

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION
Official Records

SIXTH COMMITTEE
11th meeting
held on
Thursday, 14 October 1993
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 146: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 140: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

AGENDA ITEM 141: PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.6/48/SR.11
29 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 146: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued) (A/48/33 and Corr.1; A/48/140-S/25597; A/48/205-S/25923; A/48/209-S/25937; A/48/379-S/26411; A/48/445-S/26501 and A/48/398)

1. Mr. ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolian) said that recent international events were cause for both hope and caution. The collapse of a bipolar world had brought sweeping democratic reforms and had facilitated the long-overdue settlement of certain regional conflicts. Yet, it had also unleashed the destructive forces of nationalism and given rise to ethnic and religious conflicts. Amidst those upheavals the United Nations, and with it the Special Committee, had assumed a much greater role in peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.
2. His delegation commended the Russian Federation for preparing the draft document on the improvement of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations (A/48/33, para. 28), which had provided a valuable starting-point for debate. In that connection, his delegation was pleased that several intergovernmental organizations had participated in the Special Committee's discussions on that issue. Mongolia believed that relations between the United Nations and regional organizations should be complementary and based on strict mutual respect for their respective mandates.
3. Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter was an issue of great urgency, on which lengthy discussions were being held in the General Assembly and the Security Council. His delegation, in conjunction with 18 others, had submitted to the Special Committee a working paper dealing with that matter (A/48/33, para. 98), which offered one possible solution to a highly complex matter for which a mutually acceptable solution would have to be found.
4. Guatemala deserved congratulations for submitting at the Special Committee's 1993 session a more flexible and concise version of the draft United Nations rules for the conciliation of disputes between States (A/48/33, para. 122). At its next session the Special Committee should endeavour to finalize the draft rules which, in his country's view, should take the form of model rules.
5. Mongolia fully supported efforts to restructure and revitalize the activities of the principal organs of the United Nations. His delegation attached particular importance to the issue of Security Council membership. It favoured a limited increase in the permanent and non-permanent membership in order to reflect both global changes and the dramatic rise in the Organization's membership. Any increase in the Security Council's membership would ensure a more balanced and just regional representation and would make the Council's work more efficient and more effective. The veto power of the permanent members could not, at the current stage, be eliminated, but that privilege should not be granted to any new members. Moreover, full consideration should be given to limiting the scope of application of the veto and to requiring support by two members of the Council for any veto to take effect. Generally speaking, the Council could be made more effective by introducing broader and substantial

(Mr. Erdenechuluun, Mongolia)

consultations with the rest of the Organization's membership, more transparency in its work and an effective working relationship with the General Assembly.

6. Strict, consistent and uniform application of the Charter was the main prerequisite for strengthening the role of the Organization. The Charter, like every written constitution, could certainly be adapted to changing realities through the application and interpretation of its provisions. But the gradual erosion of the Charter through inconsistent and selective application of its provisions or persistent evasion of "inconvenient" rules could only undermine the legitimacy and credibility of the United Nations. For example, his delegation was convinced that the original rationale for the rule of "obligatory abstention" in the Security Council, as provided for in Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter, was still valid and that, accordingly, ways should be found to revive that rule and ensure that every member of the Council to which it applied abided by it in a consistent manner.

7. Mr. E. YAMAMOTO (Japan) said that the dramatic changes marking the end of the cold war had provided the international community with a new opportunity to create a more secure world. Yet, with those changes came new challenges: to meet them adequately, the role of the United Nations had to be reinforced and in that respect the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111) provided useful guidelines. The Special Committee, as the most appropriate forum for examining and resolving issues relating to the Charter, could also make an important contribution to strengthening the Organization.

8. Improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations was another important way of strengthening the Organization and, in that connection, his delegation welcomed the draft document submitted to the Special Committee on that topic (A/48/33, para. 28). It believed, however, that an even more widely acceptable version of the text should be elaborated.

9. The issue of the economic difficulties facing third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter was an important one. In that regard, three aspects had to be carefully considered: the exact meaning of the term "affected State"; concrete measures to assist such States; and whether the United Nations had the authority to take such measures. The Special Committee was the forum best suited to find ways to assist affected States; one possibility would be to use relief organizations to provide assistance.

