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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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

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

1. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the draft was currently the subject of consultations, and that a broad agreement had already been reached with other groups and delegations. He hoped that the negotiations would result in a draft text which the Committee would be able to adopt by consensus.

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

Draft resolutions on a code of conduct on transnational corporations (A/C.2/45/L.24/Rev.1 and L.71)

2. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.24/Rev.1, and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote. In the second preambular paragraph of the English text, the word "concerning" should be deleted and replaced by the word "on"; the French text would also be corrected.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71, as orally revised, was adopted.

4. Mr. SOBERANIS (Mexico) said that the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations should have been adopted at the current session. The text of the draft code was balanced and contained principles and guidelines which were useful for countries which received direct foreign investment. It also contained principles which allowed transnational corporations to operate within a legal framework established by those countries. However, the adoption of the draft code had been blocked by a small number of delegations and had consequently been postponed. His delegation called upon the international community, especially the capital-exporting countries, to show greater flexibility so that a consensus could be reached on the draft code as soon as possible.

5. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation shared the views expressed by the representative of Mexico. All countries must endeavour to reach agreement on the draft code as soon as possible.

6. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia), referring to the operative paragraph of the resolution just adopted, wished to know with whom the intensive consultations would be held. He hoped that Member States would be able to participate in those consultations.

7. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that the consultations would be undertaken by the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the Secretary-General, and that the views of Member States would be taken into account.

8. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) said that it might be helpful to specify in the draft resolution that consultations would be held with Member States. However, if that was not possible, his delegation could accept the resolution as it had been adopted.

9. Mr. FAIVET (Observer for Switzerland) welcomed the results of the informal negotiations on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71. Referring to the remarks made by the representative of Tunisia, he inquired whether Member States and transnational corporations could be included in the intensive consultations.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that he would communicate the views made by delegations after the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.71 to the President of the General Assembly.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.24/Rev.1 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution on entrepreneurship (A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.2)

12. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bulgaria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

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

Draft resolutions on developing human resources for development (A/C.2/45/L.30 and L.78)

13. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.78, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.30, and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.78 was adopted.

15. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that human resources development was one of the most important means of achieving economic and social development. In recent years, the Second Committee and the General Assembly had taken greater account of the human condition and of man, which was reflected in the proposed international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. His delegation thanked all the delegations and groups for their co-operation during the negotiations on the draft resolution.

16. Mr. CANTINI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, expressed the Twelve's satisfaction with the result and their gratitude to all participants for their genuine co-operation. The draft resolution would be a basic reference document for Governments in the important field of human resources development.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.30 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

Draft resolution on economic stabilization programmes in developing countries
(A/C.2/45/L.36/Rev.1)

18. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice Chairman, reported that agreement on the text had been reached in informal meetings and recommended it for adoption by consensus. He pointed out that in the first line of the seventh preambular paragraph the words "and appropriate national policies" should be inserted after the word "environment" and "is" should be changed to "are".

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.36/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

20. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) congratulated the Committee on achieving consensus, but reminded it that no provision had been made in the programme budget for the report requested in the draft resolution. The Secretariat was currently trying to determine how such provision could be achieved, but was also examining whether some reports on closely related subjects could be consolidated. In a situation of strained resources, when unforeseen tasks were added it might be necessary to attempt unconventional measures.

21. Mr. ORTIZ (Bolivia), while recognizing the difficulty facing the Secretariat, said that the Committee was entering a new stage in its work when the proposals which it had been discussing must be turned into concrete reality. He urged the Secretariat to make even greater efforts than it had in the past, to meet the needs of the Member States.

22. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that while he was not unmindful of the difficulty he nevertheless believed firmly that when the international community had pronounced its will that will must be respected. He asked whether the present occasion was the first time a resolution had been adopted which did not fit into the programme or the budget of the United Nations, and wished to know, if it was not the first time, how the problem had been resolved in the past.

23. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation had every respect for Mr. Ohlin's views, but found it regrettable that just at the moment when consensus had been achieved on such a major topic, a relatively minor administrative obstacle should be raised. The draft resolution made an extremely modest request, merely calling upon appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to monitor and analyse further the relevant socio-economic indicators in order to assess closely the various socio economic effects of the adjustment programmes. He urged the Secretariat to search for new methods to resolve budgetary problems.

