



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OUDOVENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

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LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1987 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 p.m.

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

Draft resolution on a target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1989-1990 (A/C.2/42/L.14).

1. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) reported that the draft resolution had been approved in the informal consultations.

2. The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft resolution on implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 in the economic and social fields (A/C.2/42/L.39).

3. Mr. ANDRADE-DIAZ-DURAN (Guatemala), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 was very important to the Group. Co-ordination was essential, and care must be taken not to impair United Nations development activities.

Draft decision on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields (A/C.2/42/L.40).

4. Mr. ANDRADE-DIAZ-DURAN (Guatemala), introducing the draft decision on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group attached great importance to the in-depth study and urged the intergovernmental bodies that had not yet done so to submit their views and proposals to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields. The provisional measures already taken should eventually be reviewed in the light of the General Assembly's decisions on the in-depth study.

Draft decision on the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries (A/C.2/42/L.41).

5. Mr. ANDRADE-DIAZ-DURAN (Guatemala), introducing the draft decision on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group attached great importance to the specific section on net transfer of resources which the draft decision requested the Secretary-General to include in his report under resolution 1987/93 of the Economic and Social Council. It hoped that there would be no difficulty in approving the draft decision.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(e) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on traffic in toxic and dangerous products (A/C.2/42/L.42)

6. Mr. ANDRADE-DIAZ-DURAN (Guatemala), introducing the draft resolution on behalf

(Mr. Andrade-Diaz-Duran, Guatemala)

of the Group of 77, said that the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization could play a very useful role in combating the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products. It was certainly in the interest of all countries to secure observance of the London Guidelines and the Cairo Guidelines. Improved communications, exchange of information and international co-operation were essential tools in combating the problem. It was particularly important for the developing countries to be able to detect illegal traffic and halt any attempts to introduce toxic and dangerous products into their territories. It was a matter of concern that some private and public corporations of the developed countries were attempting to introduce such products into the developing countries.

Draft resolution on protection of the ozone layer (A/C.2/42/L.37)

7. The CHAIRMAN announced that Maldives had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

(f) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft resolution on countries stricken by desertification and drought

(A/C.2/42/L.24)

8. The CHAIRMAN announced that Austria, Liberia, the Philippines and Sweden had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

(h) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development (A/C.2/42/L.43)

9. Mr. ANDRADE-DIAZ-DURAN (Guatemala), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said that it was important for the General Assembly to mark the tenth anniversary of the Vienna Programme of Action. Science and technology were vital matters for the Group of 77 and for the developing world, and a general discussion of the topic at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly would be of great benefit.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

Draft resolution on special assistance to front-line States (A/C.2/42/L.16)

10. Mr. DJOHLAF (Algeria) said that his delegation had become a sponsor of the draft resolution. The front-line States owed their critical economic situation mainly to the racist régime of South Africa and they were entitled to call upon the international community to give them the assistance they needed. His delegation hoped that the draft decision would receive the full support of all Members of the United Nations.

11. The CHAIRMAN announced that Benin, Ethiopia, Italy and the Niger had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution on special economic assistance to Central America (A/C.2/42 L.25)

12. Mr. DJOHLAF (Algeria) said that his delegation had become a sponsor of the draft resolution. It was convinced that the Committee, by adopting the draft resolution unanimously, would make its contribution to peace and development in Central America.

Letter dated 14 October 1987 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/42/L.13)

13. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a letter he had received from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee through the President of the General Assembly (A/C.2/42/L.13) in which the Committee was requested to consider the paper entitled "Some perspectives on the work of the United Nations in the 1990s", included in the note by the Secretary-General (A/42/512), and a summary of the preliminary views of members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraphs 86 to 99 of its report (A/42/16 (Part II)).

14. Mr. RIPEFF (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the medium-term plan was supposed to provide the conceptual framework within which priorities were identified and programmes implemented, but it had not done so successfully in the past. Previous plans had been mere catalogues, reflecting neither the current priorities of Governments nor the future challenges to the United Nations and providing little guidance for the work of the Organization. The initiative taken by the Secretary-General with respect to the preparation of the next plan was an attempt to change that pattern. The logic behind the proposal for the current plan to be extended for two years and the next plan to begin in 1992 was two-fold: the next plan would better reflect the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and, more important, the revised schedule would permit the wide consultations needed to make the plan a truly useful document.