10. He applauded the work done by the delegation of Guatemala on the draft United Nations rules for the conciliation of disputes between States (A/48/33, para. 122). The revised text had done a great deal to narrow earlier differences on the subject.

11. The dramatic changes on the international scene had given the International Court of Justice an increasingly important role to play and consideration should be given to strengthening its operations. Japan attached great importance to the work of the Court and had contributed in 1991 and 1993 to the Trust Fund of the Secretary-General to assist States in resolving their disputes through the International Court of Justice.

12. Miss BOUM (Cameroon) said that there had been a revival of interest in the Special Committee, as evidenced by the growing number of observers participating in its work, a number which exceeded the membership of the Special Committee itself. That trend should be encouraged by simplifying the formalities for States wishing to take part in the Special Committee's work. The requests of those States should be considered as an expression of their legitimate right, as States Members of the United Nations, to participate in the Committee's activities. The procedure for appointing members to the Special Committee should also be reviewed. More democratic selection criteria would ensure a rotation based on equal participation of all the States Members of the Organization.

13. The Special Committee's report (A/48/33) showed that, despite an international climate which favoured a stronger role for the United Nations, there was still no consensus as to specific measures which should be taken in that regard. Rather, a gradual and informal approach seemed to prevail. Such a realistic approach, while not without merit, did not, however, free the Special Committee from its obligation to guide the Organization into the future and help it meet the challenges of a changing world.

14. Her delegation fully supported the draft document on the improvement of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations (A/48/33, para. 28). The participation of regional organizations during the Special Committee's 1993 session had considerably enriched its discussions on that topic. Noteworthy in connection with regional cooperation was the establishment in 1992, under the auspices of the United Nations, of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the subregion to which her country belonged, followed by the adoption in September 1993 of a non-aggression pact by the eleven States of the subregion. Those efforts bore witness to the determination of those States to transform central Africa into a zone of peace, security and solidarity; they formed part of a global mechanism for preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in Africa elaborated at the twenty-ninth summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity.

15. The debate in the Special Committee on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter had been constructive and stimulating, although it had failed to produce any concrete results. The two working papers on that matter (A/48/33, paras. 98 and 99), would most likely be combined into one, and a generally acceptable solution to that important question would certainly be found. Her delegation believed that the system of collective security provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter would be considerably strengthened if States participating in a collective undertaking had the right to assistance from other Member States.

16. Having failed to receive the attention they merited, the proposal submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council in regard to the maintenance of international peace and security (A/48/33, para. 93) and the working paper submitted by Cuba on strengthening of the role of the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancement of its efficiency (A/48/33, para. 90) should be accorded priority at the Special Committee's next session.

17. Mr. ALBIN (Mexico) observed that at the 1993 session of the Special Committee, States with observer status had for the second time outnumbered the members. Moreover, three Latin American States with observer status - Guatemala, Uruguay and Cuba - had submitted important working papers for the Special Committee's consideration.

18. His delegation had continually advocated enlarging the Special Committee and was proud to have been able to help counter reservations and thereby reverse the rule which, during that Committee's first six years of existence, had prevented observers from participating in its work. At its seventh session, at the suggestion of its Chairman, the representative of Mexico, the Special Committee had for the first time granted observer status to States requesting it.

19. His delegation had welcomed the participation of regional organizations at the Special Committee's 1993 session. In that framework, the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) had made a valuable contribution to clarifying legal and political aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and OAS.

20. With regard to the general debate held at the Special Committee's 1993 session, it was unfortunate that the Committee and repeatedly reflected the Organization's most conservative features. For example, paragraph 15 of the Special Committee's report (A/48/33) stated that the "idea was strongly supported that the membership of the Security Council be increased". That was only a very partial representation of the actual tenor of the debate, as evidenced by the very large number of replies by States in response to General Assembly resolution 47/62, which had invited comments on a possible review of the membership of the Security Council. Mexico, whose views on the matter were set forth in document A/48/264, believed that the question of Security Council membership should be considered by political, rather than legal, forums with general membership. It hoped that the General Assembly would establish an open-ended working group on that matter, for it was time to recognize that the issue had long ago moved beyond the limits and mandate of the Special Committee, which had been chaired by the western Group for eight sessions out of a total of eighteen, while Latin American States had held the chairmanship on only two occasions.

