fiji's steady growth over the past decade. His delegation hoped the trend in new investments in Fiji would be sustained.

39. His delegation looked forward to the early implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/218 on commodities. It also hoped that the resolutions and decisions adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board could be appropriately incorporated in new international trading arrangements.

40. Mr. KULKARNI (India) welcomed the agreement on the provisional agenda for the eighth session of UNCTAD, which should focus on the promotion of international co-operation and the creation of a favourable international environment for development.

41. The Trade and Development Report, 1990 described the adverse external economic environment in which the developing countries were struggling to improve the conditions of their people. Growth in world output had slowed from 4.3 per cent in 1988 to 3 per cent in 1989, and was projected to be 2.5 per cent in 1990. The rate of growth in world trade had also slowed. The developing countries' total imports had risen by only 6 per cent in 1989 as against 14.7 per cent in 1988, and their exports by only 6 per cent as against 13.5 per cent in 1988. Developing countries' share in world trade had diminished from 24 per cent in 1985 to 20 per cent in 1989.

42. Despite the longest uninterrupted period of economic growth for developed countries since the Second World War, growth in developing countries had been disappointingly weak. The trade balance pattern remained distorted, with unsustainable surpluses in some countries and deficits in others. Real exchange rates were very unpredictable as a result, discouraging investment in the export sector of many developing countries. The liberalization and devaluation packages adopted by a number of developing countries had little chance of succeeding.

43. The principle of global interdependence was nowhere better illustrated than in international trade. Both as a market for goods, services and technology, and as suppliers of raw materials and fuels, the developing countries would continue to provide major support for growth in the developed countries. In return, developed countries should adopt policies to promote the rapid growth and accelerated development of developing countries, and they needed to do a great deal more to discharge that obligation.

44. An increasing number of developing countries were liberalizing their trade régimes through major reforms and despite enormous difficulties. At the same time, trade policies in the developed countries were tending towards greater protectionism. Existing non-tariff barriers to trade were being renewed and new barriers had been introduced since the beginning of the Uruguay Round. Commitments to halt and reverse protectionism should be implemented without further delay.

45. Instead of facilitating market access for the exports of developing countries, developed countries were increasingly taking anti-dumping and countervailing duty

(Mr. Kulkarni, India)

actions against developing countries. Emerging competitive suppliers from developing countries continued to be excluded through recourse to grey-area measures such as voluntary export restraints.

46. The textiles area was one of crucial importance to a very large number of developing countries. Much of the trade in textiles and clothing was regulated through the Multi-Fibre Arrangement which lay outside the GATT framework. It had been observed with monotonous regularity that bilateral quotas and voluntary export restraints within the Multi-Fibre Arrangement were extended to a developing country as soon as it began to develop export capacities. The ministerial meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee was due to start in Brussels in less than two weeks. Although the outlook was not promising, last-minute compromises had been found in the past. So much depended on the outcome of the Uruguay Round that all countries should do everything in their power to ensure its success. While areas of particular interest to the developing countries were not given adequate priority, in the new areas introduced at the behest of the developed countries there were continuing attempts to coerce developing countries into making concessions and undertaking obligations unrelated to trade and inconsistent with their development needs.

47. The right of developing countries to manage their economies in accordance with their own objectives, to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and to channel investment into sectors of the economy that they deemed to be in their national interest, was fundamental to any just and equitable system. Unilateral actions taken the previous year by the United States had eroded the multilateral system in violation of the Punta del Este commitments.

48. There was an urgent need for reassurance that regional integration into economic blocs would make global trade more dynamic and enhance trade and development possibilities for developing countries, rather than fragmenting the international trading system and leading to increased protectionism.

49. The growing protectionist demands and increasing resort to managed trade reflected the lack of progress in pursuing appropriate structural adjustment policies in the developed countries, particularly in sectors where developing countries had a comparative advantage, such as textiles and clothing. Unless developed countries adjusted such sectors where they had clearly lost the advantage, and allowed their revitalization in developing countries, the principle of international division of labour would be rendered meaningless.

50. In addition, supportive international action was needed to improve the functioning of commodity markets, as well as the creation of more stable and predictable conditions in commodity trade. The commodity sector was critically linked to other sectors in most developing countries. Donor Governments needed to contribute to making both accounts of the Common Fund for Commodities fully operational.

51. Mr. ZORE (Yugoslavia) said that recent changes had dramatically transformed international relations. Elements of a new international trading system were taking shape and the outcome of the Uruguay Round would greatly determine the direction it would take. The value of the Uruguay Round would very much depend on how successful it proved to be in regulating relations among major trading partners.

52. Trade was not an aim in itself, it had a catalytic and generating role in the process of economic development. However, it could act as a catalyst only within the context of the set of elements usually called a "favourable international economic environment". Greater and freer access to markets was not enough. Also needed were effective measures of debt relief, reversal of the net transfer of resources from the developing countries, stabilization of commodity export earnings and greater access to modern technologies, particularly those that were environmentally sound.

