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SECOND COMMITTEE
28th meeting
held on
Friday, 30 October 1981
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

later: Mr. ter HORST (Venezuela)

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17 November 1981
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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. LEV LUKIN

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Committee, paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Lev Lukin, Observer for the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

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

Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/61: Global Strategy for Health by the Year 2000

2. That resolution, contained in document A/36/3/Add.28, was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.6/Rev.1: World Communications Year

3. The CHAIRMAN announced that Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Rwanda and Uganda had joined the sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

4. Mr. SMITH (United States of America) welcomed the fact that the words "interested organizations" appeared in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, as they were specially pertinent since most of the pledges that had been announced so far had come from those organizations; those with headquarters in the United States, for instance, had already made pledges totalling more than \$800,000.

5. The draft resolution, as orally revised at the 27th meeting, was adopted without a vote.

6. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.6/Rev.1 because the developing countries attached so much importance to World Communications Year. The USSR had welcomed the general agreement that all the projects coming within the framework of the World Communications Year would be financed from voluntary contributions, as provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/60. His delegation considered that the arrangements set out in document A/36/585 constituted an official confirmation of that agreement by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. If operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution had been put to a separate vote, the Soviet delegation could not have voted for it because it referred to matters which lay within the exclusive competence of national authorities.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.9 and L.19: Mobilization of personal savings

7. The CHAIRMAN announced that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.9 had been withdrawn by the sponsors and suggested that the Committee should adopt draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.19 without a vote.

8. It was so decided.

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Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.12: Problem of remnants of war

9. The CHAIRMAN announced that Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Mozambique and the United Arab Emirates had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 71: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.10 and L.18: United Nations University

10. The CHAIRMAN announced that draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.10 had been withdrawn by the sponsors and suggested that the Committee should adopt draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.18 without a vote.

11. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 69: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/36/3/Add.2, 13, 14 and 29, A/36/15/37 (Parts I, II and III), 39, 45, 47 (Parts I and II), 116 and Corr.1, 240, 333, 356, 380, 419, 421, 477, 483, 497, 528, 536, 538, 566, 573, 576, 577, 584 and 605; A/CN.11/21; A/CONF.100/11, A/CONF.104/22 and Add.1; A/C.2/36/L.2 and L.3)

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.21: Session of a special character of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1982

12. Mrs. WALDER-BRUNDIN, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said it followed closely the draft resolution on the organization of the session of the Governing Council of UNEP, the adoption of which had been recommended to the General Assembly by the Governing Council itself in its recommendation 9/2. The draft resolution, which dealt mainly with questions of procedure, was self-explanatory, and she expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.22: Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

13. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Bangladesh, Benin, the Central African Republic, Ecuador, Norway, Qatar and United Republic of Cameroon. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution, which was largely based on General Assembly resolution 35/72, would command general support and that the provisions of the operative part would be given the priority they deserved.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.23: Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

14. Mr. ESAN (Nigeria) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by the Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya and the United Republic of Cameroon. He recalled that the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa had been declared in 1978 and said that much remained to be done before the African States could attain the goals of the Decade.

15. In connexion with operative paragraph 2, he said that the African countries had hoped that the three other technical consultative meetings would be held in 1981 but, largely owing to lack of financing, they had had to be postponed to 1982. He emphasized the importance of those meetings for the mobilization of the necessary resources for the projects elaborated for the Decade. In that connexion, he expressed the hope that donors would provide the supplementary financing required for the programme for the first phase of the Decade. Referring to paragraph 3, he said that the developed countries would have to redouble their efforts to make contributions for the implementation of the programme for the first phase and the preparation of the programme for the second phase. In connexion with paragraph 13, he pointed out that the funds collected pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/108, amounting to about \$52,000, were almost exhausted. The Conference of Africa: Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning had already decided to ask the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to undertake the preparations for the second phase, for which additional funds would be required. Paragraph 13 implied also that it would be necessary to strengthen ECA's Transport and Communications Division to enable it to be effective in its role of lead agency for the Decade. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would provide an opportunity for the international community, particularly the developed countries and the international financing agencies, to support the African countries' aspirations for rapid economic and social development, with special emphasis on economic integration and the raising of their living standards. He trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.24: Specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

