



Tuesday, 21 December 1982,
at 4.10 p.m.

President: Mr. Imre HOLLAI (Hungary).

AGENDA ITEM 71

**Development and international economic co-operation
(concluded):***

- (e) Science and technology for development: report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
- (f) Food problems:
 - (i) Report of the World Food Council;
 - (ii) Report of the Secretary-General;
- (g) Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;
- (k) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development: report of the Secretary-General;
- (l) Long-term trends in economic development: report of the Secretary-General;
- (m) United Nations Special Fund;
- (n) New and renewable sources of energy:
 - (i) Report of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
 - (ii) Report of the Secretary-General

1. Mr. BAKALOV (Bulgaria), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: I have the honour to introduce the remaining reports of the Second Committee under agenda item 71, entitled "Development and international economic co-operation", covering sub-items (e) [A/37/680/Add.4, part V], (f) [A/37/680/Add.5, part VI], (g) [A/37/680/Add.6, part VII], (k), (l) and (m) [A/37/680/Add.10, part XI] and (n) [A/37/680/Add.11, part XII], as well as proposals not allocated to a specific sub-item [A/37/680/Add.13, part XIV].

2. In part V of its report [A/37/680/Add.4, para. 8], the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development". This draft resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 108 to none, with 9 abstentions.

3. In part VI of its report [A/37/680/Add.5, paras. 21 and 22], the Second Committee recommends three draft resolutions and one draft decision, all of which were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

4. The draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Assembly in part VII of the Committee's report [A/37/680/Add.6, para. 7] and the draft resolution and draft decision in part XI [A/37/680/Add.10, paras. 7 and 8] were also adopted without a vote.

5. I now turn to part XII of the report, in which the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Immediate implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" [A/37/680/Add.11, para. 8]. That draft resolution was adopted by the Committee by a recorded vote of 108 to 9.

6. Finally, I have the honour to introduce part XIV of the report of the Second Committee, containing two draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly [A/37/680/Add.13, para. 11]. Draft resolution I, entitled "Development of the energy resources of developing countries", was adopted by the Committee by a recorded vote of 127 to 1. Draft resolution II, entitled "Immediate measures in favour of the developing countries", was also adopted by a recorded vote—of 94 to none, with 22 abstentions.

Pursuant to rule 66 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee.

7. The PRESIDENT: The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. I remind members that, in paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401, the General Assembly decided that when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

8. I now invite members to turn to part V of the report of the Second Committee, on sub-item (e) of agenda item 71, [A/37/680/Add.4].

9. The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development", recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of that report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,

* Resumed from the 113th meeting.

Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 137 votes to none, with 9 abstentions (resolution 37/244).

10. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany for an explanation of vote.

11. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution just adopted. We realize that great efforts have been made by all States engaged in the negotiations, and especially by the member countries of the European Community, to achieve long-term financial and institutional arrangements for a new financing system for science and technology for development.

12. My Government respects the wish of a large majority of States, developed and developing alike, to establish such a system. We are fully aware of the importance the Secretary-General attaches to the development of this concept. However, my Government would draw attention to the statement it made at the resumed fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development in September of this year [see A/37/37, part two, para. 24]. As we made clear in that statement, the Federal Government is not in a position to participate in the financing system; it continues to have fundamental reservations about the establishment of new funds and institutions which merely have the effect of reshuffling resources, while cutting the proportion available for operational purposes, and pose a threat to the central role of UNDP in the field of multilateral technical assistance. The realization of the principles which must govern in order to justify the system has, in our view, not yet received the necessary support.

13. Important decisions are still outstanding, thus giving the resolution just adopted a strong procedural element. Budgetary constraints have intensified dramatically and prevent the Federal Government of Ger-

many from entering into new financial commitments. Despite these decisions not to participate in the system, the Federal Government of Germany considers it important to improve the scientific capacities of the developing countries and continues to make substantial funds available for this purpose under its bilateral and existing multilateral programmes of co-operation. These efforts, together with our vote in favour of the resolution, underline the importance my Government attaches to science and technology for the economic and social growth of the developing countries.

14. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to part VI of the report of the Second Committee, on sub-item (f) of agenda item 71 [A/37/680/Add.5]. The Assembly will take decisions on the three draft resolutions and the draft decision contained in paragraphs 21 and 22, respectively, of that report.

15. Draft resolution I is entitled "Situation of food and agriculture in Africa". The Second Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 37/245).

16. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II, entitled "International year for the mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agriculture in Africa", was also adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 37/246).