53. The Uruguay negotiations were expected to be concluded in the near future. The present round was more ambitious than any of the previous ones, including as it did, not only new substantive rules of GATT, but also principles and rules intended to regulate production and trade exchanges among countries, capital flows and foreign investor rights, and the development, production and exchange of technology and services. Given the importance of the negotiations, it was not surprising that Yugoslavia was very concerned at their current state. There was nothing to show that was particularly impressive, and the negotiations had almost come to a halt on some of the most important issues. Failure of the negotiations would have far-reaching and adverse consequences for the world economy. It would encourage protectionism; cause retaliatory measures, unilateral actions and bilateral arrangements; and would further disrupt the rules and discipline of GATT with unforeseeable consequences for stable economic activity within and among countries. Countries with fragile economies would be the worst affected.

54. With all of those issues in mind, Yugoslavia called upon all participants to rededicate themselves to achieving a balanced outcome of the negotiations, the only way to ensure universal and complete acceptance.

55. Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta) reiterated the proposal that a unit should be set up within the UNCTAD secretariat to be the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries and to act as a catalyst in that regard as called for by resolution 43/189. The unit would strengthen UNCTAD's role in studying and addressing the issues and problems of island developing countries.

56. Existing criteria were not necessarily appropriate measures of the level of development of island developing countries, as they did not reflect the structural and institutional weaknesses faced by many of them. A composite index should be constructed, to represent vulnerability in its multi-faceted form.

57. As a small island developing country, Malta was making a great effort to implement development policies in tourism, manufacturing, and trade and services.

(Mr. Borg Olivier, Malta)

Assistance from donor countries, institutions and United Nations bodies was essential.

58. Finally, he expressed the hope that the United Nations bodies and those countries in a position to do so would give careful consideration to the recommendations that had been made regarding the special problems and needs of island developing countries and would increase the assistance already being given to such countries. In particular, he hoped that the Committee would give full support to the draft resolution currently being prepared on the subject.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/45/L.3 and A/C.2/45/L.46)

Draft resolutions on co-operation in fisheries in Africa (A/C.2/45/L.13 and L.46)

59. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.46, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.13, and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

60. In response to comments by Mr. Hamai (Algeria) and Mr. Oksemitny (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regarding paragraph 1, the CHAIRMAN said that the French and Russian texts would be aligned with the English text.

61. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.46 was adopted.

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

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/C.2/45/L.16, L.19*, L.20/Rev.1 and L.34)

Draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon
(A/C.2/45/L.16)

62. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, announced that Brazil, Cyprus, Morocco, Philippines, Tunisia and Yemen wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution, and proposed that the words "events in the Gulf" in the third preambular paragraph should be changed to "situation between Iraq and Kuwait". He recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

63. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.16, as orally amended, was adopted.

64. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon) said that recent positive developments in the Beirut area, which had enabled his Government to extend its authority over greater Beirut, meant that assistance from the United Nations and the international community would be directed towards reconstruction work, rather than towards relief efforts as in the past. His delegation recommended that the restriction on visits to Lebanon by United Nations personnel should be lifted to give the United Nations system a more active role in assessing the needs of that country. After 15 years of devastation, Lebanon was making determined efforts to revive its economy and he thanked all those who had contributed to the successful adoption of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti (A/C.2/45/L.19*)

65. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that a new paragraph should be inserted between the sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs, to read as follows:

"Noting further that the harsh climate and the chronic dryness preclude any agricultural activity of scale and that the persistent effects of a cyclical drought have devastating consequences for the already precarious economic and social development of Djibouti,"

he announced that the Philippines, Senegal and the USSR had joined the sponsors and recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

66. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.19*, as orally amended, was adopted.

67. Mr. DORANI (Djibouti) thanked all those who had sponsored the draft resolution and had contributed to its consensus adoption and expressed the hope that the provisions of the resolution would be fully implemented.

Draft resolution on assistance to Benin, the Central African Republic, Ecuador, Madagascar, and Vanuatu (A/C.2/45/L.25/Rev.1)

68. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that Japan and the Philippines wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

69. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.25/Rev.1 was adopted.

70. Mr. BIAOU (Benin), speaking on behalf of all the sponsors of the draft resolution, thanked all those who had contributed to its adoption.

Draft resolution on a special plan of economic co-operation for Central America (A/C.2/45/L.34)

71. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that Japan, the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution. He proposed that the last line of operative paragraph 9 should read "adequate additional financial resources on favourable and concessional terms". He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

72. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.34, as orally amended, was adopted.

73. Mr. BORBON (Costa Rica) thanked the countries that had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 87: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA
(continued)

Draft resolution on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of
Angola (A/C.2/45/L.14/Rev.1)

74. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that Italy, Libya, Morocco, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

75. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.14/Rev.1 was adopted.

76. Mr. PACAVIRA (Angola) thanked the Committee for adopting the draft resolution, the implementation of which would greatly assist Angola's efforts to relaunch its economy. He also expressed Angola's thanks to all those who had provided assistance to the victims of drought in the country.

77. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that the consensus adoption of resolutions on economic assistance had demonstrated the shared concern of the international community at the plight of countries in situations of great hardship. The Philippines had recently been hit by devastating natural disasters and he expressed his country's gratitude to all those nations which had come to its assistance.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.