16. Mr. ORTIZ SANZ (Bolivia) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had recently been joined by Bangladesh, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali and Zaire. The text was based very largely on earlier recommendations which had already been adopted; but the absence of tangible results showed that the international community was not yet fully aware of the

(Mr. Ortiz Sanz, Bolivia)

difficulties faced by land-locked countries in exporting their products. It was high time for the countries of the third world to be given adequate technical and financial assistance to enable them to continue their efforts and to rise above the unequal conditions of their struggle. With regard to the land-locked countries, it was essential not only to remedy an injustice, but to correct a shocking situation in which some countries were taking advantage of the efforts made by others.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.25: Human settlements

17. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as representative of the Philippines, introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had now been joined by Costa Rica, Finland and Norway. The text of the draft resolution, which referred to the activities of the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was similar to that of resolution 1981/69 which the Economic and Social Council had adopted by consensus at its second regular session in 1981. The only difference was that the present draft did not refer to the proposal for an international year of shelter for the homeless, which would be dealt with in a separate resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.26: Comprehensive outline of a world survey of the role of women in development

18. Mrs. EL TELAWY (Egypt) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who now included Bangladesh, Chad, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. She reminded the Committee that the General Assembly, in resolution 35/78, had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive and detailed outline for an interdisciplinary and multisectoral world survey on the role of women in over-all development. That comprehensive outline appeared in document A/36/590, which was now before the Committee. Unfortunately, its contents were unacceptable. The proposed outline was incoherent, particularly in Part I, and reflected the traditional and stereotypical approaches which had been adopted in earlier surveys of the role of women. Her delegation objected to the proposal made in paragraph 7 for emphasizing the rural and urban sectors rather than the different sectors of the economy. The question of the situation of women in the rural world had already been studied on many occasions, and many specialized agencies had already concentrated their operational activities in rural areas. The survey should not be organized, either, from the viewpoint of the individual life cycle of women, as suggested in paragraph 10. It should, on the contrary, deal with the economic aspects and should not dwell at length on the social, humanitarian and political aspects which had already been considered in detail at the Copenhagen Conference. Contrary to the suggestion made in paragraph 15, the preparation of the survey should not be entrusted to one particular department. All the specialized agencies dealing with economic development should participate in the work, and each of them should be responsible for substantive studies on the part with which it was concerned. Also, the survey should be submitted to the Second Committee.

19. The draft resolution was designed to put the survey on the right course. In particular, paragraph 3 contained guidelines for assessing the role of women in development. The Secretary-General was also requested to ensure that the survey was prepared in close co-operation with the agencies of the United Nations system, and to submit a progress report in 1982.

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20. Mrs. GARCIA (Ecuador) said that, in the establishment of the comprehensive outline (A/36/590), the essential objective of resolution 35/78, which was the mobilization of women in development both as agents and as beneficiaries of the development process, had not been taken into account. The multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach had been abandoned, and emphasis had been placed on the social aspect (health, education and employment) which had already been considered at Copenhagen. It was useless to duplicate the studies submitted at Copenhagen, or the work undertaken by the Third Committee. What was needed was a survey reflecting the reality of the situation of women in various sectors of the economy. To prepare such a survey, the Secretary-General should seek the collaboration of the various specialized agencies and regional commissions, and of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. It would be a mistake to entrust the preparation of the survey to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs which, in view of the specialization of its staff, would not be able to collect and analyse the relevant data. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.26 gave new guidelines for the preparation of the survey, to ensure that the role of women in the development process was placed in a more realistic perspective.

21. Mr. ZIDOUEMBA (Upper Volta) said that problems caused by drought and desertification were considerably hindering the socio-economic development of the Sudano-Sahelian region in general, and Upper Volta in particular. The report of the Governing Council of UNDP, the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian Region and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region gave some idea of the extent of requirements. The medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme on behalf of countries members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (PISDCS) included 118 priority projects requiring the mobilization of nearly \$650 million. His delegation hoped that the promises of bilateral and multilateral aid referred to in the document concerning the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification would be honoured, and that the various projects envisaged would be executed as quickly as possible. The rapidity and efficiency of measures taken by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) showed that the United Nations system could mobilize the resources needed for solving difficulties arising from the economic situation, and also structural difficulties. He thanked donor countries for their generosity and hoped that, at the forthcoming Pledging Conference, they would provide UNSO with the resources it needed.