21. His delegation welcomed the Russian Federation's draft document on the improvement of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations (A/48/33, para. 28), which had led to dynamic and constructive discussion on that topic in the Special Committee. It hoped that the observations made would be integrated into the next version of the document.

22. It also applauded Cuba for its working paper on strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancement of its efficiency (A/48/33, para. 90). While sharing the views expressed in that paper, his delegation suggested that those issues would be better dealt with in a forum that was larger and more suited to consider such an important matter. Similar considerations applied to the proposal submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council in regard to the maintenance of international peace and security (A/48/33, para. 93).

(Mr. Albin, Mexico)

23. India and Uruguay were to be applauded for their contributions to the working papers on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter (A/48/33, paras. 98 and 99). The recommendation in that connection by Egypt was clear and convincing: potentially affected States should be consulted before sanctions were applied.

24. His delegation appreciated Guatemala's work on the draft United Nations rules for the conciliation of disputes between States (A/48/33, para. 122), a document which was notable for its flexible approach. It had noted with interest the valuable proposal by Sierra Leone concerning the establishment of a dispute settlement service that would be available early in a dispute and was prepared to work on that initiative at the Special Committee's next session.

25. The Secretary-General's proposal that the General Assembly should authorize him to seek advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice had gradually moved from an initially unenthusiastic reception to open debate. The statement by the Legal Counsel to the Sixth Committee during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly had helped greatly to clarify the issue and assuage lingering doubts. Yet, it had not met with any concrete response. France had recently mentioned that the Special Committee was the appropriate forum in which to discuss that issue. Mexico hoped that the draft resolution that emerged from the current debate would reflect that orientation and that the Special Committee would, at its next session, give priority to the points made by the Legal Counsel, which had been overlooked at its 1993 session.

26. Mr. MAMEDJAROV (Azerbaijan) said it was entirely natural that, in the post-cold-war era, there should be growing interest in the work of the Special Committee and more particularly in the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Those organizations were playing an increasing role in peace-keeping operations, but at the same time there had been a sharp rise in the demand for United Nations services in that field. There were many reasons for the current spread of destabilization, including an increase in the number of territorial claims and separatist movements, and in such circumstances regional organizations could provide valuable assistance to the United Nations.

27. The draft document submitted by the Russian Federation on that topic (A/48/33, para. 28) was extremely important. Since regional organizations were an integral part of the collective security system his delegation believed that the final version of the draft document should take into account not only Chapter VIII of the Charter, but also Chapters VI and VII. In that context it was important to draw attention to the ecological and humanitarian aspects of security.

28. In seeking to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization, priority should be given to ensuring that all the provisions of the Charter were implemented. Although Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Charter emphasized that membership in the United Nations was open to all peace-loving States which accepted the obligations contained in the Charter, his delegation noted with regret that certain Member States, including some of its newest Members, were neglecting to implement resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Mr. Mamediarov, Azerbaijan)

29. Armenia had occupied approximately 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory and there were about one million refugees in his country. The social and economic infrastructure of the occupied regions had been destroyed and the Nakhichevan region of Azerbaijan had been besieged for a considerable time. The cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of occupying forces from the occupied regions had been called for in Security Council resolutions and in a statement by the Council's President. However, not only were the Security Council's decisions being ignored, but Armenia was going so far as to continue attacking and occupying Azerbaijani territory at a time when the personal representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe was in the area. That situation demonstrated all too clearly that the most severe sanctions should be applied to Member States which did not comply with the Organization's decisions.

30. In that context, the working papers on assistance to third States affected by the imposition of sanctions (A/48/33, para. 98 and 99) took on special significance. His delegation supported the provision of such assistance and welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Security Council should devise measures to protect States from such hardship (A/RES/47/120 (B)).

31. In conclusion, his delegation considered that the issue of the composition of the Security Council was highly sensitive and its implications were wider than might appear at first glance.