15. The Secretary-General's paper entitled "Some perspectives on the work of the United Nations in the 1990s" was not a formal introduction to the medium-term plan but designed to elicit first comments in the consultation process. In the light of those comments an introduction would be formulated which, after further consultations, would serve as the framework for the development of more specific sectoral strategies. The introduction would be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in the spring of 1988 and the medium-term plan would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

16. The emphasis in the Secretary-General's paper was on general directions rather than detailed programme content, and delegations were urged to take a similar approach. The paper underlined the need to identify the challenges of the future so as to ensure the Organization's capacity to respond effectively. Since the future was but a projection of present unfinished business, development must remain

(Mr. Ripert)

a focus of the work in the 1990s but it must be seen in the context of changing realities. The paper also emphasized the need to determine priorities more clearly in view of the breadth of the agenda and the limited resources available. Governments and the Secretariat must be more diligent in determining what should and could be done. To agree on basic priorities for inclusion in a medium-term plan was a very difficult task. It required judicious selection and a willingness to accommodate the interests of all parties. But it must be done if the plan was to establish the Organization's policy orientation.

17. The Charter remained the basic guide for the work programme, for it enjoined the Organization "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character" and "to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations". There had been criticism of the effectiveness of the United Nations, but over the past year the Organization had lived up to its responsibilities in many important areas. The next medium-term plan must enlarge its capacity to make substantial progress in the challenging circumstances of the coming decade. That meant that all delegations would have to give serious consideration to the issues and assist the Secretariat in formulating the framework for its activities. He looked forward to a continuation of the dialogue.

18. Mr. ANDRADE-DIAZ-DURAN (Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that although the Secretary-General's note on the preparation of the next medium-term plan (A/42/512) and the accompanying perspectives on the work of the United Nations in the 1990s provided a basis on which to begin a discussion of the plan, the scope and projections of that document were limited, since no mention was made of a number of fundamental economic and social issues to which the Group of 77 attached particular importance.

19. For example, the document failed to take into consideration the concern frequently expressed by the Group at the deterioration in the world economic situation, which was adversely affecting the development process in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. The Group was also concerned that, as the Secretary-General himself had noted in his report on the international debt situation in mid-1987 (A/42/523), few developing countries would be in a position to solve their debt problems in the early 1990s. The medium-term plan must therefore provide for a political strategy, based on the notion of shared responsibility aimed at solving the developing countries' external debt problem permanently and equitably in a way that promoted a development. The plan must also focus on the urgent need to increase international economic co-operation in order to promote economic growth in general and improve the economic situation of the developing countries in particular.

20. The medium-term plan must acknowledge the continuing validity of the objectives of the current International Development Strategy by laying the groundwork for the establishment of a new international economic order. Dialogues and negotiations must be promoted that would lead to the creation of an open international economic system based on the principles of equality, justice, harmony

(Mr. Andrade-Diaz-Duran, Guatemala)

and universality. The interrelationship between development and questions of money, finance and trade must be acknowledged. The central objectives of development, growth and social progress must also be borne in mind so that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States could be fulfilled.

21. In preparing a new international development strategy for the next United Nations Development Decade, the Organization must carry out an objective assessment of the Third Decade, which had fallen far short of achieving its goals. In addition, consideration should be given to the measures adopted during the seventh session of UNCTAD and to the results of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

22. Priority should be given in the medium-term plan to implementing the code of conduct on transnational corporations, providing ongoing support for the work of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, meeting the objectives of the Lima Programme of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation and developing the endogenous scientific and technological capacities of developing countries. Special attention should also be given to the adverse consequences of protectionist measures, tariff barriers, trade restrictions and quotas and the unprofitable fixing of commodity prices. The plan must seek to improve the terms and market access of developing countries' exports and consider the need for the developed countries to honour the commitments they had undertaken in the Punta del Este Declaration.

23. Many priority issues of the 1980s should continue to be accorded priority in the coming decade. In the case of Africa's economic situation, new measures should be included in the forthcoming medium-term plan that would complement those taken in the context of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries must also be a focus of attention and should be adapted to meet changing situations.