22. In Upper Volta, action by UNSSO was concentrated on three main areas: the construction and maintenance of secondary roads, the development of water resources and rural reforestation. In the first of those areas, UNSO financing—supplemented by a Government contribution in the form of building equipment—had made it possible to build nearly 130 km of secondary roads to open up certain rural areas which had been severely affected by the drought, and to support the development of farming and grazing. With regard to the development of groundwater resources, a project financed by UNSO had already been executed in the west central part of Upper Volta, and another project was being executed in the northwest. The study and action programme for rural reforestation in Upper Volta was designed largely to determine the technical and human requirements for undertaking reforestation activities to protect the soil and produce wood for heating, in order to meet the needs of the population.

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(Mr. Zidouemba, Upper Volta)

23. Future activities of UNSO in his country included the forthcoming implementation of the Upper Volta component of the PISCDCS regional project for home improvement. As a result of the project, households would achieve savings of about 60 per cent in the consumption of wood for heating; and that would make it possible to improve living conditions considerably and to protect the plant cover against over-exploitation. In that connexion, he thanked the Swedish Government for its help. UNSO was also considering the possibility of providing Upper Volta with assistance in integrated rural development, which would enable it to undertake development activities closely linking crop farming and livestock farming, in the light of the capacity of the Sahelian ecosystems.

24. He said that the needs of the Sudano-Sahelian region remained enormous and were beyond the capacity of each individual country. For that reason, a broad information campaign must be launched in order to strengthen the mobilization of financial, material and human resources at the international level. In that connexion, he expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the countries and governmental and non-governmental international organizations which had already given help in that field. However, the efforts of the international community would be fruitless if they were not supported by each country's will to eliminate poverty. The Upper Volta had made a commitment to attain that objective in the programme of the Military Committee of Rehabilitation for National Progress, which was aimed inter alia at self-sufficiency in food, rapid improvement of the people's living conditions and putting an end to the isolation of the interior areas, as well as bringing about an opening to neighbouring countries.

25. Mr. ter Horst (Venezuela) took the Chair.

26. Mr. TEKAIA (Tunisia), referring to his own country's experience with development and international co-operation, cited some statistics to illustrate the advances made by Tunisia since independence in the fields of medical services, consumption of electricity and energy, urbanization and school enrolment, emphasizing the rise in per capita income. He also pointed out that one third of the country's trade was carried on with developing countries. Although Tunisia had adapted its policies to the development of its internal situation and to external conditions, it had always relied on the spirit of initiative and had opted for international solidarity and co-operation. It was more than ever convinced that it had chosen rightly, particularly in view of the growing interdependence of countries. For that reason, it was working to strengthen co-operation in all its forms and called upon its partners, including in particular the developed countries, to promote the establishment of a new world economic order.

27. Trade was both a factor for development and a barometer of international co-operation. The notable drop in the rate of growth of world trade during the past few months was not encouraging. A number of developing or recently industrialized countries had been forced to review their investment or equipment programmes because of the protectionist measures adopted by developed countries, which had also hampered the implementation of international co-operation agreements. By retarding the industrial activity of the developing countries and by limiting their export receipts, the developed countries ran the risk of aggravating the crisis. He recalled that by decision 35/418, the General Assembly

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(Mr. Tekaia, Tunisia)

had decided to transmit to its thirty-sixth session, for consideration with a view to taking substantive action, the draft resolution entitled "Protectionism and structural adjustment", issued as document A/C.2/36/L.2. He welcomed the action taken by the Trade and Development Board in that field and said that his delegation would do everything in its power to help bring about a satisfactory solution, since it was convinced that the development of international trade and world economic growth would depend on the spirit prevailing in the debate on that draft resolution and the action taken upon it.

