



# General Assembly

Fifty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
03 March 2000  
English  
Original: French

## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 44th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 1 December 1999, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Olhaye ..... (Djibouti)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Agenda item 97: Macroeconomic policy questions**  
(continued)

**(c) Trade and development** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries (A/C.2/54/L.37 and A/C.2/54/L.56)*

1. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Controller of the United Nations had requested that the following statement should be drawn to the attention of the Second Committee:

“A review of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.56 indicates that paragraphs 11 and 15 deal with administrative and budgetary matters. In paragraph 11, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 2001, within the overall level of resources for the biennium 2000-2001, another meeting of governmental experts from landlocked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions. In paragraph 15, it would invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the resolution, and to provide, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/183, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries with adequate resources so as to allow it to implement effectively its mandate to continue to support landlocked developing countries.

“Resources for activities related to landlocked and transit developing countries have been included in the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 which is currently under discussion in the Fifth Committee. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, section VI, which

reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; reaffirms the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; expresses its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters; and invites the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.”

2. **Mr. Brauzzi** (Italy), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.56, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.37.

3. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) requested that, in the French text, in the penultimate line of paragraph 15, the conjunction “*ou*” (or) should be replaced by “*et*” (and), consistent with the English text, to read “Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries”.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.56, as orally amended in French, was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.37 was withdrawn.*

6. **The Chairman** informed Committee members that the delegation of Slovakia had informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.40, it would have abstained.

7. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) added that the delegation of Ethiopia had just informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.40.

8. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 97 (c).

**(d) Science and technology for development**  
(continued)

*Draft resolutions on science and technology for development (A/C.2/54/L.4 and A/C.2/54/L.48)*

9. **Mr. Brauzzi** (Italy), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.48, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.4. The draft resolution reaffirmed the common vision of science and technology as approved by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its fourth session, which stated that science and technology should be considered the common heritage of mankind and should be shared, and reaffirmed the important role that the United Nations should play in the promotion of cooperation in science and technology as one of its priorities.

10. **Mr. Le Gargasson** (France) requested that, in paragraph 26, the phrase “*d’un tel examen*” should be replaced by “*de ce point*” (“of the item”), consistent with the English text and with what had been negotiated during the consultations.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.48, as orally amended in French, was adopted.*

12. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.4 was withdrawn.*

13. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 97 (d).

**Agenda Item 99: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation** (continued)

**(c) Women in development** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on women in development (A/C.2/54/L.21 and A/C.2/54/L.52)*

14. **Mr. Niculescu** (Romania), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.52, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.21. In paragraph 11 of the English version, the words “as men” should follow the phrase “full and equal rights”; the phrase “right of inheritance” should be replaced by “right to inheritance”.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.52, as orally revised, was adopted.*

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.21 was withdrawn.*

17. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “An evaluation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women” (A/54/156-E/1999/102);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General submitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “An evaluation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women” (A/54/156/Add.1-E/1999/102/Add.1).”

18. *The draft decision was adopted.*

19. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 99 (c).

**(d) Human resources development** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on developing human resources for development (A/C.2/54/L.10 and A/C.2/54/L.57)*

20. **Mr. Niculescu** (Romania), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.57, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.10.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.57 was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.10 was withdrawn.*

23. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 99 (d).

**(e) International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on international migration and development (A/C.2/54/L.11 and A/C.2/54/L.53)*

24. **Mr. Niculescu** (Romania), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.53, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.11. The phrase “in

particular in the context of regional cooperation” should be added at the end of the ninth preambular paragraph; towards the end of paragraph 6, the word “problem” should be in the plural.

25. **Mr. Gallagher** (United States of America) said that he had been under the impression that title of the draft resolution, which also included the phrase, “including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development ...”, would be repeated in paragraph 9. That phrase was also contained in the title of agenda item 99 (e) at the top of the page; nonetheless, the resolution was simply entitled “International migration and development”. He would appreciate clarification in that regard.

26. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines) explained that there had been three options for the title. Initially, many representatives had felt that it should fully echo the title of the agenda item by retaining the phrase “including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development”. Ultimately, it had been agreed that the simplest possible title would be used but that paragraph 9 would contain the wording of the agenda item.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.*

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.11 was withdrawn.*

29. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 99 (e).

#### **Agenda item 100: Environment and sustainable development** *(continued)*

*Draft resolutions on conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems (A/C.2/54/L.7 and A/C.2/54/L.51)*

30. **Mr. Matute** (Peru), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.7.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51 was adopted.*

32. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.7 was withdrawn.*

#### **(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21** *(continued)*

*Draft resolutions on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/54/L.14 and A/C.2/54/L.58)*

33. **Mr. Matute** (Peru), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.14.