24. The plan should reflect the need to increase multilateral technical and financial assistance to the developing countries for environmental protection programmes, bearing in mind the fact that such protection was closely linked to efforts to solve problems of poverty, indebtedness and development. In view of the disturbing possibility that international financial institutions might use environmental issues to impose new conditions on the provision of resources, it should be noted that any reduction of funds might hamper the implementation of environmental economic and social programmes at the national level. The medium-term plan should also stress the importance of promoting United Nations activities in the field of the environment.

25. It was imperative that adequate attention should be paid in the future to implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. The Group of 77 also believed that the autonomy and independence of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development must be maintained and that negotiations on a code of conduct on the transfer of technology must be concluded as soon as possible.

(Mr. Andrade-Diaz-Duran, Guatemala)

26. The Group of 77 supported the decision taken by CPC at its twenty-seventh session to continue the priorities and activities of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 through 1991, subject to as thorough and extensive a revision of that plan as might be required by legislative mandates enacted by the General Assembly and the functional intergovernmental bodies. Likewise, the preparation of the new plan should take into account the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

27. To meet the challenges of the 1990s, the United Nations would need the full support of the international community. Development could only be attained in an atmosphere of peace and international co-operation. Consequently, the arms race should be abandoned so that resources could be freed for development purposes. The United Nations must be strengthened and its efforts in the coming decade oriented towards achieving lasting solutions to world problems.

28. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) said that one meeting of the Committee was not enough to allow member States to participate fully in the preparation of the introduction to the next medium-term plan. Given the need for a genuine substantive discussion aimed at reaching an agreement on the work of the United Nations in the 1990s, he suggested that the Committee should meet in 1988, preferably with the Third Committee, to discuss the future role of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

29. The new medium-term plan must reflect the need for a new international development strategy for the 1990s, particularly as the 1980s had been a lost decade for development. The most pervasive influence on the world economy in recent years had been the change in direction of the economic policies of the major market-economy countries. While those policies had managed to curb inflation, they had created a number of imbalances affecting all countries. The developing countries' efforts to adapt to the new situation and to restore growth and development had been significant, but were being jeopardized by deflationary tendencies, which were also preventing certain developed countries from adjusting their massive current-account imbalances. A renewed commitment to multilateral co-operation for development was required; the interrelated nature of current problems and their possible solutions must be assessed carefully and a strategy for enhancing growth must be developed that would encompass all aspects of the world economy.

30. The major international conferences convened by the United Nations during the 1970s and 1980s had resulted in the first global inventory of a broad spectrum of social and economic problems and possible solutions. Continued follow-up of those efforts must be a component of the next medium-term plan, with particular emphasis on the problems of money and finance, international trade, the critical economic situation in Africa and the situation of the least developed countries.

31. The fact that external debt was now considered as a separate agenda item by the General Assembly indicated that high priority should be given to that issue in the next medium-term plan. The interdependence of States with different social and

(Mr. Shaaban, Egypt)

economic systems had also been clearly recognized during the 1980s and thus ought to be emphasized in the plan as well.

32. The new international development strategy must enable the Secretary-General to give programme managers instructions for the preparation of the introduction to the medium-term plan that reflected an agreed political position. Finally, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and the Assembly recommendations made by the Assembly on the basis of the work done by the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council would be pivotal to the medium-term plan's success.

33. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation shared the views of the Group of 77. The Secretary-General's note on the preparation of the next medium-term plan (A/42/512) had stimulated broad discussion on ways to enhance the role of the Organization in the consideration of the most important problems of modern times, the development of a multilateral dialogue and co-operation, and the improvement of the practical results of the work of the Organization for Member States and the international community as a whole. The importance of the Secretary-General's initiative was underscored by the fact that the General Assembly had transmitted his note to the Main Committees for more detailed study. At the twenty-seventh session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), many delegations had agreed that, in the coming decade, the United Nations should not consider the problems of the world economy and social and economic development in isolation, but rather in the broad context of the search for a solution to all the other urgent problems of international life, taking due account of political, social, humanitarian and other factors. The need for such an approach had been underscored by many delegations in the Second Committee.

