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*President:* Mr. Ismat T. KITTANI (Iraq).

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**  
**(*continued*):\***

**(a) Report of the General Committee**

**THIRD REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**  
**(A/36/250/ADD.2)**

1. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of the third report of the General Committee, the General Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea" and its allocation to the Special Political Committee. May I consider that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided (see para. 3 below).*

2. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 2 (a) and (b) of the same report, the General Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Equitable representation in the International Law Commission and enlargement of its composition" and its consideration directly in plenary meeting before subitem (f) of item 17, which concerns the elections of the members of the Commission, is taken up. May I take it that the General Assembly also approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided (see para. 3 below).*

3. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of the report, the General Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "New international humanitarian order" and its allocation to the Third Committee. I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation as well.

*It was so decided (decision 36/402).*

4. The PRESIDENT: The Main Committees concerned will be informed of the decisions just taken.

5. I now call on the representative of Israel, who has asked to make a statement at this point.

6. Mr. GAN (Israel): I wish to register my delegation's objections to the inclusion of the item proposed in document A/36/243 in the agenda of the General Assembly, for the reasons set out in our statement during the 4th meeting of the General Committee on 3 November.

**AGENDA ITEM 37**

**Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development**

7. The PRESIDENT: I should like at this point to recall to the Assembly part of a statement I made at the conclusion of the general debate in this hall on 12 October last. It reads as follows:

"I hope I may be forgiven if I refer to one particular item on our agenda that was handed to us by the thirty-fifth session, namely, item 37, entitled 'Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development'. This has been one of the items in which Member States have shown the widest interest and consensus. A very large number of those countries that have participated in the debate have referred specifically to it and expressed their aspirations and hope that it would be possible during the current session to adopt a decision on the launching of these negotiations. I wish to associate myself, like my predecessor, with these aspirations and to express my sincere hope that this objective will be realized" [33rd meeting, para. 430].

8. Since that date I have certainly spent more time on this item in private consultations than on all other items combined. I intend to do everything in my power as President to search for a consensus on this most important item.

9. Before we hear the first speaker, I should like to propose that the list of speakers be closed tomorrow, 5 November, at 11 a.m. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to that proposal.

*It was so decided.*

10. Mr. BEDJAOUI (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 on agenda item 37. We are here once again to confer on the most effective and practical way to launch global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development.

11. We do not wish to dwell at length on lost opportunities. Let us just recall that our meeting today is the result of a consensus and that the great hopes placed in it are what give it all its significance and scope. Thus, it is for us here and now to follow up with constructive and fruitful action the common, solemn commitment made by all to work towards the new international economic order.

\* Resumed from the 40th meeting.

12. The process of launching global negotiations has already involved much sustained effort and given rise to much debate. It is now ripe for action and it remains to be seen whether there exists equal determination among all partners to achieve the objective and whether they all have the same understanding of its outline and its scope.

13. For 20 years, international economic co-operation has meant disenchantment. The extraordinary changes the world has undergone can no longer be obscured. Decolonization and the emergence of the third world are the salient features of the post-war era. It is because the system of international relations is based on outmoded geopolitics which take insufficient account of those two fundamental elements that it is deadlocked today.

14. That is the heart of the problem. The emergence of the overwhelming majority of the nations of the world, with their aspirations and their development needs, inevitably called for a revision of the inadequate structures and obsolete rules of operation of a system which, it must be said, has shown itself to be incapable of forging the instruments essential to peace, prosperity and development for all.

15. The blackspots of absolute poverty are spreading their shadow over the map of the world. Hunger and malnutrition are the daily lot of hundreds of millions of children, women and men, while billions of dollars are swallowed up annually in arms expenditure in the service of war and death.

16. Hidden forces, well known to their victims, manipulate what are conveniently called the international commodity markets. A fine illustration of the magic of the market-place is that these fluctuations in the prices of products, the export of which is the source of vital resources for so many developing countries, cause those countries to be drawn willy-nilly into the unending spiral of indebtedness.