28. He emphasized the importance of the role of science and technology in social and economic development and drew attention to the backwardness of the developing countries in that field. Tunisia had participated in a ministerial mission held at Caracas from 10 to 12 October 1981 in order to reach agreement on a common strategy, and he quoted the mission's declaration that "the urgent problems which the developing countries must face ... in order to meet their food, water, health and energy needs adequately ... and to make full use of their human and physical resources were due to their inability to mobilize science and technology effectively to serve their interests". In his view, while the establishment of technical and scientific capacity was primarily the duty of the countries concerned, international co-operation acted as a catalyst and had a multiplying effect on research and the transfer of technology. It was regrettable that the measures adopted at Vienna and discussed by the General Assembly had not been implemented as agreed and that the negotiations undertaken in that field within the United Nations system had not advanced at the expected rate. He endorsed the position expressed by the Group of 77 at the third session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and said that his delegation would work to ensure that at its current session the General Assembly took the decisions that were necessary in accordance with its resolution 34/218. In view of the positive contacts which the ministerial mission had had in 1981 with leaders of the donor countries, he hoped that the year 1982 would see the establishment of a long-term financing system for science and technology for development. He renewed the appeal made at Caracas by the ministerial mission that all countries should, in a spirit of consensus, agree upon the necessary arrangements and means for that purpose.

29. Technical co-operation between developing countries was aimed at taking advantage of the complementarity of those countries, and thus at better mobilizing their resources and promoting co-operation between them, which would reinforce their collective self-sufficiency. In that connexion, he welcomed the results of the second session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the Caracas Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. His country, as one of the principal advocates of co-operation among developing countries, hoped that the United Nations system and the developed countries would give active support to that end. He was convinced that co-operation among developing countries should not be made a substitute for North-South co-operation. He also welcomed the contribution of UNDP to that undertaking.

30. Referring to the Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and to the Paris Conference on the least developed countries, he said that his

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delegation fully appreciated the positive results of those two conferences, which had taken place at a time when the international situation was difficult and the climate for co-operation was not the most favourable. Those results should encourage the international community to redouble its efforts with a view to taking appropriate measures to implement the new substantive programme of action for the 1980s and agree upon machinery and means required for the application of the Nairobi Programme.

31. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), reviewing a number of conferences held during the past 10 years under the auspices of the United Nations, said that setbacks had been more numerous than successes and that the international community should draw certain lessons from those results. On the one hand, the calendar of conferences should not be determined solely by the urgency of the questions to be examined. On the other hand, great importance should be attached during the preparatory phase of conferences to the identification of the priority questions to be studied, securing for that purpose the services of specialists who would also take the responsibility for follow-up activities. Furthermore, it should be noted that the dangerous tactics aimed at retarding the opening of global negotiations had been developed further and that the system of "vested interests" had been intensified at conferences, hampering the process of decision-making on questions of international economic development. Lastly, the implementation of the decisions adopted at conferences required more than promises on paper. The process of implementation of those decisions should include viable institutional arrangements, and effective machinery should be set up at all levels for its evaluation.

32. Referring more particularly to the Paris and Nairobi Conference, he recalled the comments made by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 on 29 September 1981, namely, that the international community should immediately take steps to implement the new substantive programme of action of the Paris Conference and mobilize appropriate resources for follow-up activities. With regard to the Nairobi Conference, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs had expressed regret at the fact that no agreement had been reached on certain fundamental questions, and they had emphasized that the international community should make a special effort to adopt institutional machinery for intensifying the transfer of resources in order to make possible the full implementation of the Programme of Action.

33. The Kenyan delegation hoped that the Second Committee would endorse the report of the Conference and adopt the Nairobi Plan of Action. In doing so, it should bear the following in mind: (i) the question of international support and the specific measures required to achieve the objectives of the Conference; (ii) the question of priorities established in the Plan of Action; (iii) the question of time-frames; (iv) the question of the implementation of and follow-up to the Plan of Action. The most important of those questions was without doubt the appraisal of the implementation of the Plan, without which it would be no more than a dead letter. His delegation regretted that no agreement had been reached at Nairobi on permanent institutional and financial arrangements, which were essential in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. On the question of institutional arrangements, Kenya supported the establishment of an intergovernmental body within the

