



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/34/485)

1. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Secretary-General of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development), introducing the report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held in Rome from 12 to 20 July 1979, said that the report contained the conclusions of the Conference, including a Declaration of Principles, a Programme of Action and a resolution on the follow-up of the Conference, which, inter alia, invited the General Assembly to endorse the Declaration and the Programme of Action.
2. Judging from the comments of Governments, national and international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, study centres, farmers' associations and specialists, the Conference would be an important milestone in the struggle for the economic and social development of third world countries. The success of the Conference was due to a rare combination of several factors: a subject so relevant and timely as the elimination of the acute under-development and rural poverty prevalent in the great majority of the peripheral countries, a situation which directly affected one third of mankind living in poverty or near-poverty; painstaking preparation, in which FAO had received exceptional co-operation from Governments and from the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system; officers of high standing and great experience; unusually large and very high-level participation; exceptionally lively, open and sincere discussion focused strictly on the agenda; and a very broad consensus on the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action.
3. Both the Declaration and the Programme, which had been the result of an intensive study of existing realities and consultations with Governments, had gained a very broad consensus. Neither in the preparatory bodies nor at the Conference itself had there been any differences of opinion with regard to the diagnosis of the alarming situation existing in the rural areas of most third world countries and its effect on national economies and on the world economic and political situation. Accordingly, there had also been no disagreement on the main objectives of the Conference: to organize and launch a large-scale frontal attack on rural under-development in order to eliminate hunger, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment and put an end to the marginal living conditions of hundreds of millions of human beings; to increase agricultural production, especially food production; to correct the social, economic and cultural imbalance between urban and rural areas; and to halt massive migrations from the countryside to the cities by creating industries, centres of attraction and non-agricultural jobs in rural areas.
4. In his opening statement, the Director-General of FAO, after pointing out that over the next 20 years the production of food and fibres would have to increase as much as in the last 12,000 years and that more than one third of the earth's land surface was now uncultivated, had stated that the desired level of production

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would not be achieved unless the farmer was offered fair prices and other incentives, access to land and water, inputs, credit, markets and rural facilities. Lest development should simply make rich farmers richer and poor farmers poorer, the latest idea was a strategy of "poverty-oriented development" to enable the farmer to satisfy his own minimum needs for food, housing, education and social advancement.

5. The Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Rafael Caldera, had said that there would be no peace and harmony in the world until the rural sector was given the just treatment it deserved, that social justice must be established in that sector, and that it was necessary to overcome the dichotomy between rural and urban areas and between the primary and secondary sectors, which must unite and co-operate for joint development.

6. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Julius K. Nyerere, had pointed out that, although urban poverty was more obvious, the bulk of the slum inhabitants had migrated to towns because they had been pushed out of the rural areas by landlessness, joblessness and hopelessness. It was therefore in the rural areas that the long-term problems of urban poverty could be most effectively confronted, while at the same time rural poverty was alleviated.

7. The President of Bangladesh, Mr. Ziaur Rahman, had said that, in an agrarian society, rural development was central to national development and was a fundamental process of political, social and economic transformation. Development was not just increasing national income or catching up with the industrialized West through the transfer of capital and technology. Development was the responsibility of each society and was built primarily on indigenous resources, especially of land and people. Poverty-oriented rural development was designed to raise the very low productive capacity of the majority of the rural population.

8. One very encouraging and very novel development at the Conference had been that the developing countries, without exception, had undertaken to give the highest priority in their policies to rural development and that the industrialized countries had declared their intention of co-operating with the developing countries in that task. The Declaration of Principles stated, inter alia, that the sustained improvement of rural areas required fuller and more equitable access to land, water and other natural resources; widespread sharing of economic and political power; increasing and more productive employment; fuller use of human skills and energies; participation and integration of rural people, especially women, into the production and distribution systems; increased production, productivity and food security for all groups; and mobilization of internal resources.

9. The Programme of Action was based on the concept that "agrarian reform" was not synonymous with "tenancy reform"; the latter was only one of the measures to be used when necessary. For the World Conference, agrarian reform meant

(Mr. Santa Cruz)

introducing the necessary economic, social, environmental, administrative and institutional reforms to transform rural areas into dynamic factors of production and of economic and social development. Each Government should formulate its rural development strategies in the context of over-all economic and social planning on the basis of an analysis of its socio-political goals and its human, physical and financial capabilities and constraints. Those strategies must take into account the integrated application of policies, the identified areas of priority and, within them, the desirability of reorganizing land tenure according to the characteristics of each particular country.

10. The Programme of Action called upon Governments to set specific targets for agrarian reform and rural development; for example, it would be necessary to establish targets for achieving increased self-reliance, especially in food production, and to fix specific targets for the 1980s and 1990s for the reduction of rural poverty as measured by indicators of distribution of land and other assets, levels of income and satisfaction of basic requirements, especially in nutrition. The Programme also urged the establishment of quantitative targets to expand employment opportunities at fair wages, especially for the landless; the elimination of under-nutrition at the latest before the end of the century; and the fixing of targets of minimum income and of public services such as primary health care, education and housing.

11. With regard to international strategies and policies within the framework of the new international economic order, the conclusions of the Programme and the Declaration were based on three fundamental premises: (a) that social and economic under-development in rural areas of the third world was already of a planetary nature, in terms not only of its magnitude but also of its social, economic, and political repercussions; (b) that the national efforts of developing countries would fail without the support of steady international co-operation within the framework of a just international order; (c) that national rural development strategies which included reforms of economic, social and institutional structures could not be separated from reforms aimed at changes in the international division of labour, genuine technical and financial co-operation and the elimination of obstacles to trade and to technological exchanges.