32. Mr. STRAUSS (Canada) said that, with the end of the cold war, the United Nations had truly begun to assume the role envisaged for it in Article 1 of the Charter, namely, to maintain international peace and security and to prevent and remove threats to the peace, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. Unfortunately, however, the end of confrontation between East and West had not brought with it a respite from aggression; rather, the world had witnessed the rebirth of an ethnocentric nationalism which, ironically, sought to rely on the right to self-determination embodied in the Charter even as it shattered regional peace and stability. In that context, the question of the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations could not be more timely. His delegation noted with satisfaction that at the Special Committee's previous session, observers from intergovernmental organizations had, for the first time, been invited to participate in discussions of that issue.

33. As an active member of several such organizations, including the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization of American States (OAS), Canada was acutely aware of the important contributions which regional organizations could make, particularly in the area of conflict avoidance. As the Secretary-General had indicated in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), regional organizations were in an excellent position to defuse potential armed conflicts through confidence-building measures. It was also clear, however, that regional efforts must sometimes be reinforced by universal measures which only the United Nations could adopt. His delegation advocated mutually supportive and flexible arrangements enabling regional organizations and the United Nations to achieve the optimal use of their specific expertise and increasingly scarce resources. Canada invited the Special Committee to develop

/...

(Mr. Strauss, Canada)

a declaration of principles which could promote cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

34. Another issue of growing significance related to the economic difficulties encountered by States in carrying out sanctions imposed by the Security Council. His delegation commended the work already accomplished with regard to the implementation of Article 50 of the Charter. While the creation of a voluntary fund had been suggested by some Member States, Canada believed that the matter required further study and that the Special Committee should develop an approach leading to consensus.

35. His delegation expressed appreciation to Guatemala for having prepared a revised version of the draft United Nations rules for the conciliation of disputes between States. It was to be hoped that the new draft which Guatemala would submit to the Special Committee at its next session could be adopted.

36. Drawing attention to section III of General Assembly resolution 47/120 B, in which the Assembly had decided to keep under examination the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning the International Court of Justice, he reaffirmed his delegation's view that the Sixth Committee should examine those proposals closely, as they could provide useful additional means of dispute settlement. In general, the Sixth Committee should continue to examine all the recommendations contained in "An Agenda for Peace".

37. With regard to the proposed reforms of the Security Council, his delegation emphasized the need for the Council's membership to better reflect current realities, while preserving its cohesion and effectiveness, as well as the need for greater transparency and openness in the Council's work.

AGENDA ITEM 140: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (A/48/267 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/48/225-S/26009, A/48/291-S/26242 and A/48/314-S/26304).

38. Mr. FLEISCHHAUER (Under-Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/48/267 and Corr.1 and Add.1), said that it had been prepared pursuant to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 46/51. Part II of the report, which contained the replies received from Governments pursuant to the requests made by the Assembly in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the aforesaid resolution, showed that, while Member States might differ with regard to the approach to be taken to future work on the item, they unanimously and unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. Part III contained the replies received from international organizations describing the activities which they were carrying out with a view to enhancing public security in their respective spheres of competence. The report also contained an annex indicating the status, as at 22 June 1993, of international conventions relating to various aspects of the problem of international terrorism. In that connection, it should be noted that Antigua and Barbuda had acceded on 19 July 1993 to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, and that Bosnia and Herzegovina had acceded on 1 September 1993 to that Convention and to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.

(Mr. Fleischhauer)

39. Since 1991, when the Committee had last considered the item, two more antiterrorism instruments had entered into force, namely, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf. Furthermore, the number of parties to the various conventions listed in the annex was steadily increasing; that was yet another indication of the international community's resolve to eliminate terrorism.

40. Mr. DEREYMAEKER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the Community endorsed resolution 46/51, in which the Assembly had once again unequivocally condemned, as criminal and unjustifiable, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever and by whomever committed. That resolution had sent a clear and unanimous message, namely, that terrorist violence was unacceptable under all forms and circumstances, regardless of the legitimacy of the political, religious, social or cultural aims sought by the perpetrators.

41. Since the General Assembly's previous discussion of the item in 1991, the hostages held in Lebanon, many of whom had been nationals of Community countries, had been freed. The European Community and its member States expressed their gratitude to the Secretary-General and to his predecessor, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, for their tireless efforts to win freedom for the hostages.

