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at 5.30 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. PAPADATOS

(Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

Draft resolution on operational activities of the United Nations system
(A/C.2/45/L.75)

1. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that despite the sincere efforts of all participants, it had been impossible to reach agreement on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75. The deliberations had proved fruitful, however, and it seemed that agreement would ultimately be reached. Since it involved a matter of extreme importance he suggested that the General Assembly should decide to defer consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75 until its forty-sixth session.
2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision just suggested.
3. It was so decided.
4. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom) said that the group on operational activities had worked very hard and in a professional and friendly atmosphere. Even though no consensus had been reached, a clear understanding of the issues had emerged. General Assembly resolution 44/211 was still valid, and must be faithfully implemented.
5. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) agreed that it was important to implement General Assembly resolution 44/211 and regretted the fact that lack of time had made it impossible to reach agreement.
6. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 was at the preparatory stage. It was unfortunate that the results had so far been disappointing, but he hoped that more tangible progress towards the full implementation of that resolution would be made at the forty-six session.
7. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following documents under agenda item 84:
(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical co-operation projects", and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination thereon (documents A/44/646 and A/45/648); (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of rural development activities of the United Nations system in three African least developed countries" and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination thereon (documents A/45/76-E/1990/12 and Add.1); (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the

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report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Evaluation of the regional project RLA/79/031: Programme on joint studies on Latin American economic integration (ECIEL)", and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (documents A/45/77-E/1990/10 and Add.1); (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (document A/45/347); and (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the operational activities of the United Nations system (documents A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5).

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 84.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOR 1991-1992 (A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1)

10. Mr. STORY (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to two changes which had been made in document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1. The report on the implementation of the resolution on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, which was currently listed under item 2 (Development and international economic co-operation), should be listed as the last of the reports under item 2 (f) since it related more specifically to the environment.

11. Under item 7, the reference to draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.75 should be deleted and replaced with a note indicating that the draft resolution would be before the Committee at the forty-sixth session.

12. He drew attention to the second paragraph of document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1 and noted that 53 reports were being requested of the Secretary-General for the following session as opposed to the 41 requested for the current one. The Second Committee had just passed a record number of resolutions. Greater efforts must be made to reduce both the number of items on the Committee's agenda and the number of reports that the Secretariat was being asked to prepare.

13. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) noted that no mention was made in document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1 of the fact that his Government had agreed to host a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. He proposed and suggested that, for purposes of clarity in respect of the 1992 programme of work, it should be indicated that a report of the Conference on Environment and Development would be forthcoming.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that that would be done.

15. Mr. FALL (Senegal), referring to item 2 (g) (desertification and drought), welcomed the reference to General Assembly decision 44/437 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/103, which were especially relevant because of the

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forthcoming Conference on Environment and Development, but wondered why it had been necessary to refer to General Assembly resolution 3054 (XXVIII), which was already 17 years old.

16. Mr. STORBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the resolution was referred to because it contained a provision explaining why a report had to be produced and thereby gave authority for the production of the report.

17. Mrs. DUEÑAS de WHIST (Ecuador) said that the full title of the Declaration referred to under item 14 should be given.

18. Mr. KABAACHI (Tunisia) said that his delegation, too, was concerned at the growing number of resolutions adopted by the Second Committee. He referred, in particular, to the proliferation of sub-items under item 2 of the Committee's draft biennial programme of work for 1991-1992 which had no direct relation to development and international economic co-operation. As a result of the Committee's unwieldy programme of work, delegations had not had sufficient time to reach a consensus on the draft resolution on operational activities of the United Nations system (A/C.2/45/L.75).

19. Mr. TRAORE (Mali) said that, at a time when real economic problems were becoming increasingly worrisome to the developing countries and when the Committee had less and less time to devote to fundamental issues, the Committee should make greater efforts to rationalize its biennial programme of work.

20. Mr. STORBY (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a comment by Mr. YENEL (Turkey), said that, in its resolution 44/236, the General Assembly had decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaste Reduction"; hence, item 8 of the draft programme of work for 1991 was correct.

21. Mr. NIÑO (Venezuela) said that the penultimate paragraph of item 2 (a) of the draft programme of work for 1991 reflected the last operative paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.55, which had been superseded by A/C.2/45/L.91; the text of that paragraph should therefore be corrected. Also under item 2 (a), in the antepenultimate paragraph of the Spanish text, the word "novedades" should be replaced by "desarrollos" in order to reflect the English and French texts.

22. Mr. STORBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Committee would make the adjustments requested by the representative of Venezuela.

23. Mr. FALL (Senegal) asked whether the secretariat of the Committee would ever consider limiting the number of sub-items under item 2 of the Committee's draft biennial programme of work for 1991-1992.

24. Mr. STORBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the sub-items under item 2 were, by and large, those outlined in General Assembly resolution 39/217 on the biennial programme of work for the Second Committee. However, since there had been

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a tendency to add sub-items under the items on development and international economic co-operation and on the report of the Economic and Social Council, the secretariat would reconsider the intentions of Assembly resolution 39/217. With regard to the starting date for the work of the Second Committee at its forty-sixth session, he said that, if the Committee did not begin its work until after the eighth session of UNCTAD had ended, it would have a very difficult time completing its work on time.

25. Replying to comments by Mr. SOBERNAIS (Mexico), and Miss HASSAN (Egypt), Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the UNCTAD study requested in draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.59 would appear on the list of the reports to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The report of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, listed under item 3 of the draft programme of work for 1991, would cover both the second and the third substantive sessions of that Committee.

26. The draft biennial programme of work for 1991-1992 contained in document A/C.2/45/L.87/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

27. The CHAIRMAN, after thanking the officers, members of the Committee and the Secretariat services for their co-operation, declared that the Committee had completed its work for the forty-fifth session.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.