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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 22nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 November 2019, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Niang ..... (Senegal)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 16: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development**

*(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.32)*

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.32: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development*

1. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it built on the previous year's resolution under the agenda item and addressed important issues such as the digital divide, technology transfer, capacity-building, platformization, monetization, tax cooperation, aid flows and Internet governance, as well as the availability and affordability of information and communications technologies, inclusivity and cybersecurity.

**Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions**

*(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.4)*

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.4: Promoting investments for sustainable development*

2. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was underpinned by the Group's assessment of the existing gaps for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for properly channelled investments. The text emphasized that all investment flows, including foreign direct investment, must be made consistent with sustainable development pathways. It recognized the momentum around sustainable investment and finance and acknowledged that achieving the Goals would require a shift towards longer-term investment horizons. It also noted that more could be done to create competitive business and investment climates that would support sustainable development and that existing development finance must be complemented by innovative financing mechanisms, including blended finance.

**(a) International trade and development**

*(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.5 and A/C.2/74/L.15)*

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.5: Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries*

3. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it had been submitted in order to reaffirm that the imposition of

coercive economic measures against developing countries, including unilateral sanctions, did not contribute to economic and social development and, moreover, constituted a major obstacle to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such actions not only undermined the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law, but also severely threatened freedom of trade and investment. They also disproportionately affected the most vulnerable segments of society. The international community was called upon to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures.

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.15: International trade and development*

4. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that its importance could not be overstated at a time when the multilateral trading system continued to face such challenges as rising protectionism, unilateral actions and trade tensions. The draft resolution emphasized that the system in place should foster development and provide for special and differentiated treatment to ensure that the benefits of trade were more widely shared. It also reaffirmed the need for a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system governed by the World Trade Organization.

**(b) International financial system and**

**development** *(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.14)*

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.14: International financial system and development*

5. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the international financial system was an engine for economic growth and poverty reduction. The draft resolution therefore highlighted the importance of multilateral coordination to address systemic issues affecting the state of the global economy and the need for the international monetary, financial and trading systems to be coherent and consistent, as well as open, fair and inclusive, in order to enable developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. The draft resolution also took into account new and emerging issues that had been highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the topic (A/74/168), including the need to address the decline in correspondent banking relationships and proposed actions that the international community could take to reverse negative trends.

**(c) External debt sustainability and development**  
(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.9)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.9: External debt sustainability and development*

6. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the external debt of developing countries continued to grow, a situation exacerbated by their vulnerability to the effects of climate change and the continuing fragility of the global economy. The Group had taken a balanced approach to its preparation of the draft resolution, based on its examination of the latest relevant reports and statistics. It aimed to build on work done by the United Nations and other stakeholders to find solutions to the urgent debt crisis facing developing countries, and advocated impactful solutions, such as the establishment of an advisory and technical cooperation service for sovereign debt workout.

**(d) Commodities** (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.21)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.21: Commodities*

7. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that many commodity-dependent developing countries remained highly vulnerable in the face of the excessive price volatility of commodities. The Group had decided to modify its approach to the issue, which was reflected in the draft resolution's focus on the need for economic diversification and improved regulation, efficiency, responsiveness, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets at the national, regional and international levels. The Group had decided to invite the President of the General Assembly to convene an event so that the entire United Nations membership could discuss commodity-related issues, and to request the Secretary-General to produce a report to facilitate analysis of issues relating to market diversification and value addition.

**(e) Financial inclusion for sustainable development** (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.23)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.23: Financial inclusion for sustainable development*

8. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the biennial draft resolution focused on the importance of making financial services more accessible in order to reduce the significant gaps still remaining in that regard between

developed and developing countries and to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective of financial inclusion was to remove the barriers that traditionally excluded people from using financial services so that they could improve their lives. The draft resolution focused particularly on financial and digital literacy, reducing remittances costs, financial consumer protection and new digital technologies. It highlighted the inclusion potential of fintech and the need for Governments to adjust their legal frameworks to maximize the potential benefits of such new technologies.