17. The international monetary system is one of the most worrying examples of disorder enshrined in law. It is a sign of the dominance in this sphere of the logic of the irrational.

18. International economic co-operation has not eased our concern. There can be no peace while two thirds of mankind are living in marginal conditions because of the present international economic system. This important fact has brought about greater awareness in the North as in the South. But destiny seems to be going round in circles. It is very rare for an encouraging sign to be seen without its containing within itself the obverse, which is hostility to progress. Today more than ever the North-South dialogue is at a crossroads. At stake is nothing less than the gestation of a new world based on the right of all to progress; it is the very prospect of peace, in its dynamic, intimate correlation with development.

19. The Group of 77, the collective conscience and memory of the developing world, reaffirms here once again its confidence in the virtues of dialogue on a basis of equality. It remains available and ready to achieve that purpose. It firmly believes that such a dialogue must replace dogmatism and injunctions.

20. After the long series of failures and frustrations which have marked the last quarter of a century, the initiative of the developing countries on global negotiations draws its strength and its coherence from the lessons

drawn from past experience. It is all the more justified since the number and the isolation of the decision-making centres have, to varying degrees, affected international negotiations and led to their lack of success.

21. In adopting by consensus resolution 34/138 of 14 December 1979 on global negotiations relating to international economic co-operation for development, the General Assembly affirmed, first, the need for global dialogue open to all countries on the basis of equality, which should focus on the major spheres of international economic relations—raw materials, trade, development, energy and monetary and financial questions, and, secondly, the need for an integrated and simultaneous approach to the full range of questions through negotiations at which these questions would be considered in terms of their interrelationship.

22. Two years after having received the approval of the international community, the initiative on global negotiations is more relevant, vital and timely than ever because it embodies the idea of the will to build a future together, because it offers a coherent response to the growing complexity of international economic relations, and because it draws its support from mutual interest, solidarity and interdependence.

23. This is the place for the Group of 77 to state its firm support for the launching of the global negotiations within the context agreed to by all, which is that of resolution 34/138. From that standpoint, and in order to preserve the fundamental characteristics of the global negotiations, four essential considerations must be borne in mind.

24. First, there is a fundamental need for a world dialogue, open to all countries on the basis of equality, which would make democracy on the one hand a fundamental principle for the consideration of questions and the taking of decisions and on the other the foundation of the institutional framework for international economic relations.

25. Secondly, the General Assembly remains both the primary authority and the central body with regard to decision-making, to direction, to the provision of impetus and to co-ordination at all stages of negotiations. In this role the Assembly is not compatible with any fragmentation of the negotiations or of the decision-making system.

26. Thirdly, the negotiations form part of the dynamic perspective of the establishment of the new international economic order. It would, therefore, be contrary to the nature of the negotiations and to their essence to remove from their sphere of competence the essential questions of the reconstruction of the world economy and the reshaping of the institutional framework of international economic relations.

27. Fourthly, the integrity and the unity of the elements making up resolution 34/138 make it necessary for us to deal, with an equal degree of care and in their obvious interrelationship, with the five major areas identified in that resolution. Such an approach has the advantage of taking into account and expressing the synthesis of the interests of all and of thereby strengthening the basis for supporting the launching of global negotiations.

28. These are the *raison d'être*, the main features and the essential purpose of global negotiations. The overall nature of the action, the universality of participation, the

universality of the decision-making element, and the integrated and simultaneous treatment of the problems are an expression of this significant and common ambition to make the Assembly an effective agent for peace through the promotion of real economic co-operation.

29. It is essential today that global awareness of the crises is naturally followed by considered and fruitful collective action. We must all seek the most effective and most practical formulas for launching as soon as possible the process to which I have referred, in order to avoid involvement in new and useless debates. Dialogue can have meaning only when it ceases to be an end in itself and becomes something that is based upon a daring perception and the sincere will to negotiate. The chance for co-operation, which is in the last analysis the chance for peace itself, can be had only at this price.