24. Mr. KAABACHI (Tunisia) supported the views expressed by Pakistan. He felt strongly that the task of the Secretariat was to implement the decisions of the General Assembly, not to ask the Committee to revise or reduce any of its decisions.
25. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) recalled that he had asked for the floor only after adoption of the resolution, and certainly had not intended to be obstructive. He had, however, felt an obligation to point out certain implications of the adoption. He agreed entirely with the representative of Pakistan and with all the other delegates who had spoken on the issue that when consensus was reached in the Committee on such important issues, then of course the Secretariat must respond. It was, however, a fact of life that there was a programme budget. When similar situations had arisen in the past, it had been possible to rearrange or postpone items. The subject of the resolution was so major that it raised important administrative issues. Moreover, resources were much more strained than they had been in the past, and the issues to be addressed were multiplying.
26. The response of the Secretariat to the will of the Committee might involve consolidating the treatment of related issues, or of co-ordinating reports with others on very similar subjects. Such co-ordination would take place in consultation with delegations.
27. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that it was his understanding from earlier discussions that the position had been left that if there were no statement of programme budget implications it could be assumed that a draft resolution did not have financial implications. In the absence of such a statement, the draft resolution under discussion should, therefore, have no programme budget implications; however, it seemed that that might not be the case. Failure to bring programme budget implications to the attention of the Committee would be a dereliction of the rules of the United Nations. Even if a draft resolution did not have financial implications, the Committee should be provided with a statement from the Secretariat to that effect; otherwise, it would be adopting resolutions without knowing the consequences.
28. The CHAIRMAN said that all draft resolutions were seen by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, which was fully aware of the situation and had not issued a statement of programme budget implications. Calls for the preparation of reports or for additions to the World Economic Survey could pose problems for the internal allocation of work and attention had been drawn to some potential difficulties.
29. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the situation remained unclear. Statements of programme budget implications normally set out, clearly, the various implications of a draft resolution including the possible redeployment of costs between different areas of work. If there was a need for redeployment in the present case then a statement of programme budget implications was called for.

30. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), said that it was his impression that the absence of a statement of programme budget implications was in practice taken to suggest that there were no serious implications, and in the case in question it had thus far been decided that a statement of serious programme budget implications was not called for. The purpose of his statement had been to explain that his office would consider the situation manageable even if more than the redeployment of resources within the programme budget was possibly implied; that was why he had suggested that some change in the format of the reports from the Secretary-General might also be called for.

31. Mrs. DUEÑAS de WHIST (Ecuador) asked what areas would be affected by consolidation and what would be the mandate for such action.

32. Mr. OHLIN (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), said that it was as yet unclear how many reports would eventually be produced. The question of mandates raised the further question of what precisely constituted a report: if a comprehensive report covered two aspects of a subject for both of which there was a mandate, would it be contrary to the mandates to produce a combined report? He wished to draw the matter to the Committee's attention in order to discover what objections there might be.

Draft resolutions on the report of the South Commission (A/C.2/45/L.39 and L.80)

33. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.80, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.39, and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.80 was adopted.

35. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.39 was withdrawn by the sponsor.

Draft resolution on the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries (A/C.2/45/L.54/Rev.1)

36. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolution, said that informal consultations had produced a consensus and he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

37. Mr. STOBY (Secretary) said that in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution the Committee for Development Planning was requested to report to the General Assembly on the inclusion of Namibia in the list of least developed countries. The Committee normally reported to the Economic and Social Council. He assumed that the normal procedure would be followed.

38. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.54/Rev.1 was adopted.

39. Mr. MacARTHUR (United States of America) said that his country had joined the consensus on the draft resolution but wished to register its concern that more precise criteria should be used to define the category of least developed countries and that the list should reflect current realities by allowing for subtractions from as well as additions to it.

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology (A/C.2/45/L.69)

40. The CHAIRMAN, introducing the draft resolution, said that an informal draft had been agreed by all five regional groups at Geneva and no further comments had been received from delegations in New York.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.69 was adopted.

42. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a comment by Mr. ORLIANGE (France), said that he would ask the Secretary to bring the French text of paragraph 2 into line with the English original.

(a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (1991-2000) (continued)

Draft resolution on the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (A/C.2/45/L.72)

43. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolution, said that informal consultations had enabled a broad consensus to be achieved and he recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus, without a vote.

44. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.72 was adopted.

45. Mr. ORTIZ-GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) expressed satisfaction, on behalf of the Group of 77, at the adoption of so important and historic a resolution and thanked all the delegations for their part in helping to achieve a consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 148: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions (A/C.2/45/L.7 and L.83)

46. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice Chairman, introduced the draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.83, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.7. He drew attention to two places in the text where some revision was necessary. The French text of paragraph 4 would be realigned subsequently with the

(Mr. Gianelli, Uruguay)

English text to eliminate a number of discrepancies, and in lines 6 and 7 of paragraph 5 of the English text the words "in accordance with" should be replaced by the words "as provided for in". He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

47. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.83, as orally revised, was adopted.

48. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 148.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.