**(f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development** (continued)  
(A/C.2/74/L.24)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.24: Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development*

9. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was designed to address the needs of countries that had suffered from the illicit transfer of funds and the slow pace of recovery and return of stolen assets. The draft resolution, which was in line with target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, highlighted the ongoing efforts of regional organizations, Governments and international forums to strengthen cooperation in combating illicit financial flows. The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General were invited to give appropriate consideration to the importance of combating illicit financial flows in all their forms and dimensions.

**Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (continued)****(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.36)**

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.36: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*

10. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group remained staunchly committed to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda in a balanced and integrated manner to achieve sustainable development in all three of its dimensions. It reaffirmed all the principles that had been agreed upon at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and emphasized the importance of implementing Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and “The future we want”. While the international community should focus on the 2030 Agenda primarily, ongoing efforts to fulfil existing commitments should be adequately supported, in recognition of their contribution to sustainable development.

**(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.18)**

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.18: Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*

11. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group reaffirmed its commitment to the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. It viewed the current draft resolution as an opportunity to

spur progress on the important matters that had been identified at the midterm review. First, however, more work was needed to strengthen the targets and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. Member States must thoroughly examine the disaster financing framework to identify gaps and ensure that it functioned to address the needs of small island developing States. They must also encourage the international financial institutions to consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of those countries when providing concessional financing.

**(c) Disaster risk reduction (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.42)**

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.42: Disaster risk reduction*

12. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was based on General Assembly resolution 73/231 on the same topic and reflected the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (A/74/248). In the draft resolution States were urged to accelerate progress towards target (e) of the Sendai Framework, namely, to substantially increase the number of them with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. The draft resolution also addressed the synergies between disaster risk reduction and the 2030 Agenda.

**(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.37)**

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.37: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind*

13. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the best available science indicated that there would be disastrous impacts if the world remained on its current climate-change trajectory. Many nations were already suffering. In the past year, droughts and floods had hit regions that had seldom experienced such problems, especially in the global South. The international community must work together to raise awareness, mobilize funds and find innovative solutions to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. In that regard, the Group emphasized the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and highlighted the fact that developing countries had contributed the least to the problem, but were the worst affected. The Group sought to reach a fair outcome that preserved the balance in the

Paris Agreement between the actions required and the support provided.

**(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**  
(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.41)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.41: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa*

14. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was intended to combat desertification, land degradation and drought, and to contribute to the achievement of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda. As the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification was due to end in 2020, the President of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly was invited to convene a high-level event to assess progress, identify challenges and map out the way forward. Developed countries party to the Convention to Combat Desertification were also encouraged to provide financial and non-financial resources, including technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to countries affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.

**(f) Convention on Biological Diversity** (continued)  
(A/C.2/74/L.35)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.35: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development*

15. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it underlined the importance of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, in 2020, at which the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was to be adopted. It also highlighted major developments with regard to the implementation of the Convention, including the fact that limited progress had been made, and emphasized the role of nature-based solutions in biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

**(g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.10)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.10: Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme*

16. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it welcomed the successful outcome of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which had taken place in March 2019 under the theme of “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”. As in previous years, the draft resolution referenced processes taking place under various relevant agreements, including the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. It stressed the importance of the reports of the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and of the Environment Assembly’s contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Member States and United Nations entities were also invited to support the implementation of the plan outlined in the report *Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*.

**(h) Education for sustainable development**  
(continued) (A/C.2/74/L.48)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.48: Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

17. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it recognized quality education for all as a key enabler of sustainable development and highlighted the importance of the new framework, entitled “Education for Sustainable Development: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. The framework placed an emphasis on empowering learners with knowledge, skills, values and behaviours that would enable them to contribute to sustainable development. They would also be encouraged to explore interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and would learn to communicate and advocate in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**(i) Harmony with Nature** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/74/L.47)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.47: Harmony with Nature*

18. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that its purpose was to usher in a new paradigm in which treatment of the environment was not grounded solely in human concerns. Climate change was intensifying every year, irreversibly affecting ever more people and other living beings. It was necessary to attack the structural causes of climate change, first and foremost the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption that exhausted Mother Earth. People must respect the integrity of nature, recognizing it as a living community of interrelated and interdependent beings. To preserve the Earth and all kinds of life, it was necessary to bolster efforts to restore the health of its ecosystems and promote mechanisms that generated lifestyles in harmony with nature, leaving no one behind.