34. His delegation had been impressed with the Secretary-General's idea that the future work of the United Nations should contribute to the elimination of all threats to international security, both military and political and economic, ecological and humanitarian. The concept of international economic security should serve as the basis for eliminating - or at least mitigating - existing threats, contradictions and unnecessary risks in economic relations among States. The Soviet Union had no pretensions to be the sole author of that idea. On the contrary, the concept of international economic security would take shape only when it was further developed, studied and discussed by all States.

35. In the 1990s, the authority of the Organization's economic bodies, in particular the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, should be further strengthened. The United Nations could and should become a forum for balancing the interests of all Member States. Among the important issues for consideration by its economic bodies in the 1990s were the development of the developing countries, external debt, resource flows, the reform of the international monetary and financial system, international trade, transnational corporations, co-operation in the field of science and technology, and the environment. Unless the urgent economic problems of the developing countries were solved, and their steady growth and development in favourable external conditions guaranteed, it would be impossible to ensure the just and stable development of the world economy and well-being for all.

(Mr. Zvezdin, USSR)

36. The decisions taken at the seventh session of UNCTAD and the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development provided a new impetus to the work of the United Nations in the economic field, and their complete and effective implementation should be an important aspect of the work of the Organization in the 1990s.

37. Many delegations had linked the task of enhancing the role, effectiveness and productiveness of the Organization with the need to improve co-ordination in the United Nations and its system, eliminate duplication and rationalize the division of labour among the various social and economic bodies. His delegation hoped that the recommendations of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council would enhance the role and effectiveness of the Organization's social and economic sector in solving the urgent problems of the world economy and international economic relations.

38. Most delegations agreed with the Secretary-General that it would be unjust to limit the activities of the United Nations to what it did best. Efforts should be made to ensure that it dealt effectively with all issues on its agenda and endeavoured to achieve progress in all areas, including those where no consensus had yet been reached. It was also clear that life itself was the best guide to priorities. The task of the Organization was to ensure that the issues of development and international economic co-operation, the solution of which depended on the efforts and the political will of all States, were not only on its agenda but, were solved in the interests of all States.

39. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his delegation had read with interest the paper included in the Secretary-General's notes, and commended his intention of adopting a less descriptive, more conceptual approach to the next medium-term plan, and of taking full account of the views of the Member States in drafting the introduction.

40. Since the document before the Committee provided an outline for the introduction to the medium-term plan, a more forward-looking and imaginative paper would have been preferable. The introduction was intended to be a vehicle for the views and concerns of the Member States and to serve as the principal policy directive of the United Nations. The current format was too descriptive and not sufficiently rigorous to be part of an integral planning tool.

41. The setting of priorities had always been a difficult and unsatisfactory process for most Member States: whilst the introduction should not list all the concerns of individual States, it must not be too general and lacking in detail to give focus and direction. With regard to the section on development, his delegation agreed that the United Nations should be "the fulcrum for a globally integrated approach to development" in the 1990s, but was unclear as to how that was to be achieved.

42. Several other important issues had been omitted or treated in a rather perfunctory manner. The economic disarray of the 1980s gave new force to the need

(Mr. McBarnette, Trinidad and Tobago)

for a new international economic order, and, in that context the introduction should deal with recent developments, such as the outcome of the seventh session of UNCTAD, and ongoing issues, including the code of conduct for transnational corporations and science and technology for development. It was also important to address the question of a new International Development Strategy and other means of avoiding the problems of the last three Development Decades. The success of the United Nations in the 1990s was contingent upon the Member States' clear definition of the issues to be addressed. The Organization's good offices and potential must be used to address the whole range of problems, however controversial, through meaningful consultations forming part of a dynamic planning process.

43. M. DASGUPTA (India) said that while the Secretary-General's note provided a starting point for the discussion, it failed to give the necessary focus and emphasis to some of the most important political and economic problems facing the international community. In some cases, the issues had been identified, but no indication had been given of the assistance that the United Nations system should provide. The mandates given to the United Nations system by the intergovernmental bodies had frequently been overlooked, as had the Organization's valuable efforts to find solutions.