17. The PRESIDENT: Next we come to draft resolution III, entitled "Food problems", which the Second Committee also adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 37/247).

18. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 22 of its report, the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, entitled "Food and agriculture", which it adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 37/448).

19. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to part VII of the report of the Second Committee, on sub-item (g) of agenda item 71 [A/37/680/Add.6]. The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference", recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of that report. The Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 37/248).

20. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to part XI of the report of the Second Committee, on sub-items (k), (l) and (m) of agenda item 71 [A/37/680/Add.10]. The Assembly will take decisions on the draft resolution and the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraphs 7 and 8, respectively, of that report.

21. In paragraph 7, the Committee recommends the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Long-term

trends in economic development". Since the Second Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 37/249).

22. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the draft decision entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development", recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The Committee adopted that draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 37/449).

23. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to part XII of the report of the Second Committee, on sub-item (n) of agenda item 71 [A/37/680/Add.11]. The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Immediate implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy", contained in paragraph 8 of that report. The administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution appear in the report of the Fifth Committee [A/37/784]. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

The draft resolution was adopted by 136 votes to 10 (resolution 37/250).

24. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now turn to part XIV of the report of the Second Committee, dealing with proposals not allocated to a specific sub-item of agenda item 71 [A/37/680/Add.13]. The Assembly will take decisions on the two draft resolutions contained in paragraph 11 of the Committee's report.

25. Draft resolution I is entitled "Development of the energy resources of developing countries". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 146 votes to 1 (resolution 37/251).

26. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Immediate measures in favour of the developing countries". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba,

Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 124 votes to 1, with 22 abstentions (resolution 37/252).

27. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on representatives wishing to speak in explanation of vote.

28. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America): My delegation abstained in the Second Committee's vote on draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.101/Rev.1 [see A/37/680/Add.13, para. 9], in conjunction with other developed countries, as a demonstration of our joint concern about it. Only a matter of minutes before the draft resolution was put to a vote in the Second Committee, the sponsors introduced yet two more changes to a previously agreed upon text.

29. My delegation feels that for sponsors to initiate such substantive alterations moments before a vote and in the final meeting of the Second Committee is simply an unacceptable way to proceed. We expressed our unhappiness in the Committee yesterday over the fact that this draft resolution on immediate measures in favour of the developing countries—a most important subject in and of itself—was introduced by the sponsors very late in this session of the General Assembly and that adequate discussion and negotiation were never really possible.

30. In abstaining yesterday in the Second Committee, we noted that we had strong objections to much of the draft resolution. In casting a negative vote today on draft resolution II contained in the report of the Second Committee [*ibid.*, para. 11], we wanted to make absolutely clear our increased dissatisfaction over the final handling of this controversial draft resolution. We do not object to the concept that immediate measures are necessary, given the current world economic situation, but we do have overriding

problems with some of the language of this draft resolution, and especially with the way it has been handled.

31. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): On the subject of the adoption by the Second Committee of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.101/Rev.1 [*ibid.*, para. 9], Bangladesh would like, on behalf of the Group of 77—without going into the substance of the matter—to bring to the notice of the members of the General Assembly that before the draft resolution was presented in the Committee for action, delegations concerned were informed of the changes that had been introduced and it was the understanding of the Group of 77 that those changes were acceptable to them. That was certainly reflected in the voting pattern in the Committee.

32. The efforts that were made by the Group of 77 in undertaking formal consultations on this draft resolution to accommodate the concerns of various delegations have been reflected also in the vote which has just been taken on draft resolution II contained in the report of the Second Committee [*ibid.*, para. 11].

AGENDA ITEM 17

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (*concluded*):

(h) **Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women**

33. The PRESIDENT: The terms of office of the present five members of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, appointed under General Assembly decision 34/323 of 20 December 1979, expire on 31 December 1982. Following consultations, I have appointed the following five States as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1983: the German Democratic Republic, India, Jamaica, Kenya and Norway. May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of these appointments?

It was so decided (decision 37/326).

AGENDA ITEM 36

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council

34. The PRESIDENT: I understand that there is no request to consider this item at the present session. If that is the case, may I take it that the Assembly decides to include the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council" in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session?

It was so decided (decision 37/450).