30. Mr. WYZNER (Poland): On behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, the Ukrainian SSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland I have the honour to make the following statement.

31. The socialist States have always regarded with understanding and great sympathy the aspirations of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to overcome their economic backwardness, to exercise sovereign rights over their natural resources and economic potential, and to eliminate poverty, hunger and disease from the lives of their peoples. We also share their conviction that in order to achieve these goals it is imperative for them to pursue consistently the process of eliminating colonialism and neo-colonialism in the economic field.

32. It is only natural therefore that the socialist countries have taken an active part in the process of formulating, within the framework of the United Nations, new political approaches to the problems of economic relations among States by restructuring those relations on the principles of equality and democracy. We have supported the basic orientation of such fundamental documents as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States [*resolution 3281 (XXIX)*] and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order [*resolution 3201 (S-VI)*], viewing them as milestones in the efforts to establish a new, just and democratic economic order. Such a new order is indispensable from the point of view of the developing countries. Its establishment also coincides with the interest of the socialist countries and the interest of peaceful economic relations between all States in the world.

33. Thus, proceeding from the assumption that the aim of the global negotiations is to promote the restructuring of international economic relations, the socialist countries, on whose behalf I am making this statement, have supported in principle both the idea of launching the global negotiations and the broad outline of their agenda. We have also been willing to participate in the consensus on the procedure of those negotiations.

34. The situation as it obtains in the United Nations with respect to the global negotiations is the result, may we repeat, mainly of the unwillingness of certain imperialist circles to give up their positions and of their desire to continue to keep the developing countries in a state of dependence. If such a situation persists, there will hardly be a plausible reason for optimism with regard to the realization of the global negotiations.

35. Nevertheless, the delegations of the socialist countries express their hope that the thirty-sixth session will make a substantial contribution to the application of the earlier decisions of the General Assembly concerning the democratic restructuring of international economic relations, ensuring progress in the field of equitable international economic co-operation. We are confident that the thirty-sixth session will thus create better conditions for the acceleration of the economic and social development of the developing countries. We also reiterate our invariable position that a practical solution of the problem of world development, including the economic development of the developing countries, cannot be divorced from solving the most pressing question which confronts mankind today—that is, averting the threat of nuclear war—and is closely linked with ensuring effective measures of real disarmament.

36. We shall continue to co-operate with all the countries which show genuine interest in solving those complex matters to the benefit of all nations.

37. Mr. ANDERSON (Australia): My Government regards item 37 on the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development as pre-eminent among the subjects to be addressed at the current session of the General Assembly. To say that is not to belittle the importance of other issues. Nevertheless, the Australian Government is convinced that in terms of issues of relevance to the future, the present generation of leaders will ultimately be judged very largely in terms of their success or failure in reconciling the interests of the rich and the poor countries.

38. This plenary meeting of the Assembly is timely. We are conferring shortly after the International Meeting on Co-operation and Development, held at Cancún on 22 and 23 October, at which leaders of 22 Governments, of developed and developing countries, committed themselves to co-operation for development.

39. Australia was not a participant at the Cancún meeting, but the results were welcome to us. We see that meeting as a further move away from the division between North and South. We see it as paving the way for greater understanding between developed and developing countries. We see it as sustaining international momentum for international action to solve the pressing problems of developing countries.

40. Let me not exaggerate. There were some important areas in which there were differences of approach at Cancún. Those differences were not resolved. Nor was that expected. The Cancún meeting was never conceived as a negotiating conference. Nevertheless, it is true to say that world leaders are now agreed to a unique degree on the need for a sustained attack on the problems of underdevelopment and endemic poverty which have for so long bedevilled relationships between North and South.

41. Let me also invite the Assembly's attention to the unanimous call for progress in the North-South dialogue which was manifested at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held at Melbourne from 30 September to 7 October. That meeting was a milestone in relations between developed and developing countries. We believe that the determination and the will evident at Melbourne helped infuse Cancún with the same spirit of co-operation.

