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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 79 (a)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee,
Mr. Finn Jonck (Denmark), on the basis of informal consultations
held on draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.12

Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Recalling also its resolutions 31/156 of 21 December 1976, 32/185 of 19 December 1977, 34/205 of 19 December 1979, 35/61 of 5 December 1980, 37/206 of 20 December 1982 and 39/212 of 18 December 1984, relating to the special needs and problems of island developing countries,

Reiterating the call for specific action in favour of island developing countries contained in resolutions 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976, 1/111 (V) of

1/ Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

3 June 1979 2/ and 138 (VI) of 2 July 1983 3/ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing the difficult problems faced by island developing countries, in particular those which suffer handicaps due especially to their smallness, remoteness, vulnerability to natural disasters, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, the acute problem of obtaining fresh water supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a few commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

Mindful that timely additional efforts are needed to implement the specific measures required to assist island developing countries in offsetting the major handicaps which hinder their development process,

Noting with regret that the comprehensive review of the problems and needs of island developing countries requested in resolution 39/212 has not been possible during the forty-first session of the Assembly,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 39/212 and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and calls for their immediate and effective implementation;
2. Welcomes decision 86/33 of 27 June 1986 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the special needs of island developing countries; 4/
3. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 5/ concerning the implementation by the international community of measures in favour of island developing countries;
4. Expresses its appreciation to all States and organizations that have responded to the special needs of island developing countries and have facilitated the implementation of resolutions in favour of those countries;
5. Notes with concern that the specific measures envisaged in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including Conference resolution 138 (VI), have not yet been fully implemented, and calls upon all States, international organizations and financial institutions to respond positively in this regard and to intensify efforts in the implementation of specific actions in favour of island developing countries;

2/ Ibid., Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 9 (E/1986/29), annex I.

5/ A/41/495.

6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in co-operation with Governments and regional and other competent institutions, to continue the programme of in-depth studies of the common problems of island economies and of the constraints inhibiting their economic growth and development and, in this regard, to seek the views of island developing countries and other interested countries, with the objective of proposing concrete specific action;

7. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to give impetus to the pursuance of its role as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries and as a catalyst in this regard, inter alia, by organizing and facilitating the cross-regional interchange of information and experience, in full co-operation with regional and subregional organizations;

8. Requests the competent organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the regional commissions, and invites the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to renew his efforts with regard to the possibility of organizing a follow-up meeting to the interregional workshop on planning held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in November 1983, with the participation of representatives of island developing countries and other interested countries;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical and comprehensive report, which should make use, inter alia, of the work in progress in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme and should include specific recommendations to ensure that the General Assembly at its forty-third session is able to undertake a thorough review of the problems and special needs of island developing countries.