44. With respect to international economic relations, the document neither emphasized the concept of interdependence, nor mentioned the International Development Strategy. It made no mention of important international instruments, such as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and failed to focus on the development crisis provoked by unresolved problems in the international economic system. The introduction to the medium-term plan should indicate how the United Nations intended to deal with the structural reform of the international economic order and with systemic issues in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt, trade and development.

45. He regretted the absence of any specific reference to the useful work of UNCTAD with regard to commodities and other trade and development questions. Protectionism, market access, commodity prices and similar issues were treated only cursorily while no indication was given of the Organization's future work in connection with the problems of debt and resource flows. Furthermore, there should have been some reference to the preparatory work on a code of conduct for transnational corporations.

46. The introduction to the medium-term plan should indicate action to be taken by the United Nations with regard, for example, to implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Lima Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation and the Vienna Programme of Action. It should also take account of various other areas of particular concern to the developing countries, in which the United Nations had yet not fulfilled its mandates.

47. The document before the Committee was too limited to provide a basis for either policy or action in the next decade. Substantial amendments were required

(Mr. Dasgupta, India)

before it could be used as a comprehensive basis for discussion and negotiations prior to finalization of the introduction to the next medium-term plan.

48. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia) said that most of the delegations had made their views clear in CPC when the question of extending the current medium-term plan had been discussed. Such an extension was an unusual measure, suggesting that there were no new proposals or fresh priorities.

49. While the enclosure to the Secretary-General's note was an interesting descriptive document, it dealt with important issues without reference to the framework of the medium-term plan or to a programme of work for the next decade. It might, however, stimulate discussion in the Second Committee, the General Assembly and other bodies over the next two or three years with a view to reaching a consensus on the next medium-term plan.

50. The economic and social development of the developing countries had emerged as a major focus of concern. The document concentrated, however, on international security. That approach was unlikely to produce viable conclusions as far as the medium-term plan and its introduction were concerned because international security was entirely dependent on the existence of favourable economic and social conditions. It was an important product of sustained development and account must be taken of the direct cause/effect relationship between the two. Development had always generated security. The converse did not apply. Accordingly, economic and social development should be the main consideration in the next plan.

51. The introduction to the medium-term plan should be based on the consensus already achieved within the international community. That meant a return to fundamental documents such as those dealing with the new international economic order and with the International Development Strategy, which had never been bettered as a basis for that consensus.

52. Many important aspects of international co-operation were missing from the document. The basic political proposals were incomplete and failed to reflect the universal nature of the United Nations. He hoped that it would be amended in the light of intensive consultations in 1988 and taking account of the in-depth study of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council. If necessary, some procedure other than a medium-term plan might be considered.

53. He hoped that the draft introduction would attach sufficient importance to co-ordination within the Organization and between the Organization and the system as a whole. Efforts should also be made to ensure that the Member States honoured their commitments during the fourth development decade since they had failed to do so during the current period.

54. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria) said that the next medium-term plan, the preparation of which would take place in a period of economic crisis, should endeavour to counter the effects of that crisis by eliminating its causes, which were closely related to the mechanisms governing contemporary international economic relations. To that

(Mr. Djoghlaf, Algeria)

end, and to lay the groundwork for the international co-operation that would be required, preparation of the medium-term plan should be guided by the international development consensus reached in previous decades, the core of which was the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

55. As in the past, emphasis must be placed on the development of developing countries, and of the least developed and African countries in particular, in drafting the economic and social components of the plan's introduction and constituent activities. Accordingly, the priorities of the new plan must continue to be based on those priorities outlined in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and efforts to implement the related activities must be coupled with greater mobilization of energy and resources and, above all, a specific demonstration of political will on the part of the richest countries.

56. Particular attention should be paid in the new plan to areas in which the Organization had traditionally been active, such as commodities, agriculture, industry, science and technology, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, new and renewable sources of energy, problems of the least developed countries and monetary and financial questions. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/202, the new plan should include an intersectoral presentation of the activities envisaged for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

57. The future medium-term plan should also duly reflect the international community's concern at the deterioration in economic conditions in the least developed countries and, consequently, give priority to the implementation of activities for the development and economic recovery of those countries, particularly in Africa. In doing so, the inadequacies identified to date in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development should be borne in mind.