42. The 41 Commonwealth Heads of State and Government meeting at Melbourne issued a very important statement of political intent in the form of the Melbourne Declaration [see A/36/587, annex], in which the Commonwealth leaders called for a revitalization of the dialogue between developed and developing countries and declared that the dialogue must be infused with a genuine willingness to accept real and significant change commensurate with the urgency of the problem that the world confronts.

43. The Commonwealth leaders called for new ways of thinking and for a breaking down of inhibitions and habits that have thwarted progress in the past. They stressed the need for the requisite political will. They called attention to the fact that this demanded a commitment and an involvement. They recognized that full involvement at the political level was a concomitant to translating political will into political action.

44. The Melbourne Declaration is a document which Australia believes will come to occupy a place of importance in efforts to create a more just and effective international order. It does not itself deal with specific issues; in this sense it needs to be read alongside the economic paragraphs of the Final Communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government [*ibid.*]. In that communiqué, the Heads of Government strongly reaffirmed their opposition to protectionism in all its forms and their support for the establishment of an energy affiliate of the World Bank and for proposals for improved food security, including through increased food aid and increased assistance for agricultural development. This list is by no means exhaustive. Commonwealth leaders addressed the full range of issues in the North-South debate and I would commend the document to the close attention of the Assembly.

45. On the specific matter of global negotiations, all Commonwealth leaders resolved to make every effort to remove obstacles to an early start to the global round, while voicing hope for an unequivocal reaffirmation at Cancún of the commitment to global negotiations. The clarity and purpose of that message are obvious. It was a message carried by the seven Commonwealth leaders who later went on to Cancún.

46. We have studied very carefully the language on global negotiations found in the Summary issued by the Co-Chairmen at the conclusion of the Cancún meeting [A/36/631 and Corr.1]. Again, it would be a mistake to exaggerate. The formulation emerging from Cancún leaves many differences unresolved. There can be no doubt, however, of the view of the international community at large. The world community is looking both to the Cancún participants and to others concerned to do their utmost to build the consensus needed to ensure that global negotiations are launched as soon as possible within an acceptable framework.

47. This may not be easy. There is a need to ensure the widest participation, necessarily including the full involvement of the United States of America. In this regard we welcome the willingness of President Reagan at Cancún to set out his Government's approach and to seek a basis for agreement. Developing countries also showed flexibility, and we need to build on the willingness shown by both sides. However, there are real difficulties and concerns which will have to be overcome if we are to achieve a consensus. It is our belief that with the requisite will on all sides the remaining obstacles to launching global negotiations can be surmounted. At this stage we

should be focusing attention more on areas of agreement than on those of disagreement.

48. The immediate issue is how best to settle the ground rules which would permit the launching of the global round. In the Australian view, the issues to be addressed in the global round are interrelated, affecting as they do the interests of all members of the international community. There thus seems no realistic alternative to addressing them in the first instance here in the United Nations, an organization which has universal participation. We see no need for a new institution to be established for this purpose. We believe that the General Assembly itself can perform the task, perhaps meeting as a committee of the whole. We must then ensure, however, that the issues are expeditiously put to detailed negotiations wherever possible in the specialized bodies which have the necessary competence and experience to perform this task effectively. Thereafter, we shall need to take stock in the United Nations of the results achieved.

49. The rights and competence of the specialized bodies must be respected. But we must also recognize that the Charter of the United Nations has given a role to the General Assembly, and it seems to us that some form of final consideration of the outcome of global negotiations will be needed. The relationship agreements with the agencies are apposite.

50. As for the agenda, this should reflect priorities and the major issues of concern to Governments of nations at all stages of development. Earlier agenda proposals should be carefully reviewed. It may be that in the present world situation we would not have the same difficulty as we had in 1980 in agreeing on a way of putting energy and finance on the agenda. In particular, the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Nairobi from 10 to 21 August 1981, may have laid the ground for a wider energy discussion in the United Nations. On monetary issues, not only has significant progress been achieved in the recent past, but there is now a greater sensitivity to the constraints involved.