42. Nevertheless, in many parts of the world, tourists, members of non-governmental organizations, staff members of the United Nations and other persons continued to be kidnapped and unjustly deprived of their liberty. The States on whose behalf he spoke demanded that all persons held in violation of the rules of international law be released immediately, unconditionally and in a safe manner.

43. Moreover, there had recently been an alarming resurgence in terrorism throughout the world, characterized by bomb attacks against urban centres, the use of car bombs and political assassinations. Such acts were a cruel reminder that no country or continent and no international organization was safe from terrorist attacks.

44. Terrorist acts not only endangered and destroyed human lives; they also had a destabilizing effect on relations among States. The European Community and its member States reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate with all States in combating the plague of terrorism by constructive means. Unfortunately, terrorist acts were sometimes made possible by the active or passive support of States. It was essential, therefore, that States should refrain from supporting or harbouring terrorist movements or individuals who resorted to terrorism. The Community and its member States once again emphasized the importance which they attached to compliance by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with Security Council resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992), and expressed the hope that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would respond rapidly, and in a satisfactory manner, to the requests made in those resolutions, so that a process leading to the lifting of sanctions could begin.

/...

(Mr. Dereymaeker, Belgium)

45. The best means of combating terrorism was to adopt an approach which avoided generalities and focused on specific terrorist acts. States should continue to strengthen their cooperation through international judicial assistance and exchanges of information, so as to enable Governments to prevent terrorist acts, apprehend the suspected perpetrators and prosecute or extradite them. In the Treaty on European Union, which would enter into force in the near future, police cooperation for the prevention of terrorism was considered to be a matter of common interest.

46. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke welcomed the fact that the number of parties to the international conventions relating to international terrorism was increasing, and supported the appeal made in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 46/51 to all States that had not yet done so to consider becoming party to those instruments.

47. Lastly, the European Community and its member States wished to reaffirm their opposition to the notion of an international conference to define international terrorism, as referred to in paragraph 12 of resolution 46/51.

48. Mr. AHMAD (India) said that his country had lost one prime minister, one former Prime Minister and thousands of innocent civilians as a result of acts of terrorism and was therefore well-placed to stress the urgent need for international action to suppress such criminal practices. It was regrettable that although an item on international terrorism had been on the agenda of the General Assembly for more than 20 years, no comprehensive international convention on the elimination of terrorism had been concluded, for the conventions dealing with specific aspects of international terrorism could not deal adequately with the problem.

49. The nexus between drug traffickers and international terrorists magnified the problem, particularly when they enjoyed the protection and assistance of a State. Indeed, State-sponsored terrorism of any kind was extremely serious. India itself possessed incontrovertible evidence that terrorists in India were receiving assistance from across the border, thus violating human rights and threatening international peace and security. It would be useful to adopt a binding and enforceable convention which would re-emphasize the fact that international law prohibited not only acts of international terrorism but also the encouragement and sponsorship of such acts and the provision of support for overt or covert acts aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of another country.

50. One way to combat international terrorism was for States to share information regarding terrorists and assist each other in arresting, extraditing and prosecuting them. India was involved in a number of initiatives and actions undertaken to that end at the international, regional and bilateral levels.

51. His delegation believed that international cooperation for the protection of human rights could succeed only if it was undertaken in the framework of respect for the sovereignty and integrity of States and of a vigorous global antiterrorist programme. Accordingly, it would consult with the other members

(Mr. Ahmad, India)

of the Committee with a view to drafting an appropriate resolution on the subject.

52. Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil) said that at the current session of the General Assembly there seemed to be a broad consensus on the condemnation of terrorism. Although in certain cases under certain circumstances terrorism might be linked to political and socio-economic conditions, that connection should not be invoked as a justification for actions that were inherently evil.

53. Although his delegation understood why there were calls for a general convention on terrorism, it was not convinced that the time was ripe to take that step. Some progress in combating terrorism had been made by proceeding gradually and it would be more useful to work towards a more complete application of existing instruments and to develop new ones as the need arose. Unity in the fight against terrorism was crucial.

