

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**  
THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION  
*Official Records\**



COPY:  
DO NOT REMOVE  
FROM ROOM  
L-201 (WRR)

SECOND COMMITTEE  
19th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 20 October 1981  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 71: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

---

\* 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 publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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

81-57226

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.2/36/SR.19  
29 October 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/36/3/Add.2, 12 and 15-18, A/36/8, 16, 19, 25, 116 and Corr.1, A/36/141, 142, 144, 149, 233, 260 and Add.1-2, A/36/333, 356, 380, 418, 421, 452, 466, 470, 475, 497, 528, 531, 566, 567, 571, 572, 573, 590 and 591)

1. Mr. KOENTARSO (Indonesia) said that seven years had elapsed since the World Food Conference recommended a series of steps to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, but mankind was still unable to overcome food shortages or achieve minimal reserves and global food security. In the developing countries record food imports and the rising costs of agricultural inputs were aggravating external food dependency and eroding scarce foreign exchange reserves. At its recent ministerial session the World Food Council had sought to redress that bleak and deteriorating situation. His delegation fully supported its action-oriented approach, which included strengthening and institutionalizing the priority for a more comprehensive national food policy approach to production and consumption, stepped-up development of better food production technologies, a larger flow of resources to the food sector and an improved framework for world food security.

2. The industrialization of the developing countries had long been a key factor in the promotion of their development. It was a cornerstone of the new International Development Strategy and one of the central issues of the North-South negotiations. His delegation was deeply concerned at the very slow growth pace of industrialization in the developing countries. All of UNIDO's programmes had suffered setbacks, thus reflecting the subordinate position accorded to the developing countries in the prevailing world economic order. Redeployment of industry and the transfer of technology should take place on the basis of mutual benefit and should not be exploited as channels for relocating obsolete and polluting manufacturing plants. The process should be consistent with the priorities and socio-economic objectives of the developing countries and help them to gain a greater share of new production capacity. Some progress had, however, been made in the system of consultations, and his delegation hoped that progress could be made in transferring real resources on concessional terms for the development of indigenous industry in the developing countries.

3. His delegation urged all Member States that had not ratified the new constitution of UNIDO, giving it the status of a specialized agency, to do so as soon as possible so that UNIDO's assistance capabilities could be strengthened.

4. The promotion of agricultural and industrial development depended heavily on the application of science and technology to development. The development of indigenous science and technology in the developing countries was recognized as a prerequisite for their development but access to appropriate technology remained a major problem. His delegation was deeply concerned over the failure to achieve a consensus on the financial arrangements for the Interim Fund and the disappointing level of contributions to it, and it urged the international community, particularly the developed countries, to honour their financial commitments so that the technological gap should not be indefinitely perpetuated.

(Mr. Koentarso, Indonesia)

5. His delegation endorsed the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and trusted that the international community would implement it promptly. While it did not contain unequivocal commitments for the transfer of real resources within a given period, it did represent a new political response by the international community to the plight of the least developed countries. Its implementation would give the least developed countries a realistic hope of beginning the journey towards self-sustained development, an achievement which would signal a new era of enlightened co-operation and hope for all mankind.

6. His delegation hoped that the proposed special session of the Governing Council of UNEP to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment would generate a new and adequate approach to long-term environmental concerns and lead to the design of appropriate measures to enhance the ecosystem.

7. The adoption at the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy of the Nairobi Plan of Action augured well for international co-operation in energy and heralded the beginning of a global approach to the transition from conventional fossil fuels to new and renewable sources of energy. His delegation hoped that at its thirty-seventh session the General Assembly could resolve the outstanding problems of institutional mechanisms and financial arrangements.

8. Mr. BAGBENI (Zaire) said that through the new International Development Strategy the entire international community had committed itself to international co-operation for development. In recent years, however, existing international economic relations had not been such as to promote such international co-operation, given the unsatisfactory nature of the existing economic system and structures and the inequities and imbalances they engendered. Consequently, the goals and objectives of previous development strategies had in many cases not been achieved. At the mid-point of the Second Development Decade, the international community had called for a fundamental restructuring of international economic relations with a view to the establishment of a new and just international economic order, but no tangible progress had been made by the end of that Decade.