51. What are the immediate steps which might permit a resumption of the preparatory process? It is our view that progress at the present session of the Assembly might be furthered through the establishment of an open-ended contact group which would permit all interested countries to participate. We see such a contact group meeting concurrently with the Second Committee. There might also be a need at an appropriate point to consider—in tandem, as it were—the informal device of the “group of friends” of the President, which my delegation certainly found most helpful in the past. This might focus on and help devise solutions to the more important or intractable problems.

52. In any event, it is apparent that flexibility will be required on all sides if the resumed negotiations are to produce a result. Australia's appeal in this regard would be that we try to capture here in New York the spirit which characterized the Commonwealth meeting at Melbourne and the Cancún meeting and which allowed, at both Cancún and Melbourne, a free-flowing discussion and exchange of views between developed and developing countries. At neither of these meetings were the participants ranged along confrontational lines. The result in each case was a notable consensus.

53. What we are talking about is the advantage for all sides of maintaining the tone of the recent dialogue. We

do not want to see a return to the negotiating style of 1980, with the various groups confronting each other in a rigid and ultimately sterile way. Instead, let us build on the lessons of Cancún and Melbourne by avoiding inflexibility, eschewing polarized approaches and attitudes, and searching out common ground and lines of approach which permit steady progress towards our mutually agreed objectives.

54. Mr. THUNBORG (Sweden): On the eve of this, the thirty-sixth session, Mr. President, we received the report of your predecessor,<sup>1</sup> who had pursued since last year his efforts to achieve a consensus on launching a simultaneous, comprehensive and integrated approach to economic co-operation and development in the form of global negotiations on the basis of General Assembly resolution 34/138, adopted by consensus in 1979.

55. The future of development co-operation and the reactivation of the world economy are two issues that are linked. We all suffer from the present stagnation in the world economy and we would all stand to gain from economic reactivation, from a vitalizing injection in the world economy. Increased efforts and further measures to promote development in the developing countries would also create increased demand in industrialized countries and reduce unemployment. Conversely, increased economic activity in developed countries would result in increased demand for products from developing countries and would increase their purchasing power.

56. In a general sense, interdependence, which is now generally recognized as one of the dominating features of today's world, reflects the web of linkages between all countries. This in turn is reflected in the increasing complexity of the world economy. It is a matter of interrelationship over the whole spectrum of development levels, both between and within economic and geographic areas, as well as between different issues and policies.

57. At the same time, we have to recognize that interdependence today is sometimes asymmetric. The capacity to participate in and draw benefits from international economic relations varies. The less developed countries generally have less opportunity in these respects. These differences require that a variety of policy measures are taken to meet varying needs and to promote greater equality of opportunities as well as improved participation in the international economic interplay.

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

58. The common interest and mutual benefit underlying the decision of the General Assembly to begin the preparatory process for global negotiations are no less valid today than when the process was started two years ago. The areas identified at that stage as requiring action are still the most relevant ones.

59. First, millions of human beings are dying of hunger and malnutrition in today's world and the average protein intake of the poorest has in many places tended to go down. We must accomplish a rapid, substantial and durable increase of food production. Food production in the developing countries themselves must of course be the basis for this. In many cases, their population policies will also be relevant. However, the international community has a human and moral obligation to provide long-term resources for their development, as well as more immediate emergency assistance.

60. Secondly, long-term development for the developing countries will require increasing energy resources. We must therefore formulate a sustainable energy policy as the world now seems to have passed the peak of the petroleum era. We must work together to find new energy resources and to distribute and manage available energy better.

61. Thirdly, we must make use to the benefit of all of the advantage that lies in an effective distribution of labour among States, which calls for free trade. We must resist protectionism and strengthen the rules which protect free trade and increase the international distribution of work. This means that we will become increasingly interdependent, but we will also be able to contribute substantially to each other's development and well-being.

62. Fourthly, we must also ensure that the international financial system functions so as to reactivate the world economy and development. Available resources are enormous. This also applies to investment needs. We have to develop better mechanisms and methods to channel resources to where need exists. For the poorest countries, which attract only limited amounts of investment and where there is little foreign trade, assistance for survival and development is vital.