34. **Ms. Krishna** (India) noted that two errors had crept into the text of the draft resolution established at the outcome of informal consultations. In the eighth line of paragraph 5, the phrase “implementation at all levels of the commitments and ...” should be replaced by “implementation of the commitments of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at all levels and ...”. The word “adoption” in the ninth line of that paragraph should be replaced by “development”.

35. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58, as orally amended, was adopted.*

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.14 was withdrawn.*

37. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken in the United Nations system to accelerate progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/54/131-E/1999/75).”

38. *The draft decision was adopted.*

39. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 100 (a).

#### **(c) Convention on Biological Diversity** *(continued)*

*Draft resolutions on the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/C.2/54/L.15 and A/C.2/54/L.55)*

40. **Mr. Matute** (Peru), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.55, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.15.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.55 was adopted.*

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.15 was withdrawn.*

43. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 100 (c).

**(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind** *(continued)*

*Draft resolutions on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind*  
(A/C.2/54/L.18 and A/C.2/54/L.54)

44. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54, said that, in view of the provisions of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, it should be noted that the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001 included the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies, following the practice established by General Assembly resolution 50/115. The draft calendar had been endorsed by the Committee on Conferences and was currently under review by the Fifth Committee in the context of agenda item 124 on the pattern of conferences. The full cost of eight weeks of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies was estimated at \$4,309,000. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources could be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001. However, provision was made under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern of recent years. Consequently, should the General Assembly decide to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54, the conference servicing expenses for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties could be accommodated and thus no additional appropriation would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget.

45. **Mr. Gallagher** (United States of America), reaffirming his delegation's support for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, said that, although the United States had joined the consensus on draft

resolution A/C.2/54/L.54 in order to facilitate the Committee's work, it was concerned that the expenses related to the Conference of the Parties, particularly those relating to conference servicing, continued to be covered by the regular budget of the United Nations. It had, of course, been entirely appropriate for the United Nations to finance the activities of the Convention's temporary secretariat; however, now that the interim phase was over, the Conference of the Parties should assume the cost of operational activities and, in particular, that of conference servicing. His delegation had raised that issue throughout the consultations on the draft resolution and intended to continue requesting the necessary changes in all the appropriate forums.

46. **Mr. Matute** (Peru), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.18.

47. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54 was adopted.*

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.18 was withdrawn.*

49. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 100 (d).

**(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** *(continued)*

*Draft resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*  
(A/C.2/54/L.23 and A/C.2/54/L.50)

50. **Mr. Matute** (Peru), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.50, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.23.

51. **Mr. Chouinard** (Canada) said that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.50.

52. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.50 was adopted.*

53. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.23 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 101: Operational activities for development** (*continued*)

**(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** (*continued*)

54. **The Chairman** noted that no draft resolution had been submitted under the agenda item.

**(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries** (*continued*)

*Draft resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community* (A/C.2/54/L.6 and A/C.2/54/L.49)

55. **Mr. Matute** (Peru), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.49, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.6.

56. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.49 was adopted.*

57. *Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.6 was withdrawn.*

58. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its eleventh session (1 to 4 June 1999) (A/54/39); and

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/54/225).”

59. *The draft decision was adopted.*

60. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda items 101 (a) and (b).

**Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council** (*continued*)

61. **The Chairman** informed Committee members that the Secretary-General, pursuant to the request by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/34, had prepared a report entitled “Analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental

Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat” (A/54/520). Since the report had been issued under both agenda item 12 (report of the Economic and Social Council) and agenda item 121 (Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001), it would also be brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee for its information.

62. **Mr. Abderrahmane** (Algeria) said that his delegation did not fully understand the purpose of submitting the report (A/54/520) to the Second Committee. Although the Chairman had indicated that it had been for purposes of information, the report seemed to be intended more for the Fifth Committee; moreover, reports prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to one of the Main Committees were not systematically submitted to the others for their information. Lastly, the report had not yet been distributed. Therefore, his delegation wondered what exactly was expected of the Second Committee, which ran the risk of impinging on the work of the Fifth Committee.

63. **Ms. Khan** (Director of the Division for Support to the Economic and Social Council and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the report had been prepared at the request of the Economic and Social Council and had first been distributed on 24 November. Agenda item 12 was the only item under which the report could be submitted to the Second, Third and Fifth Committees simultaneously; the Fifth Committee was also required to consider it under agenda item 121 (proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001). Technically, the report was submitted at the same time to the three Main Committees in order to avoid any gap; however, each of the Committees and their Bureaux must decide on how to deal with the report.

64. **Mr. Abderrahmane** (Algeria) thanked the representative of the Secretariat for her clarification but maintained that the report was intended for the Fifth Committee in particular, that the Third Committee had, in any case, concluded its work and that there was very little reason for the Second Committee to be informed in passing.

**Agenda item 103: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources** *(continued)*

65. **The Chairman** said that the delegation of Panama had informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.32 on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

*The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.*