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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/C.2/44/L.66*)

1. Mr. BORG-OLIVIER (Malta), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which were joined by Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Finland, Fiji, Madagascar and Thailand, said that effective universal participation in the negotiating process for a framework convention on climate change was of paramount importance. All countries participating must be satisfied that the conditions of the negotiating process were fair and equitable and took account of the fact that differing interests were involved. Preparation of the draft resolution had been a very complex exercise, with a considerable number of issues having to be taken into account and a number of important and often conflicting interests catered for. It had not been possible to accommodate delegations on every point; however, their manifest willingness to be flexible on important issues had eventually enabled a carefully-balanced draft resolution to be submitted.

2. The CHAIRMAN said he had been informed that the delegation of Jordan also wished to join the sponsors.

3. Mr. PETRONE (Italy) said that it was the opinion of the member States of the European Community that consensus was as close as was possible at the present stage. They believed that the draft resolution, although not perfect, needed the support of as many States as possible, and therefore wished to join the sponsors. They would approach the negotiations with their own clear ideas, but would listen to the opinions of others and to the concerns of the developing countries with an open mind and with their habitual flexibility.

AGENDA ITEM 85: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/45/L.68)

4. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) introduced the draft resolution.

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations University (A/C.2/45/L.70)

5. Mr. KOIKE (Japan) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Bangladesh, Peru and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/45/L.8, L.33, L.49, L.64 and L.65)

Draft resolutions on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
(A/C.2/45/L.8 and L.65)

6. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.65, which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.8. He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

7. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.65 was adopted.

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Draft resolution on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (A/C.2/45/L.49)

9. Ms. KIMBALI (Secretary of the Committee) said that the words "un secrétaire général adjoint" in paragraph 1 (b) of the French version of the text should be replaced by the words "l'un des secrétaires généraux adjoints".

10. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Samoa and Senegal, and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.49 was adopted.

12. Mr. VORONTSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Soviet Union, the original sponsors of the draft resolution just adopted, expressed their sincere thanks to the 116 other delegations which had joined them as co-sponsors. That gesture of solidarity proved once again that nations united in a spirit of goodwill could become a powerful force for humanism and the good of mankind. It also proved that "no man is an island", that a heartfelt desire to assist a fellow dweller on the planet Earth transcended national boundaries and abolished all political, racial, regional or other distinctions. At such moments the concepts of "humanity" and "mankind" became filled with special significance and the philosophical category of "universal human values" was translated into concrete political action.

13. His delegation noted with satisfaction the useful work done by the United Nations Secretariat towards facilitating the thorough and fruitful consideration given to various aspects of the Chernobyl issue at the present session. In that connection, special thanks were due to the Secretary-General, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

(Mr. Vorontsov, USSR)

14. The resolution just adopted was a blueprint for serious multi-level action to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, an exercise which would require co-ordinated and mutually acceptable efforts on the part of all the parties involved - Governments, organizations and special agencies of the United Nations system, and structures within the Secretariat.

15. The three delegations on whose behalf he was speaking had already had occasion to comment on the resolution's specific provisions, and he now wished to draw attention to some points of a more general nature. First, the international programme for co-ordinated activities under the resolution should be carried out within a clear-cut time-frame and the respective activities of all involved should be clearly defined. Second, the significance of the effort would be enhanced by the appointment of one of the Under-Secretaries-General of the United Nations to serve as co-ordinator of activities in connection with Chernobyl. Third, membership in the task force set up under the resolution should be open to all interested States and, above all, to experts from the member countries most affected by the accident. Fourth, the three delegations on whose behalf he was speaking were counting upon broad international support, inter alia in the form of voluntary contributions, for the United Nations effort connected with Chernobyl. For their part, the Governments of the Byelorussian SSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR undertook to do everything in their power to ensure that international co-operation was organically incorporated in and effectively supplemented their internal efforts to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The three Governments were willing to continue submitting all information available to them on the subject and to provide the most favourable conditions for the work of international missions and experts, whose recommendations and advice they would take fully into consideration. They were also determined to share with all interested countries the experience and expertise they were acquiring in matters relating to the elimination of the consequences of Chernobyl. Bearing in mind the importance of nuclear power production in the economies of many regions of the contemporary world, as well as the human dimension of the nuclear power problem, the value of an integrated approach could hardly be overestimated.

16. The three delegations hoped that the steps to be undertaken collectively and individually by all Members would substantially advance the effort of mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The United Nations family would thus convincingly demonstrate its tremendous potential for resolving complex global problems at whose centre, in the last analysis, stood the individual human being.

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

Draft resolution on the world decade for cultural development (A/C.2/45/L.33 and L.64)

17. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that a consensus text had been prepared during informal consultations on the basis of document A/C.2/45/L.33. The text was contained in A/C.2/45/L.64, which he recommended for adoption without a vote.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.64 was adopted.

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.33 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution on entrepreneurship (A/C.2/45/L.27/Rev.1)

20. The CHAIRMAN announced that Hungary had joined the sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(d) UNITED NATIONS CHILDRENS FUND (continued)

Draft resolution on the World Summit for Children (A/C.2/45/L.62)

21. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bangladesh, Cuba, Ecuador, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Mongolia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis had joined the sponsors.

(e) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued)

Draft decision on governance of the World Food Programme (A/C.2/45/L.63)

22. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, said that Morocco had been one of the original sponsors of the draft resolution, and should therefore be listed among them. Furthermore, in paragraph 2, the words "contained in document E/1990/101 of 9 July 1990" should be inserted after the word "decision". With those two amendments, he recommended the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote.

23. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) asked why the present draft resolution and others were submitted without statements of programme budget implications.

24. The CHAIRMAN explained that every draft resolution was examined for budgetary implications, and if there were such implications, a statement of programme budget implications was issued. If no such statement was issued, there was no budgetary implication.

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

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

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution on special assistance to the front-line States (A/C.2/45/L.15)

26. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, said that following a number of informal consultations, agreement had been reached on the text of the draft resolution, as contained in document A/C.2/45/L.15. In paragraph 3 of the English version, the word "past" should be added before "acts" and the word "continued" before "destabilization". Mali, Suriname and Swaziland had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution had no financial implications.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.15, as orally amended, was adopted.

28. Mr. MUCHANGA (Zambia) thanked the Committee for its unanimous adoption of the resolution, a gesture of solidarity highly appreciated by the 70 million people of the front-line States. Many delegations had contributed to the drafting of the resolution, which in its final form accurately reflected the situation in southern Africa at the present time.

29. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) said that while joining the consensus on the draft resolution in document A/C.2/45/L.15, his delegation nevertheless found it regrettable that the Committee had not taken greater account of the many positive developments in South Africa since the release of Nelson Mandela. Similarly, paragraph 3 could have made it clearer that the acts of aggression and destabilization referred to were in the past and not continuing at the present time. Finally, the United Kingdom's substantial assistance to the front-line States should be seen in a wider context than that referred to in operative paragraph 4.

Draft resolution on Operation Lifeline Sudan (A/C.2/45/L.17/Rev.1)

30. Mr. GIANELLI (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, reported that following various informal consultations, agreement had been reached on the wording of the draft resolution, which he now proposed to the Committee for adoption without a vote. He also informed the Committee that Egypt had joined the sponsors.

31. Mr. GIRON (Colombia) stated that Colombia also wished to join the sponsors.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.17/Rev.1 was adopted.

33. Mr. ELNUR (Sudan) thanked all the States which had ensured that Operation Lifeline Sudan could continue and achieve its objectives.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.