63. One conclusion that must be drawn from this increased interdependence among all countries is that we must consult and co-operate more than we have hitherto. We must make full use of the instruments we have created for this purpose: the United Nations and its development institutions, the World Bank, IMF, GATT, UNCTAD, FAO and the other specialized agencies. They are instruments that we have ourselves jointly developed and we must make effective use of them.

64. We have all heard the reports from the meeting of Heads of State and Government that took place recently at Cancún. My Government participated in that meeting and we think that the exchange that took place, with the warm hospitality of the Mexican Government and under the able guidance of the President of Mexico and the Prime Minister of Canada, served a useful purpose. Seldom have world leaders been afforded an opportunity to focus in such circumstances on issues of such crucial importance for our future: the continued development of the developing countries and the reactivation of the world economy.

65. While it was made clear at the outset that the meeting was not intended to lead to detailed and technical decisions, we hope that it will prove to have revitalized the process towards global negotiations. In our view, the deliberations at Cancún confirmed what we had already recognized, namely, the need to involve different international bodies in negotiations. The proposals for a global round of negotiations aim precisely at such negotiations, initiated by a phase of overview and guidance and concluded by a phase of compilation and assessment of results. The wish for these introductory and concluding phases of overview, during which attention can be paid to different issues and their interrelationships, is natural if a comprehensive and integrated approach to such negotiations is seen as desirable.

66. At the same time, it might be possible for simultaneous, integrated and comprehensive negotiations to be carried out in the different forums of the United Nations system, to be followed by an appropriate arrangement for overview. It might, however, be overzealous to try to establish before substantive negotiations have been initiated.

exactly what to do with the result that we trust will be achieved in the course of the negotiating process itself. We should not let the best become the enemy of the good, but realize that our task is not made simpler by being postponed. Since the beginning, my Government has supported the proposals for global negotiations. We are still in favour of such negotiations. We would prefer to deal with substance rather than with procedures. We hope that we shall now turn to these matters of substance and seek solutions in the spirit of common interest and mutual benefit.

67. Mr. KLESTIL (Austria): For more than two years, the modalities for the launching of global negotiations have been the subject of extensive and arduous consultation and debate. Although these efforts have contributed to a better understanding of the issues involved, final agreement has eluded us.

68. My delegation has already had ample opportunity to reiterate Austria's commitment to global negotiations, which in our view could provide the opportunity to effect a significant improvement in the functioning of the international economic system and further the development of developing countries. Our support for this initiative is based on the conviction that the growing interdependence of countries on different levels of economic development and the existing linkages among many of the issues proposed for negotiation make necessary a broader and more integrated framework for an action-oriented dialogue.

69. At the same time, we realize that the problems related to global negotiations are manifold and extremely complex. They can only be dealt with successfully if the interests of all countries are given due consideration, for only a mutually acceptable process of global negotiations offers the prospect of concrete and substantive results.

70. We are gratified that after two years of continuous efforts to launch global negotiations it now seems that we have arrived at the point where a fresh and flexible approach offers the prospect of a genuine meeting of minds. The fact that the leaders of 22 developed and developing countries recently met at Cancún at a time of deep economic crisis and increasing political instability and tension in many regions of the world testifies to the importance attached to the search for viable solutions in the field of economic co-operation and development. The grave problems of developing countries—hunger, malnutrition, acute poverty, serious balance-of-payments and debt problems, compounded by continuing recession, growing unemployment and high inflation rates in industrialized countries—can no longer be looked at in an isolated and selective fashion.