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

United Nations system which would deal specifically with new and renewable energy sources and whose mandate would include the functions enumerated in paragraph 60 of document A/CONF.100/11. A separate secretariat would also have to be established for issues relating to new and renewable sources of energy and should be financed as far as possible from existing resources and, if necessary, from supplementary resources. A technical team of eight to ten people should be recruited to consider the priority issues in the Nairobi Plan of Action and to service the interim committee pending a decision of the General Assembly on the establishment of permanent machinery. The above recommendations sprang from a study of the functions entrusted to the intergovernmental body, which the Kenyan delegation felt should meet in May or June 1982. If the provisional arrangements did not provide for adequate personnel, Kenya would like to know how the Secretariat planned to enable the interim committee perform its functions. It would also appreciate being informed of who the members of the interim top policy-making group of the secretariat would be, their exact function and whether they would include, for example, bodies and institutions such as UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, the World Bank and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, how they would operate and ensure complete harmony, rapid implementation of all projects and their co-ordination, as well as the timely submission of the necessary documents for the Committee's session in 1982. His delegation would also like to know when the Secretary-General intended to convene the first meeting of an interim working group to discuss all those matters.

34. The mobilization of financial resources was another very important point. The Nairobi Plan of Action did not include any specific proposals on the subject. The need for additional resources could be seen from the report of the Synthesis Group (A/CONF.100/PC/41), which indicated on the basis of a number of sources, that necessary investments in new and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries alone—and excluding large-scale hydropower projects—could amount to \$US 12 billion in 1980, for the period 1981-1985. Kenya proposed the following ways of mobilizing financial resources: voluntary contributions by all Members of the United Nations, including contributions "in kind" in the form of seminars and workshops; additional contributions to the existing financial system, representing a certain percentage of the GNP of each State (for example 0.0005 per cent); the releasing of some of the colossal amounts spent on armaments; the identification of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system dealing with development and utilization of energy resources, with a view to reallocating funds within their respective budgets; increased contributions by States Members of the United Nations to intergovernmental bodies such as the World Bank, IDA and IFAD; and the granting of soft loans by intergovernmental organizations and donor agencies to energy-deficient developing countries.

35. Turning to the question of science and technology for development, he said that the current session of the General Assembly marked the end of the transitional period fixed by the Vienna Conference and therefore provided an opportunity to take stock of the failures and successes since that Conference and to map out a strategy for the complete implementation of the Vienna Programme. His delegation did not feel that a great deal of success had been achieved. As far as financing was concerned, it was essential to agree on mechanisms through which the Interim Fund

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

for Science and Technology for Development and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development could contribute to the establishment of a new, efficient and permanent financing system for science and technology for development. The operational plan for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action must be put into practice as soon as possible and assistance should be given to the Centre and the other bodies concerned in carrying out that plan, particularly by providing them with adequate resources.

36. The Kenyan delegation called on the General Assembly to adopt a resolution on the recommendation of the Second Committee laying down guidelines for the implementation of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (contained in document A/CN.11/21) and along the lines of the Proposal of the Group of 77 (contained in document A/CN.11/III/CRP.4 and Add.1). He stressed the need for the full and early implementation of resolution 34/218 and of other resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly on science and technology for development, as well as the Plan of Action on the subject prepared in March 1980 by the African Intergovernmental Group of Experts. The Kenyan Government had already shown its great interest in the promotion of international co-operation for mobilizing the resources of science and technology to accelerate the development of the developing countries. That was why it had agreed to participate in the missions which had visited various parts of the world to try to achieve agreement among all interested countries on the measures to be taken. The international community must carry out the task entrusted to it by the Vienna Conference—to strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries. If that was to be achieved, the co-operation and assistance of the United Nations was indispensable, which was why Kenya called on the international community, particularly the richer countries, to make a generous contribution to the financing of science and technology for development. For its part, Kenya would continue to make its contribution, to support the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and to stress that a real technology transfer was unattainable unless training was carried out in developing countries, and not in the developed ones.