54. Mr. MOTSYK (Ukraine) said that his country unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism and fully endorsed the principles laid down in General Assembly resolution 46/51. In particular, his delegation greatly deplored the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the alleged plot to blow up United Nations Headquarters, as well as the terrorist acts committed almost on a daily basis in South Africa, as a result of which, in July 1993, a number of Ukrainian sailors had lost their lives.

55. His delegation called for the unconditional release of all hostages and, in particular, for the release of a Ukrainian citizen captured by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in 1992. It should also be noted that a number of Ukrainians were still being detained as virtual hostages in the territory of Afghanistan. His Government appealed to the Government of Afghanistan for help in bringing about their release.

56. Since terrorism knew no borders, it was extremely important for the antiterrorism measures taken by individual States to be enhanced through international and regional cooperation.

57. Another important factor in the fight against terrorism was the broadest possible accession by States to the relevant international conventions. Ukraine was a party to most of those conventions, and their provisions were reflected in its legislation. His Government was currently studying the possibility of acceding to the international conventions on terrorism to which it was not yet a party, including the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

58. Ukraine welcomed the inclusion in the Secretary-General's report (A/48/267) of information received from international organizations, as there were gaps in the international legal framework which remained to be filled.

59. His delegation believed that the annual consideration by the General Assembly of the item in question, and the renewal of the mandate of the Ad Hoc

/...

(Mr. Motsyk, Ukraine)

Committee on International Terrorism, would further strengthen the international community's efforts to eradicate terrorism.

60. Mr. HALLAK (Syrian Arab Republic) renewed his country's call for internationally agreed criteria to differentiate clearly between terrorism, which must be condemned and combated, and national struggles against foreign occupation, to which protection and support should be given. His country reiterated its condemnation of all terrorist acts, methods and practices as criminal acts, and called for true cooperation between all States in the framework of international legitimacy with a view to taking the necessary measures to prevent and combat the occurrence of terrorism and eliminate its causes. His country also reiterated its support for the convening, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international conference to define terrorism and differentiate it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation, and to study the underlying causes of terrorism and propose solutions. The cooperation of all States would be required, irrespective of their political regimes, level of development and economic potential. Sound preparation would also be an important factor in the success of such a conference.

61. The Syrian Arab Republic had also welcomed the historic General Assembly resolution 42/159, which took a step forward by expanding and encouraging the establishment of effective cooperation to combat terrorism in the framework of international legitimacy and on the basis of the principles contained in paragraph 14 thereof, which derived from the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation between States. Lastly, he stressed the need to revive the former Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism.

62. Mr. ODEVALL (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, welcomed the recent developments in the Middle East, which demonstrated the advantages of peaceful, diplomatic solutions as opposed to terrorism and violence. Terrorism emanated from many sources and it was important that all States should remember that their primary responsibility was to implement measures that avoided fomenting violence, since the condoning of such acts by State authorities constituted an incitement to terrorism. The Nordic countries fully endorsed the statement made earlier in the meeting by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Community.

63. The Nordic countries had consistently taken a pragmatic approach to the item on international terrorism and therefore opposed the idea of convening an international conference on terrorism, mentioned in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 46/51, since that might give the impression that the existing rules were not sufficient. Acts of terrorism were already punishable under existing national and international rules; the problem was that not all States were prepared to combat terrorism. The most fruitful approach would be to enhance adherence to existing international agreements aimed at preventing international terrorism and applying sanctions against the perpetrators. New instruments along the same specific lines as excising ones could be created. Unfortunately, the political will to implement existing conventions was lacking.

64. Mr. FSADNI (Malta) said that the threat of international terrorism to the entire international community required a collective response from the peoples of the United Nations, who according to the Charter, were "to practice tolerance and live together in peace". Measures taken by individual States to combat terrorism should be enhanced through the increased cooperation of the international community. An important feature of that cooperation was the growth in the number of States parties to the main international conventions dealing with the issue. Malta had acceded to a number of those conventions and its Government would continue its review of the remaining conventions with a view to acceding to them.

AGENDA ITEM 141: PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

65. The CHAIRMAN said that if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Sixth Committee wished to elect Mr. Al-Suwaidi of the United Arab Emirates as Chairman of the Working Group under item 141.

66. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.