58. Finally, the search for a lasting and fair solution to the external debt crisis of developing countries and the firm determination of the United Nations to help overcome that crisis should be identified as priorities in the plan.

59. Mr. SOKOLENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, his delegation generally approved of the Secretary-General's stress on a comprehensive approach to all fields of United Nations activities. However, sufficient attention had not been paid to a number of development-related issues. There was an urgent need to analyse the causes of world economic instability and jointly to consider how the constructive interaction of States could contribute to the solution of urgent tasks in the social and economic and scientific and technological fields. The process of intensifying the economic interdependence of States should be made manageable and predictable through the collective efforts of all countries, and in their common

(Mr. Sokolenko, Ukrainian SSR)

interest. The work of the United Nations in developing a concept of international economic security would contribute to that objective.

60. In the course of the debate in the plenary session of the General Assembly and in the Second Committee, many delegations had expressed their concern about the state of the environment and its continuing degradation. The Ukrainian SSR believed that one of the principal components of international ecological security in the 1990s and beyond could be a system of normative, organizational and material guarantees for environmental protection. There currently existed a well-defined system of international principles and rules on the environment which could serve as the normative basis for international ecological security. In future, the entire set of normative guarantees could be combined into one document - a global strategy for environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources - or, as had been suggested in the Brundtland report, contained in a universal declaration. A convention on environmental protection and sustainable development could be worked out at a later stage. The organizational guarantees of international ecological security could take the form of organically linked systems of national, regional and collective ecological security. The functioning of each of those systems would ensure the observance of the principle of the inviolability of the environment and the suppression of violations of environmental legislation. The United Nations Environment Programme could play a co-ordinating role in such activities. The material guarantees for international ecological security could be a system of interrelated national and international measures aimed at maintaining a sound environment and ensuring stable social and economic growth. Environmental protection measures could be financed in part from the savings realized from the reduction of military budgets. The fact that the Ukrainian SSR was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/42/L.34, entitled "International ecological security", was a token of the importance which it attached to the subject.

61. His delegation supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure the rational use of the Organization's resources, implement economy measures, eliminate unjustified duplication and create a more compact and efficient Secretariat. However, such reforms should not affect the ability of the Organization to perform its functions. The restructuring of the Secretariat should follow the restructuring of the intergovernmental mechanism, since there was a direct link between the possible changes in the latter mechanism and the composition and activities of the Secretariat.

62. Ms. RIBEIRO VIOTTI (Brazil) said that the major challenge of the coming decade would be the achievement of economic and social progress, and to that end international co-operation was required in order to promote a more hospitable global environment for growth and development. The 1980s had been a lost decade as far as development was concerned, and efforts must be directed towards helping the developing countries recover lost ground.

63. A strategy of co-operation was required to resolve the crisis in the world economy by addressing its root causes. Priority should be given to the problems posed by debt, deteriorating terms of trade, protectionism, the erosion of respect

(Ms. Ribeiro Viotti, Brazil)

for the disciplines of the multilateral trading system and other aspects of the world economic crisis. In view of the impact that the macro-economic policies of the developed countries had on the world economy as a whole, and on the developing countries, in particular, there was a clear need for improved management in the developed countries themselves.

64. With regard to technological and scientific progress, there was a risk of generating a new, perverse international division of labour if the developing countries were denied access to the latest scientific advances and to new and emerging technologies.

65. She challenged the Secretary-General's remarks regarding the future tenability of national markets or financial régimes. There was not enough information, much less a consensus, to justify such remarks, which had serious political and other implications. A more profound analysis was required.

66. With regard to co-operation, recent developments in the world financial markets indicated that intergovernmental action might be required to bring market forces under control. Other forms of co-operation, involving non-governmental bodies, were, by definition, complementary and could only take place in the context of intergovernmental agreements. The United Nations should lead the international community in a dialogue to work out the characteristics and mechanisms of a comprehensive international economic system, based on the principles of equity, justice and universality and on the sovereign rights of States, with development, growth, employment and social progress as its central objectives. The new medium-term plan should reflect a commitment in that sense.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.