



SECOND COMMITTEE

45th meeting

held on

Wednesday, 27 November 1985

at 3 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
- (f) ENVIRONMENT
- (g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- (e) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
- (j) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (o) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 86: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 87: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (A/C.2/40/L.77, L.79, L.81, L.83, L.84 and L.89)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.81, L.83 and L.84

1. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia) said that he wished to introduce three draft resolutions on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations members of the Group of 77. The chief purpose of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.81, entitled "Commodities", was to reduce the barriers to access for commodities to the markets of the developed countries, to promote international co-operation so as to enable the developing countries to participate to a greater extent in the processing, distribution and marketing of commodities and to remedy certain difficulties encountered in implementing international commodity agreements. His delegation was confident that the Committee would recognize the pivotal importance of the commodity sector for the developing countries and receive the draft resolution favourably.

2. With respect to draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.83, entitled "Economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries", he hoped that the Committee would devote due attention to consideration of the draft, which called upon the developed countries to refrain from threatening or applying such measures against developing countries, since they were incompatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and in violation of undertakings contracted multilaterally or bilaterally.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.84, entitled "Report of the Trade and Development Board", was intended to give a political impetus to UNCTAD activities and to encourage Governments to begin thorough preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which would be an event of major importance in the context of international co-operation for development. The main concern of UNCTAD had been to establish new policies and structures for trade and development with a view to promoting solutions that would be in the interest of all countries. Despite serious difficulties, UNCTAD had been able to set in motion a process of change and it should be encouraged in that task.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.89

4. Mr. MADRIZ FORNOS (Nicaragua), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.89, entitled "Trade embargo against Nicaragua", on behalf of its sponsors, said that the sponsors hoped that the draft, in which the General Assembly deplored the unilateral trade embargo and other measures recently taken against Nicaragua and requested that they should be revoked immediately, would win wide support from the international community (from both the developed and the developing countries). Many countries had expressed concern over the embargo and in some cases condemned it. Unfortunately, it appeared that the draft could not be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.77 and L.79

5. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.77, entitled "United Nations Conference on Conditions for Registration of Ships" and draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.79, entitled "International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology", both of which he had submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

(f) ENVIRONMENT

(g) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (A/C.2/40/L.78)

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.78

6. The CHAIRMAN said that he had also submitted, on the basis of informal consultations, a draft resolution in document A/C.2/40/L.78, entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme".

(e) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
(A/C.2/40/L.86)

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.86

7. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.86, entitled "Technical co-operation among developing countries", on behalf of the Group of 77, said that that kind of co-operation was of great importance. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action contained guidelines for the support that the international community should give to technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), but the assistance offered was far from satisfactory. The Group of 77 hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.86 would have a positive effect in that respect. The General Assembly should endorse the decisions of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and have them implemented (A/40/39, annex I). In that context, it would be desirable for UNDP to devote special attention to High-Level Committee decision 4/7. The TCDC programmes should be fully integrated into the operational activities of the United Nations system. Furthermore, the recommendations put forward in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (A/40/656) should be implemented.

(j) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.82

8. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia) said that he wished to introduce draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.82, entitled "Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries" on behalf of the

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(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

Group of 77. Since the mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action had taken place very recently in Geneva, the draft resolution referred to the report of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries on that subject (A/40/827) and reflected its conclusions. It also reaffirmed the validity of the guiding principles laid down at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Paris, 1981) and the high-level meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of UNCTAD (Geneva, 1985). It recalled the objective of the Substantial New Programme of Action and noted that, despite all efforts, it had not been possible to halt the continued deterioration of the socio-economic conditions of the least developed countries. Moreover, the official development assistance (ODA) that the least developed countries would receive for 1985 would be considerably lower than expected. The objective of doubling the national income of those countries in 10 years was not beyond reach, but it required a carefully considered approach, combining measures by the least developed countries themselves and appropriate international action. The Group of 77 noted with satisfaction that several donor countries had been able to give 0.15 per cent of their GNP for official development assistance. Countries that had not achieved that target should continue their efforts to do so. In general, donor countries should provide assistance in all economic sectors. In respect of foreign debt, which still posed a serious problem, the least developed countries had welcomed the decisions announced by the Netherlands and the European Economic Community on the cancellation of debts incurred in connection with ODA and the extension of the STABEX scheme, respectively. Lastly, draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.82 called for a global appraisal of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in 1990. The Group of 77 attached great importance to that operation and to the Programme in general and therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

(o) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)
(A/C.2/40/L.80)

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.80

9. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.80, entitled "Development of the energy resources of developing countries". The Group of 77 welcomed the convening of symposia and other similar undertakings called for in resolutions 38/151 and 39/176 and called upon interested Member States, in co-operation with the appropriate bodies in the United Nations system, to continue to explore ways and means to support the efforts of developing countries in the exploration and development of their energy resources. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to continue to analyse trends in that field and to report to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 86: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/C.2/40/L.87 and L.88)

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.88

10. Mr. JONCK (Denmark) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.88, entitled "Long-term financing and future of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research", on behalf of Canada and his own country. The draft was intended to provide a sound basis for decisions on the future of UNITAR. It requested the Secretary-General to submit two plans to the General Assembly at its forty-first session: a reorganizational plan based on the Secretary-General's report (A/40/788) and a plan for reallocating the functions of UNITAR to other agencies and bodies throughout the United Nations system. Some delegations might be surprised that two draft resolutions had been submitted on the same subject, one by India and Pakistan and the other by Canada and Denmark. Since Canada and Denmark had not been able to agree on a common text with Pakistan owing to lack of time, they had finally decided to submit a draft reflecting their views. They were prepared to negotiate on their text in order to settle on a single draft resolution and arrive at a solution acceptable to all parties that would help to achieve the common objective, namely, to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations and to determine the most appropriate way of fulfilling the mandate currently entrusted to UNITAR. It would be desirable for the final text to be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.87

11. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.87, entitled "Long-term financing and the future role of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research", also sponsored by Egypt, India and the Ivory Coast, said that UNITAR had always had financial difficulties. With such a constant source of concern, UNITAR could not devote itself fully to its activities, and the Second Committee did not have the opportunity to consider them in detail; that was a regrettable state of affairs, since the Institute was meant to contribute to the strengthening of the effectiveness of the United Nations, which was a mandate that required a relatively low budget. In accordance with the wishes of the major contributors, the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare a comprehensive study on UNITAR, covering all possibilities. However, the third option that had been recommended did not seem to be to their liking. The Secretary-General should attempt to settle the matter once and for all. Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.87 approved some of his suggestions and invited him to submit a comprehensive reorganizational plan for UNITAR operations, listing several of the elements that should be taken into account. In the meantime, UNITAR should be able to use the unspent balance of the grant given to it in 1984. Pakistan hoped that the Committee and the General Assembly would adopt draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.87 on UNITAR.

AGENDA ITEM 87: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

12. The CHAIRMAN announced that the following countries had become sponsors of draft resolutions under agenda item 87: Romania (A/C.2/40/L.69); Czechoslovakia (A/C.2/40/L.72); Romania and Barbados (A/C.2/40/L.74); and Romania (A/C.2/40/L.75).