**(j) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/74/L.49)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.49: Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*

19. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it had been updated to reflect the latest report of the Secretary-General on the topic (A/74/265), which contained details of progress made on energy access and activities carried out to mark the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. While access to energy was growing, close to 840 million people were still without access to electricity and further challenges persisted, especially in developing countries. The draft resolution focused both on how all sources of energy could enhance access and on how to achieve Sustainable Goal 7, on universal energy access, by 2030. A high-level global meeting should be convened in 2021 to support the implementation of the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, which would end in 2024, and of the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

**(k) Combating sand and dust storms** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/74/L.46)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.46: Combating sand and dust storms*

20. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that sand and dust storms continued to pose a serious challenge that required further cooperation among United Nations entities in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, the Group welcomed the creation of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which comprised 15 United Nations system entities to coordinate responses at the local, regional and global levels. The Group commended the efforts of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification to develop a global base map of sand and dust storm sources, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, which could be used in planning and implementing sand and dust storm policy.

**Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions**  
(*continued*) (A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1: International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, 2021*

21. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

22. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document, said that the creative economy could make a significant contribution to sustainable development. It encompassed knowledge-based economic activities and activities based on the interplay between human creativity, knowledge and technology, as well as cultural activities and diverse forms of artistic expression. Sectors such as film, music and sound recording, television and radio, visual arts and design, architecture, publishing, performing arts and programming and computer games were being developed and embraced by many countries and regions, demonstrating the potential of the creative economy to foster inclusivity. Not only that, but supporting the creative economy was a means to advance progress on many Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to education, gender, economic growth, decent work, reduction of inequalities, sustainable cities and sustainable production and consumption.

23. The draft resolution had been prepared in an inclusive manner, with participation from numerous

countries and regions. The creative economy could bring about innovative means to attain inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth and development; facilitate life transitions; support women, young people, migrants and older persons; and empower the vulnerable. The economic benefits of developing the creative economy included income generation, job creation, enhanced export potential, increased resilience in the face of economic crises or shocks and economic diversification. The aim of the draft resolution was to promote cooperation and networking, share best practices, strengthen human capacity, build an enabling environment and begin to tackle the remaining challenges that the development of the creative economy entailed.

24. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following countries had joined the sponsors: Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Djibouti, El Salvador, Gambia, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. Subsequently, the following countries also joined as sponsors: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1 was adopted.*

26. **Ms. Vissers** (Observer for the European Union) said that while the European Union recognized the right of every Member State to present draft resolutions for the Committee's consideration, the Committee should focus on the rationalization of its agenda and on maintaining resolutions that were actually relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While the proliferation of international years and days should similarly be avoided, the creative economy was a relevant field that could substantively contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The European Union had therefore been happy to join the consensus for its adoption. The draft resolution complied with all four of the agreed procedural criteria, and her delegation particularly appreciated the transparent and inclusive manner in which Indonesia had organized the preparatory consultations, ensuring that all delegations had the opportunity to share concrete proposals. The way in which Indonesia had facilitated the draft

resolution showed that the working methods of the Committee could be improved: it had demonstrated how an open exchange and joint ownership across regions and groups was important for forging partnerships that would be critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The European Union remained committed to the revitalization of the Second Committee and the reform of its agenda, but also to the strengthening of its working procedures. All Member States could contribute to that process by building on the positive, inclusive approach that Indonesia had taken.

27. **Mr. Dreilinger** (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. With regard the 2030 Agenda, the delegation had laid out its position in a detailed statement following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 74/3 at the fourteenth plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on 10 October 2019 (see [A/74/PV.14](#)).