37. Mr. Verceles (Philippines) resumed the Chair.

38. Mr. SOBHAN (Bangladesh) said that his delegation associated itself fully with the views of the Chairman of the Group of 77 on the issues relating to agenda item 69. Turning to the question of food, he asserted that freedom from hunger was a universal human right and that food should neither be used as an instrument of political leverage nor treated as just another commodity. Although the international community had acknowledged those principles, it had not as yet found the solution to the food problem, which was enormous. Despite a significant increase in food production and an improvement in distribution in some countries, more than 1 billion people continued to suffer from hunger and malnutrition; global production of cereals had fallen and the food deficit had increased, particularly in the least developed countries. The report of the World Food Council on its seventh Ministerial Session correctly pointed out that the international economic crisis, which had been accompanied by a rise in the cost of many agricultural inputs and in interest rates, was largely responsible for that situation. Official international assistance, which had increased in 1977 and

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(Mr. Sobhan, Bangladesh)

1978, had declined in 1979 to a level well below requirements. Inadequate aid, combined with natural calamities and political upheavals, had worsened the situation of millions of people, creating an additional impediment to national efforts for social and economic development. At the World Food Conference in 1974, the international community had allowed itself ten years to eliminate hunger from the world. The current opinion was that the goal could not be achieved before the end of the century, and then only if there was a massive increase in assistance. There was a need to establish a world food security system, to implement a series of measures to ensure stability on the international food market and a supply of food at prices that the developing countries could afford. The progress achieved in those areas was still not enough. Furthermore, the negotiations on a new Wheat Trade Convention were making no progress, the extension of the Food Aid Convention was not sufficiently long and the level of 7.6 million tons of food aid provided for under that Convention was inadequate.

39. His delegation would also urge that every effort should be made to attain the agreed pledging target of \$US 1 billion for the World Food Programme for the current biennium and that World Food Programme deliveries should be maintained at the highest possible level. His delegation was also fully convinced that it was absolutely essential that the International Emergency Food Reserve should be made into a legally binding commitment and that it should be replenished to maintain the level of 500,000 tons per annum. Assured access to food grain supplies through open trade channels during periods of international shortage was vital, and therefore countries should avoid measures which might adversely affect the capacity of developing countries to cover their essential needs for grains. That was why his delegation supported the recommendation of the World Food Council that Governments should seriously consider concluding an agreement to avoid such measures in times of food crisis. At the same time, if developing countries were to be able to build up food reserves, it was important that they, and particularly the least developed countries, should improve their distribution, transport and storage infrastructure, and their reserve stock management, through, inter alia, assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, IFAD and FAO. In that connexion, his delegation was concerned at the time needed to replenish IFAD resources.

40. He welcomed with satisfaction the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held during the previous month in Paris, and also the commitment of many developed countries to reach a target of 0.15 per cent of GNP as official development assistance to those countries, with a view to doubling the transfer of resources to the least developed countries by 1985. The reaffirmation at the Paris Conference of the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as official development assistance to the developing countries was also a matter of satisfaction to his delegation. With regard to the mechanism created for the implementation of the decisions of the Paris Conference in respect of individual least developed countries, his delegation was very much in favour of the arrangement by which each individual least developed country had the option of selecting the lead agency and working out the details of the consultative arrangements with that agency. Finally, it viewed the provisions for the global reviews under the auspices of UNCTAD as essential.

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(Mr. Sobhan, Bangladesh)

His delegation hoped that the international community would rise to the occasion to ensure smooth implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade of the 1980s.

41. In conclusion, he thanked the Secretary-General and the secretariat of UNCTAD for the preparatory work that had been done for the Paris Conference; and he recalled the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for the follow-up to that Conference. He was confident that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development would continue to take a close interest in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

42. Mr. MANGOUTA (Congo) stressed the need for the developing countries to strengthen their technological and scientific capabilities through the transfer of technologies selected and controlled by them, by establishing or strengthening their technological and scientific infrastructures, by appropriate training of human resources, and by a free flow of scientific and technological information. It was with those objectives in mind that the international community should strive to promote the execution of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. While regretting that the Interim Fund had not reached the agreed target, his delegation hoped that the long-term Financing System would soon be established to ensure the coherent and dynamic development of science and technology in developing countries.

43. With respect to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, he referred to the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi in February 1981, and to the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 held at Caracas in May 1981. Since the development of the countries of the third world demanded vast amounts of energy, new and renewable sources of energy must be developed to the maximum possible extent in order to reduce their dependence on liquid hydrocarbons. In that respect, his delegation welcomed the Conference's endorsement of the idea of establishing an energy affiliate of the World Bank.