AGENDA ITEM 37

Question of Cyprus: report of the Secretary-General

35. The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that, on the basis of its decision 36/463 of 20 September 1982, the General Assembly decided on 24 Septem-

ber 1982 [4th meeting] to include the item entitled the "Question of Cyprus" in the agenda of the present session but deferred a decision on the allocation of the item to an appropriate time in the future. It is my understanding, on the basis of consultations with all concerned, that it would be desirable to leave the item on the question of Cyprus open at the present session. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that understanding and decides to retain the item on the agenda of its thirty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

36. Mr. KIRCA (Turkey): The Turkish delegation regards favorably the decision just adopted by the General Assembly in the sense that it defers a debate on the question of Cyprus. It is our considered view that the avoidance of sterile polemics in the Assembly exercises a positive impact on the ongoing process of intercommunal negotiations between the Turkish and Greek communities in the island. These talks are now proceeding on the basis of the "evaluation" of the Secretary-General, under whose auspices the two communities have been engaged in serious negotiations over the past months.

37. It is our earnest hope that the Greek and Greek-Cypriot sides will refrain from attempts to exploit the question of Cyprus in different international forums and will, as the Assembly has just done with its present decision, allow the two principals to the issue, that is, the Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus, to continue their direct and comprehensive negotiations under the good offices of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in Cyprus.

AGENDA ITEM 140

Observance of the quincentenary of the discovery of America (*concluded*)*

38. The PRESIDENT: I have been informed by the sponsors of draft resolution A/37/L.36 that, in order to allow for further consultations among the regional groups, they have agreed that no action be taken on that draft resolution at the current session. The sponsors have also requested that consideration of this item be deferred to the next session. May I therefore take it that the General Assembly wishes to include the item entitled "Observance of the quincentenary of the discovery of America" in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session?

It was so decided (decision 37/451).

AGENDA ITEM 141

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

39. The PRESIDENT: The sponsor of the item entitled "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations" has requested that the item be retained on the agenda of the current session. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to retain this item on the agenda of its thirty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

Organization of work

40. The PRESIDENT: In the light of the action taken at the 110th and 113th meetings and at the present meeting, the General Assembly will resume its thirty-seventh session, at a date to be announced, for the sole purpose of considering the following agenda items: item 27, "Preparation of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy"; item 37, "Question of Cyprus"; item 38, "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development"; and item 141, "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations". May I take it that the Assembly so decides?

It was so decided (decision 37/452).

Statement by the President

41. Since this closing meeting is being held on 21 December, when the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is celebrated, I may be permitted to offer my sincere congratulations and good wishes to the Government and delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a leading Member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council.

42. It has become a tradition for Presidents to establish a balance sheet, as it were, for the session each has presided over. Far be it from me to attempt to summarize in a few minutes our three months of serious discussions and conclusions. If I nevertheless take the liberty of trying to sum up our deliberations, I do so for the sole purpose of setting them against the unfavourable international conditions in which the session has taken place.

43. Viewed from that angle, I can safely conclude that our debates, on the whole, have certainly not worsened the international climate. To be sure, the session has reflected the tensions, divisions and dangerous tendencies that characterize the contemporary international scene. In this respect, I would say that our discussions were not entirely free of moments that threatened this forum of essential exchange of views. We have witnessed attempts which, if allowed to succeed, would have called into question the further functioning of the United Nations. However, common sense and responsibility prevailed and it was possible to avert the threat to the United Nations.

44. In my opening statement, at the 1st meeting, I expressed the hope that the session, while doing everything to avert further deterioration in the international climate, might make a contribution, however small, to the improvement of the international situation. Probably nobody will disagree with the conclusion that the difficult issues awaiting solutions—sometimes long overdue—have not been made more intractable by our deliberations. Let me add that in the present international atmosphere this is something not to be belittled.

45. The present session of the General Assembly has coincided with the signing, at Montego Bay on 10 December, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The conclusion of the long process of drafting a comprehensive convention covering the

* Resumed from the 83rd meeting.

political, economic, environmental and other aspects of two thirds of the surface of the globe is further proof that timely and urgent international problems can be solved by the only possible method, that is, by negotiation. While congratulating all those involved in the elaboration of this unique document, I express the hope that the process of negotiation leading to the birth of the new Convention on the Law of the Sea will serve as an inspiring example for the solution of other burning international issues, based on the recognition of the interests of all those concerned.

46. I am convinced that our deliberations have helped to clarify certain elements of the process of decolonization. This has happened even in the case of Namibia, where resistance to decolonization has regrettably not abated. The important debate and its conclusions certainly testify to the deep interest the United Nations takes in the early independence of Namibia.

47. The problems of the Middle East region have again been thoroughly discussed. The United Nations is often accused of paying too much attention to that region. But who can underestimate the dangers the international community continues to face with the periodic flare-up of that trouble spot?