9. The Third Development Decade should be devoted to the accelerated development of the developing countries and to laying the foundations for a new international economic order. Those objectives presupposed not only profound structural changes in the world economy but a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity and resources among nations. The developing countries, for their part, realized that in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the Strategy, they would have to establish their own growth targets and mobilize all their resources with a view to attaining an average annual growth rate of GDP of 7 per cent during the Decade. His delegation believed that the international community, and particularly the developed countries, also bore a heavy responsibility for the realization of the Third Development Decade's objectives. Much more vigorous efforts would have to be made during the 1980s by all Member States if the new Strategy was to achieve its stated aim of more dynamic international co-operation.

/...

(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

10. The 7 per cent growth target for developing countries could not be achieved, however, unless their exports and their imports of goods and services increased at average annual rates of at least 7.5 and 8 per cent, respectively. That, in turn, demanded that developing countries must participate on an equitable basis in international trade relations. Improved access of their products to markets, supported through special preferences and the absence of protectionism were key elements in that process. In that connexion, his delegation supported the reopening of the GATT negotiations on agricultural commodities. In their trade policies, the industrialized countries must take account of the industrialization and development targets of the developing countries.

11. The success of the International Development Strategy would also require concerted efforts at the regional and international levels. If production in developing countries is to be increased, the growth rate of investment in those countries needed to be equivalent to about 28 per cent of their gross domestic product; both developing and developed countries should therefore fully mobilize their financial resources. In that connexion, his delegation had taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment of a world development fund (A/36/572). The Brandt Commission had concluded that there was a good case for creating a new institution for channelling a significant proportion of resources to developing countries, since existing multilateral financial institutions clearly could not provide an adequate mechanism for transferring needed resources without prejudice to their traditional roles. His delegation believed that, while the IMF and the World Bank should retain their traditional roles, the establishment of a world development fund would effectively complement their efforts. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the matter should be considered by an intergovernmental group of experts which would submit more specific proposals at the following session of the General Assembly.

12. His delegation was deeply concerned by the lack of progress towards the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The provisions of the Charter were a significant contribution to the progressive development of principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order. In his delegation's opinion, the Secretary-General should report periodically to the Committee on progress in the implementation of the Charter.

13. Referring to document A/36/466 on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, he said that the Executive Director of UNIDO should take a much more pragmatic approach to formulating a programme of action in pursuance of the Lagos Plan of Action. His contacts with African States, the Executive Secretary of ECA, other organizations and bodies within the United Nations system and the Secretary-General of OAU should take place as soon as possible in order to facilitate the drafting of a programme for possible financing by the General Assembly. The administrative problems could for the moment be dealt with by the rational use of existing UNIDO staff.

/...



(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

14. Resolution 35/69 on the food and agricultural situation in Africa raised serious problems in connexion with monitoring the implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa. His delegation believed that a resolution should be adopted inviting the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of OAU to agree on a joint approach to the implementation of that Plan within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action.
15. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, he said that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should continue to be responsible for establishing, under the direction of the Secretary-General, policy-related guidelines for all activities undertaken by United Nations services and organs in the economic and social fields in order to ensure their coherence, co-ordination and efficient management, and for general oversight of proposals made at the secretariat level in the economic and social fields.
16. In conclusion, he said that it was imperative to launch global negotiations in the spirit of the relevant General Assembly resolution, irrespective of the conclusions of the Cancún summit meeting.
17. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that the fact that all countries had been affected to some degree by the existing difficulties of the world economy clearly demonstrated the interdependence of nations in contemporary economic relations. The international community should concentrate on surmounting those difficulties so as to bring about rapid and stable growth in the world economy. It was a matter of the utmost urgency for the developing countries because only if there was economic growth could they provide employment, education, health, nutrition and housing for their populations.
18. It was his delegation's belief that the current economic system was capable of weathering the crisis provided that all countries took appropriate measures to bring about the needed adjustment. Such measures had to be both national and international, but the primary development effort had to be made at the national level, with the support of international measures. The purpose of the two types of measures was the same - to bring about a sound world economy - and they should be taken simultaneously. His delegation did not accept the argument occasionally put forward to the effect that countries must put their own houses in order before international measures were adopted. National measures, after all, were designed to correct internal distortions and adapt the structure of domestic production to the conditions prevailing on the changing world economic scene. Such measures were painful but, if applied consistently, produced results promptly.
19. It was true that the adoption of internal adjustment policies by countries which carried significant weight within the world economy was having a transient adverse impact on the weakest economies. International measures must be adopted to prevent the burden of the adjustment from falling unfairly on those more vulnerable economies. It was a time for intensifying international co-operation in every sphere. The most important international measure required was the achievement of the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for development assistance to the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. In that connexion, his delegation had been gratified to learn that the European Economic Community had reaffirmed its commitment to that target. Like earlier speakers, he regretted the inadequacy of the efforts being made in that regard by the Eastern European countries, particularly in

/...

