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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 77 (a)**DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT****Economic measures as a means of political and economic
coercion against developing countries****Note by the Secretary-General**

1. The present note has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 44/215 of 22 December 1989, by which the Assembly inter alia: took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (A/44/510); called upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures in order to eliminate the use of coercive measures against developing countries; requested the Secretary-General to designate an identifiable unit within the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to collect pertinent information on economic measures taken by developed countries as a means of coercion against developing countries, which unit should receive and assess such information and produce periodic reports with recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly; and also requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The General Assembly received reports on the same subject in 1986 (A/41/739), 1987 (A/42/660) and 1989 (A/44/510). These reports were based on replies received from Governments in response to a note verbale by the Secretary-General.

3. In response to General Assembly resolution 42/173 of 11 December 1987 and a subsequent request from the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) convened a group of

experts for the purpose of considering effective approaches to the elimination of the use of coercive economic measures against developing countries. The findings of the experts were annexed to the Secretary-General's report (A/44/510). The findings refer to the current state of international law, the definition of coercive economic measures, allowable exceptions and adequate mechanisms for controlling and assessing relevant measures.

4. The Office of the Director-General, in close cooperation with UNCTAD and the regional commissions, intends to build upon these findings in order to strengthen the conceptual and legal framework for the assessment of coercive economic measures. It has been determined that this requires careful consideration and close contacts with the relevant research community in order to strengthen the conceptual basis. This will permit the elaboration of adequate frameworks for categorizing and assessing relevant information, including the determination of applicable criteria. This work has started but it is not at a sufficiently advanced stage for conclusive recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly.

5. The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation needs to maintain a flexible structure to cope with the diversified and complex responsibilities entrusted to it by Member States. This excludes the establishment of permanent structures. The issue of coercive economic measures is dealt with in the context of work on macroeconomic issues. As already indicated, adequate cooperative arrangements will be established with UNCTAD and the regional commissions.

6. These arrangements will include appropriate instruments for the collection and assessment of relevant information. This will provide a solid basis for the submission of periodic reports, including relevant recommendations to future sessions of the General Assembly.