48. The debates at this session on the problems of the Middle East have been strongly influenced by the invasion of Lebanon and its aftermath. Our deliberations have received additional attention with the presentation in different capitals of a number of far-reaching proposals aimed at resolving this long-standing dispute. The session has reaffirmed that all proposals are doomed to failure unless they address the central element of Palestinian self-determination in the solution of the region's problems.

49. Disarmament issues have again constituted one of the principal subjects of the session. In wide and far-reaching discussions, the session has again pointed to the urgency of coming to grips with the tremendous increase in arms and armaments. I tend to agree with those who would prefer fewer resolutions and more concrete actions in the field of disarmament. I remain, however, convinced that the survival of humanity is a goal that will inevitably prompt, rather sooner than later, meaningful disarmament measures. Some of the resolutions adopted at this session that are designed to call a halt to further arms buildup definitely point in that direction.

50. In a different context, an example has been given by UNICEF, in its report on the state of the world's children, showing how, at relatively low cost, dramatic reductions in the number of child deaths can be made. These simple yet innovative approaches are the kinds of efforts that reduced expenditures on arms could help support.

51. It is with regret that the session has had to register the continuing stalemate in the launching of global negotiations. The difficult and worsening economic conditions world-wide require us to do better than that. The General Assembly remains seized of this vital issue, and it is perhaps not too unrealistic to express the hope that we shall be able to respond positively to the expectations of our peoples before long.

52. Human rights have again occupied an important place in our activities. This is warranted by the con-

tinuing violation of human rights on a mass scale in a number of countries. The issue of human rights is much too important to be used for propaganda purposes. The right to life in a world safe from weapons of mass destruction, the right to work to be able to secure a decent life for one's family—to mention only two—are fundamental human rights to be assured for every human being.

53. This year the General Assembly has had the privilege of considering the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization [A/37/1]. I use the word "privilege" because the report has rightly attracted close attention. It deals with many of the essential issues confronting the Organization and the international community as a whole. The resolution adopted by consensus on the report [*resolution 37/67*] is eloquent testimony to the devotion and seriousness which characterize the Secretary-General's approach to the problems facing the Organization. It is also a fitting reply to critics who question the usefulness of the United Nations. Not agreeing with such critics does not mean that one cannot find room for improvement in our activities and in the activities of the United Nations in general.

54. Without wishing to be repetitive, I cannot fail to mention that, at a time when all countries face grave economic problems and a shortage of funds to solve them, we spend large sums by wasting at least one hour daily before commencing our meetings. One could go further and refer to the proliferation of items, which sometimes could be avoided by more thorough preparation and discernment, a higher regard to importance, timeliness and universal interest. Items of a similar nature could also be staggered in certain cases.

55. As a result of all this, the plenary Assembly is clearly overburdened. It often operates as just another committee, which may not always be in the interest of the issues discussed. One could go on and on, but my primary purpose in listing some of our problems is to maintain and possibly enhance interest in the further amelioration of our proceedings.

56. Having said that, it only remains for me to thank all those whose selfless and dedicated service made it possible for me to conduct the proceedings of the General Assembly. Let me thank first the Vice-Presidents, who have rendered great service to the Assembly in conducting the proceedings of plenary meetings and participating in the work of the General Committee.

57. Now let me say a word of thanks to the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees for their selfless and untiring efforts, which were so accurately reflected in the accomplishment of those Committees.

58. Special recognition is due the Secretary-General, whose close and valuable co-operation I have had the honour and pleasure to enjoy all through the session. My esteem for his wisdom, competence and modesty has only grown as I have had more frequent opportunities to appreciate his constant dedication and devotion to the ideals of the Organization.

59. It is difficult for any President to convey the sense of gratitude and recognition he cannot help but

feel for the untiring and truly professional service rendered by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Mr. William Bufum, and his outstanding staff throughout the session. I cannot do more than say very simply: thank you very much.

60. I would be remiss in my duties if I were not to evoke here the constant assistance and help of all those who have worked extended hours to make this session successful. Whether they be conference officers, précis writers, information officers, interpreters, translators, typists or security officers, they are all entitled to our appreciation and thanks.

61. Lastly, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone here a well-deserved rest and a very happy new year. It is my sincere hope and expectation that 1983 will be a year of more co-operation and less confrontation—that, in a word, it will be a year of peace.

Suspension of the thirty-seventh session

62. The PRESIDENT: I hereby declare the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly suspended.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.