71. Interdependence is a reality and was recognized as such at the Cancún meeting, which also underlined the imperative need for international consultation and concerted action. This meeting also confirmed the desirability of supporting at the United Nations, with a sense of urgency, a consensus on launching global negotiations on a basis to be mutually agreed upon and in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress. Austria, as one of the initiators of the Cancún meeting, greatly welcomes this agreement, which has received world-wide attention and constitutes a source of optimism and inspiration as well as a responsibility—a responsibility which compels us here at the United Nations to translate the expression of political will to embark on a meaningful dialogue into concrete and positive action. I am aware that this task is an extremely difficult one. But it

may well be a unique chance and opportunity for this Organization to demonstrate its ability to serve as the major international forum for global North-South co-operation.

72. It is our hope that in the course of consultations following this debate we shall be able to agree on the scope, the priorities and the working methods for global negotiations. However, we should avoid getting bogged down once again in a futile search for detailed and specific guidelines for every stage of the negotiations. What is essential at this stage is to arrive at a consensus on the basic elements for an ambitious but, at the same time, realistic process of negotiations.

73. No elaborate and extensive new institutional machinery is needed to launch global negotiations next year. The existing institutional framework of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, provides the necessary basis for devising a comprehensive policy for development and economic co-operation.

74. In conclusion, I wish to refer to the message addressed by Chancellor Bruno Kreisky to the participants in the North-South meeting, in which he expressed the belief that we might have reached a watershed in the history of the North-South relationship. He added:

“Let us seize this unique opportunity, let us meet the expectations of nations in the South and in the North and let us begin a new chapter in our relationship. For only a courageous and imaginative new approach to our common problems will allow us to overcome the present global crisis.”

75. Mr. ÅLGÅRD (Norway): This session might prove to be decisive for the fate of the global negotiations. The Norwegian position with regard to these negotiations is unchanged. On this occasion I shall, however, emphasize briefly once more some positions of principle.

76. Our common starting-point is resolution 34/138 which provides a basis for the negotiations from which we should not depart. This implies, *inter alia*, that the negotiations should take place within the United Nations system and be open to universal participation. An equally important prerequisite is that the negotiations encompass all the five major subject-areas mentioned in the resolution and that all efforts be made to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to the issues under negotiation.

77. For a very long time—in fact, for two whole years—we have wrestled with the preparations for these negotiations. Although we have not yet agreed on all points with regard to agenda and procedures, substantial common ground has been established, most recently through the consultations led by the preceding President of the General Assembly, Mr. von Wechmar. On the basis of the momentum of Cancún, as reported in the two Co-Chairmen's Summary, and with further flexibility by all parties involved, it should, in our opinion, now be possible to solve the remaining problems. In this context it seems important that further efforts to reach agreement be based on common positions already established *ad referendum*, so as not to have to start from scratch.

78. Preparations for the global negotiations have been going on for much longer than foreseen. As long as these preparations continue, they tend to have a dampening effect on North-South negotiations in other forums. This is

regrettable, but it is easily understandable in the light of the comprehensive nature of the envisaged global round. This is one more reason why the remaining problems must be solved with all possible urgency. In our view, the aim should be to finalize the preparations during this session so as to allow the negotiations proper to start at the beginning of 1982.

79. I should like to add that the broad and integrated approach to global negotiations laid down in resolution 34/138 should not be seen as a hindrance to the singling out of certain emergency questions for priority treatment. Such an approach, which has been advocated on several occasions during the preparatory process, would also seem to have received considerable support at the Cancún meeting. My Government has a positive attitude towards the question of pursuing this approach during the preparatory negotiations to follow.

80. It has been stated and restated from various forums over the last few years that the North-South dialogue has reached something close to a stalemate. The lack of results also affects to a certain extent confidence

in the United Nations as a forum for meaningful negotiations in the economic field.

81. The global negotiations provide a chance to reverse this trend of frustration and defeatism. Through a broad and co-ordinated attack on the central issues inherent in the North-South negotiations—drawing here also on all relevant specialized forums—a big leap forward can be made if the political will is there. In short, the global round holds the promise of being the best occasion offered us to manage better our growing interdependence.

82. Those are some of the reasons why my Government strongly supports the launching of the global negotiations early in 1982. We hope that the spirit of Cancún will make this possible.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Plenary Meetings*, paras. 3-29.