44. Though he realized that the current economic crisis did not favour technical co-operation among developing countries, he expressed his conviction that there was no substitute for the firm resolve of peoples to transform the concept of technical co-operation into well-established operational activities, on the understanding that South-South co-operation could not replace North-South co-operation, the two being complementary.

45. While unreservedly supporting the efforts that had been made at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, he thought that the Substantial New Programme of Action should be placed in a broader context which would take account of the multidimensional and global nature of development. He also believed that a number of the poorer developing countries should be able to benefit from the assistance advocated for the least developed countries.

46. Finally, he expressed the hope that the recent Cancún Summit Meeting would mark the beginning of a genuine awareness of the importance of North-South problems and of the urgency of finding a solution to them.

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47. Mrs. KADAR (Observer, Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) stated that a radical reform of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis was imperative for solving the serious economic crisis which was affecting the international economic community as a whole, and the developing countries in particular. She drew attention to the economic co-operation established among CMEA member countries on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, respect for national interests, and equity. It was in that spirit of co-operation that the national economic plans of CMEA member countries were prepared and co-ordinated within the framework of a comprehensive programme for socialist economic integration in the very long term.

48. In a brief description of the comprehensive programme as it had been elaborated at the thirty-fifth regular session of CMEA held in July 1981 at Sofia, Bulgaria, she pointed out that the CMEA member countries had experienced stable economic growth and had, in large measure, succeeded in neutralizing the adverse impact of the world capitalist market. In the course of that session, it had been noted that the implementation of the provisions of the comprehensive programme had placed co-operation on a new level, promoting specialization and co-operation in production, scientific and technological progress, shared use of natural resources, and an increase in the economic, scientific and technological potential of all the member countries and thereby guaranteeing improvements in the cultural and material well-being of their peoples. In 1980, the average national income of CMEA member countries had increased by some 66 per cent as compared with 1970, while the volume of industrial production had increased by almost 84 per cent, mainly as a result of improved productivity. The volume of trade between CMEA member countries in capital goods, petroleum, iron ore, and everyday consumer goods had more than tripled during the past 10 years. In particular, petroleum sales by the Soviet Union to the other countries would remain at a high level, and would reach 400 million metric tons by 1985. Relying on their own resources and on mutual economic co-operation, the CMEA member countries had largely solved their social and economic problems by establishing long-term co-ordination programmes to meet their energy, fuel, and raw materials requirements, unaffected by fluctuations in the prices of those products on the world market.

49. She noted with satisfaction that, at the thirty-fifth session of CMEA, the member countries had strongly opposed the imperialist policy of intensifying the arms race, and had taken a stand in favour of peaceful co-operation among all countries. In accordance with the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the CMEA member countries had consistently supported the efforts of countries which were struggling to achieve economic and political independence. The gradual closing of the gap between the levels of economic, scientific and technological development of all CMEA member countries, including Viet Nam, Mongolia and Cuba—which were receiving large-scale economic, scientific and technological assistance from the European member countries of CMEA—illustrated the new type of co-operation that had been instituted among CMEA member countries. Assistance to all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the fields of trade, and science and technology had likewise been increased. In that regard, CMEA member countries favoured the idea, which had been advanced in the course of the current session of the General Assembly, that the profits accruing from the activities of foreign private capital, particularly the capital

(Mrs. Kadar, CMEA)

of transnational corporations, should no longer be transferred to the developed countries. They likewise agreed that the practice of using food aid and technical assistance to developing countries as a political weapon should be condemned.

50. In accordance with various instruments of the United Nations, such as the International Development Strategy, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the CMEA member countries attached major importance to the development of the public sector in developing countries. Also, since the training of national personnel deserved particular attention, the CMEA countries had set up a scholarship fund for the benefit of the developing countries.

51. The CMEA member countries had participated in many international meetings, including the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. They were also strengthening their ties with the United Nations specialized agencies and regional economic commissions. In general, they were endeavouring, by all the means available to them, to promote the development of economic co-operation on a basis of equality among all countries, by actively participating in the international division of labour and supporting all efforts to restructure the international economic order on a just and democratic basis.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.