(Mr. Bazan, Chile)

view of the fact that so much of their assistance was normally provided on a bilateral basis.

20. New impetus should be given to certain international co-operation programmes, particularly those which had been agreed on recently. For example, the financing system for science and technology for development should be made operational in accordance with the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the subject. Equally deserving of emphasis was the comprehensive programme of horizontal co-operation among developing countries produced by the recent High-Level Conference on that subject.

21. Another necessary international measure related to revising the practices governing international economic relations in order to permit the world economy to adapt to changing circumstances. The global negotiations should accordingly be directed towards finding mechanisms which would enable the international economic system to function effectively. Immediate action should be taken to make international trade and markets flexible enough to allow full use to be made of the developing countries' comparative advantage. The international system must be adapted to the new circumstances so that market forces could operate without distortion. To that end, the developed countries must be prepared to remove barriers which nullified or reduced the comparative advantage enjoyed by the developing countries and thereby impaired the effectiveness of the entire international economic system.

22. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that the Group of 77 attached particular importance to the item under consideration and his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the Chairman of that Group on the item.

23. One of the matters which were of particular concern to his delegation was the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/36/144). The detailed study being made of the financing of the Plan of Action must not be used by countries which were in a position to provide financing as an excuse for not participating in the emergency projects. The time for studying and programming was past; financial and technological resources were needed immediately to implement the projects which had been prepared. The international community must realize that it was dealing not with data but with the lives of millions of people whose economic and social situation was deteriorating daily. There was no certainty that those people would still have enough land in one year or even one month to sustain them; they could well be forced to abandon the land and become completely destitute. He urged all States and international organizations to strive to alleviate the problem in the Sudano-Sahelian region by providing emergency assistance to implement the projects. Since his delegation had not had time to consider the report of the Secretary-General on additional measures for financing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/36/141), it reserved the right to speak on it at some future date.

24. Food and agriculture was an issue which affected the whole of mankind. The world food situation was deteriorating owing to unjust measures adopted by certain developed countries vis-à-vis the developing countries, to the failure to reach agreement on a new Wheat Agreement and to the absence of a single agency responsible for providing food-stuffs to countries affected by a shortfall in food production. Although the

(Mr. Ould Sid'Ahmed, Mauritania)

world food situation had been under consideration by the international community for a number of years, hunger was still rampant in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, and was on the rise. Mauritania was one of the countries in which the situation was acute, despite the Government's strenuous efforts to develop the rural sector. The assistance provided by the international community only partially alleviated the problem. Notwithstanding recent improvements in the rural sector, the outlook in his country was not promising, inasmuch as there had been little real improvement in production since 1979. In fact, the survival of the rural population - which constituted nine-tenths of the entire population - was at stake and 25 per cent of the rural population had already been forced to abandon the land for the cities, thus upsetting traditional patterns of life. The Government had two aims: to provide food for the affected population - in that connexion, it attached particular importance to the FAO Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security - and to replace obsolete structures by new methods of integrated rural development. The Government was conscious also of the need for the Sudano-Sahelian countries to devise a united policy and for a new approach to their development problems.

25. The report of the Secretary-General on food problems (A/36/149) was not what his delegation had hoped for. Moreover, his delegation could not accept the criticism it levelled against African countries in stating that they had not given sufficient priority to agricultural and food projects. His delegation would welcome a report which suggested practical ways of solving the food problem in Africa and implementing the Lagos Plan of Action on that subject. His delegation had noted with concern the statement in paragraph 18 that the five projects which ECA had submitted for financing to the United Nations Development Programme had been turned down. He hoped that that would not constitute a precedent since those projects were based on some of the priorities of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was high time for words to give way to action. Urgent steps were needed to renew the Food Aid Convention at a 10 million ton level; in fact, the food aid target should be raised to 18 million tons by the mid-1980s. The new Food Aid Convention must cover at least a three-year period and the commitment to the international emergency food reserve proposed at the seventh special session of the General Assembly should be converted into a binding convention. Furthermore, the International Fund for Agricultural Development must be provided with financing commensurate with the scale of the problem.

26. His delegation had not had time to study the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning an integrated food plan and hoped that that plan would be given the attention it deserved at the forthcoming twenty-first session of FAO in Rome.

AGENDA ITEM 71: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued):

(b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

27. The CHAIRMAN announced that India had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.10.

The meeting rose at 12 noon