#### **Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions** (continued)

##### **(a) International trade and development** (continued) ([A/C.2/74/L.11](#) and [A/C.2/74/L.12](#))

*Draft decision A/C.2/74/L.11: Venue of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in 2020*

28. **The Chair** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

29. *Draft decision A/C.2/74/L.11 was adopted.*

*Draft decision A/C.2/74/L.12: Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, in 2020*

30. **The Chair** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

31. *Draft decision A/C.2/74/L.12 was adopted.*

#### **Agenda item 19: Sustainable development** (continued) ([A/C.2/74/L.3](#) and [A/C.2/74/L.43/Rev.1](#))

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.3: Oil slick on Lebanese shores*

32. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group was presenting the draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores for the fourteenth consecutive year. The latest report of the Secretary-General on the topic



(A/74/225) described the continuing consequences of the oil slick, which had been caused by the bombing of the oil storage facilities of the Jiyah electric power plant in Beirut by the Israeli Air Force, in 2006. The oil spill's effects continued to hinder the sustainable development of Lebanon: it had adversely affected the country's environment; economy; the health of its population, maritime resources and coastally grown crops; as well as its biological diversity. In the draft resolution, the Government of Israel was once again called upon to provide compensation to the Government of Lebanon and to other countries directly affected by the oil slick, including the Syrian Arab Republic, for the cost of repairing the grave environmental damage caused.

33. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

34. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the draft resolution had nothing to do with the work of the Committee and, furthermore, the latest report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick stated that there were no further relevant findings available in relation to the environmental impact sustained by Lebanon and neighbouring countries beyond the assessments that had been presented in the previous reports. The Organization was in the throes of an acute budget crisis and the demand for further reports was unjustifiable in that context. The draft resolution had nothing to do with sustainable development and, more importantly, nothing to do with the truth. The latest report of the Secretary-General did not once mention the thousands of rockets fired by Hezbollah into Israel, targeting innocent people; it presented a distorted version of events, according to which Israel had intentionally caused harm, when in reality it had acted in self-defence. There was no mention of the help that Israel had offered Lebanon in the aftermath of the spill, including by cooperating with the United Nations Environment Programme. It was regrettable that the irrelevant draft resolution appeared to be the only contribution of Lebanon to the current session, when there was so much at stake and when revitalization of the work of the General Assembly was a high priority. Her delegation had called for a vote on the draft resolution, and she urged delegations to vote against it.

35. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.3.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize,

Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Australia, Canada, Israel, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.3 was adopted by 158 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions.*

37. **Ms. Mudallali** (Lebanon) said that for the fourteenth consecutive year, the Committee had voted overwhelmingly in favour of the draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores, reaffirming the international community's will to hold countries responsible for their internationally wrongful acts. The

adoption of the draft resolution reaffirmed the Committee's determination to uphold international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and international environmental law, as well as its commitment to help countries to achieve sustainable development, acknowledging, once again, that environmental damage adversely affected the ability of countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The July 2006 bombing by Israel of the Jiyah electric power plant had had enormous environmental, economic and health-related implications. The oil spill that it had caused had covered the entire coastline of Lebanon, portions of the coastlines of neighbouring countries and a significant portion of the surface of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Through the adoption of the draft resolution, the Committee had yet again requested Israel to promptly and adequately compensate the Government of Lebanon for the harm that it had caused, which, in 2014, had been assessed at \$856.4 million, as the report of the Secretary-General (A/74/225) reflected. Lebanon would continue to mobilize resources and resort to all legal means to ensure that the draft resolution was implemented fully and without delay.

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.43/Rev.1: Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia*

38. **Mr. Ibragimov** (Uzbekistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document, said that Central Asian cooperation had intensified following the adoption in 2018 of General Assembly resolution 72/283, entitled "Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region". Tourism could serve to further improve socioeconomic conditions in Central Asia and could contribute, directly or indirectly, to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals. Tourism, which accounted for over 10 per cent of global gross domestic product, could catalyse inclusive and sustainable economic growth while advancing the empowerment of women, who comprised 70 per cent of the labour force in the tourism sector. Central Asia was witnessing steady growth in tourism and focusing on that sector could spur economic activity, facilitate the development of regional tourism and increase the flow of investment into the region. His Government was working to improve the sustainability of its tourism industry in view of the cross-cutting benefits of sustainable tourism. He encouraged all Member States to vote in favour of, and join in sponsoring, the draft resolution.

39. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

40. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following countries had joined the sponsors: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Subsequently, the following countries also joined the sponsors: Afghanistan, Brazil, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Ghana, Iraq, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles and Sri Lanka.

41. **Mr. Annaberdivevcel** (Turkmenistan) said that the Central Asian region was developing rapidly and had great tourism potential, with its historical and cultural monuments and its natural beauty. Efforts to promote Central Asian tourism internationally were yielding dividends and interest in the region was increasing. Turkmenistan itself was home to historic sites recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. However, tourism would support inclusive growth and offer benefits to citizens only if it was managed sustainably, with an emphasis on protecting the environment. Turkmenistan was doing its part to carefully and sustainably manage the tourism sector.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.43/Rev.1 was adopted.*

43. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. With regard to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, the delegation had laid out its position in a detailed statement following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 74/3 at the fourteenth plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on 10 October 2019 (see A/74/PV.14).

**Agenda item 60: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (continued) (A/C.2/74/L.45)**

*Draft resolution A/C.2/74/L.45: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources*

44. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was largely

identical to the 2018 resolution on the same subject, apart from some technical updates.

45. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

46. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Turkey had joined the sponsors.

47. **Mr. Salovaara** (Finland), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova, said that while the European Union would support the draft resolution, as it did every year, the use of the term “Palestine” in the text could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine, and was without prejudice to the individual positions of Member States on that issue and hence, on the possibility of an accession to the conventions and treaties mentioned therein.

48. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the draft resolution did not have a place on the Committee’s agenda; it served only to distort the facts and to attack and delegitimize Israel. The Palestinian delegation attributed every problem, every failure of leadership, every shortfall to Israel. The draft resolution described the dire situation in the Gaza Strip without mentioning that Hamas controlled the area with violence and repression, or that economic resources were being misused, including through the diversion of aid to fund terrorist acts against Israel. The firing of 360 rockets, all targeting Israeli civilians, from the Gaza Strip into Israel over the last three days was a clear example. In the past year, more than 10,000 rockets had been fired at Israeli cities, intended to cause as much damage and loss of life as possible. At any given moment, some 2 million Israeli civilians were being forced into bomb shelters. The draft resolution was not intended to offer a constructive solution: it was designed to deepen the divide and absolve the Palestinian authorities of the responsibility for addressing the problems they faced. All Member States were urged to vote against the draft resolution, as a “no” vote would send a clear message to the Palestinian authorities that it was high time they assumed their difficult responsibilities.

49. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.45](#).*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia,

Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

50. *Draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.45](#) was adopted by 156 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions.*

51. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that her delegation was grateful to all

those delegations that had voted in favour of the draft resolution, which reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to their natural resources and recognized their right to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, including the building of settlements and the construction of the wall. Israel was also called upon to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law; cease exploitation of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; cease destruction of vital infrastructure; and halt actions harming the environment, including the dumping of waste.

52. She reminded the Committee that the 2030 Agenda had affirmed that sustainable development could not be realized without peace and security and that peace and security would be at risk without sustainable development. She also recalled Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), which could be viewed as a kind of road map for development.

53. Law was what separated humankind from the animals. The occupying Power could not continue to be allowed to impose the law of the jungle. The time had come for the international community to take effective deterrent measures, including a boycott and economic sanctions, to compel Israel to comply with the will of the international community and end the occupation. Her people would continue its struggle for an independent sovereign State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

#### **Agenda item 136: Programme planning**

54. **The Chair** said that the General Assembly had decided on 20 September 2019 to allocate agenda item 136, “Programme planning”, to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly in order to enhance discussions on the evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring of reports. No action was currently expected under that item.

*The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.*