12. The new international economic order required a redefinition of national and international objectives and great structural changes in the industrialized world and the developing countries. The Conference had therefore adopted strong conclusions and recommendations on market access; trade relations; abolition of protectionist measures; private foreign investment, including the code of conduct for transnational corporations; an increase in, and the conditions for, official financial assistance; and economic, commercial and technical co-operation among developing countries. Not only the obstacles but also the measures necessary for overcoming them had been identified, and it had been clearly demonstrated that existing international policies were an obstacle to the implementation of structural reforms in rural areas.

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13. Certain industrialized countries had expressed reservations concerning some of the statements and recommendations on international policies contained in the report of the Conference, but it was to be hoped that those reservations would be withdrawn after the recommendations had been studied at leisure. On the other hand, all countries without exception had undertaken to carry out promptly the commitments regarding trade liberalization.

14. The Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action must now be translated into concrete measures, the adoption of which was primarily the responsibility of peoples and their Governments. The Declaration emphasized the concepts of self-reliant development and of co-operation among developing countries and with the industrialized nations. In order to put those concepts into practice, it was necessary to foster a recognition of the seriousness of the rural situation in developing countries and its world-wide scale and to disseminate the proceedings and results of the Conference as widely as possible. Non-governmental organizations, and the news media in particular, could play an essential role in that respect; the media had not thus far paid sufficient attention to that very important topic.

15. The Programme of Action and the resolution on the follow-up of the Conference stressed the importance of the contribution that could be made by FAO and other competent organizations of the United Nations system, and urged them to consider the possibility of allocating the necessary resources to carry out activities in their respective spheres of competence. FAO had already prepared a wide-ranging programme which provided, inter alia, for increased technical assistance in the formulation of strategies and the execution of government programmes in the field of agrarian reform and rural development; promotion of the necessary investment; assistance to countries to enable them to evaluate progress towards their objectives; and analysis and dissemination of information.

16. At the meeting of the ACC Working Group on Rural Development held after the Conference on the proposal of FAO, all the agencies represented had declared their full support for the Plan of Action and the Declaration of Principles and had expressed their firm intention of intensifying their efforts to promote rural development in their respective spheres of competence and participating in the implementation of the Programme of Action both jointly and individually.

17. It was to be hoped that the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development would make it possible to ensure that the basic economic, social and cultural human rights referred to by Pope John Paul II in his address to the General Assembly would have effect in rural areas, where 80 per cent of the deprived people of the world lived.

18. Mr. KOROSSO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country, where a very high proportion of the population lived in rural areas, attached great importance to rural development as a basic component of the new international economic order and of any national development process. His delegation was holding consultations,

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(Mr. Korosso, Tanzania)

the results of which it would report to the Committee in due course, with a view to the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution endorsing the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action of the World Conference.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

19. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the current session of the General Assembly was marked, even more than previous sessions, by a concern for peace and security. It was clear that there could be no real progress in economic development unless effective steps were taken to end the arms race and achieve disarmament, and that the implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence would help to stimulate economic co-operation among States. In that connexion, he drew attention to the constructive programmes presented by the socialist States in the Moscow Declaration of 23 November 1978 and in the proposals of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty. The German Democratic Republic attached great importance to the United Nations study now being made on the relationship between disarmament and development, and felt that the activities of the General Assembly and other United Nations organs relating to political and disarmament questions should be taken into account to a greater extent in the economic sector of the Organization.

20. Crises in the capitalist system were once again manifesting themselves, leading to further economic and financial difficulties for developing countries, since the neo-colonialist system kept them in a state of economic, scientific, technological and financial dependence on capitalist industrialized countries. To overcome backwardness and dependence, it was essential for steps to be taken against all forms of colonial and neo-colonialist exploitation. In that context also, the socialist States had recently submitted a number of concrete proposals, particularly at the fifth session of UNCTAD.

21. Little progress had so far been made in implementing the decisions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The developing countries were condemned by the system of international capitalist division of labour to a situation of inequality and discrimination, and in many cases their sovereignty over their natural resources was still not respected. Bearing in mind the important role of transnational corporations in keeping the developing countries economically and technologically dependent, national and international measures must be taken to affirm and safeguard the sovereign rights of the developing countries vis-à-vis those corporations; in particular, a code of conduct for transnational corporations must be completed and adopted as soon as possible. Such action could help to democratize international economic relations, as had been emphasized at the Havana Conference.

22. In the opinion of the German Democratic Republic, the new International Development Strategy must be directed towards the implementation of the decisions

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(Mr. Zachmann, German Democratic Republic)

adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/193 and the decisions of the Havana Conference. In elaborating the Strategy, special attention should be focused on accelerating the restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic basis; liquidating all manifestations of exploitation, discrimination, and inequality; eliminating the consequences of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination, occupation and aggression; and guaranteeing the full sovereignty of States over their natural resources and in their economic affairs.

23. The new Strategy's chances of success would also depend to a considerable extent on the developing countries' taking effective measures to promote industrialization, develop agriculture, strengthen the State sector, plan the development of the national economy, train national cadres and introduce other socio-economic changes. Particular attention must be accorded to the role that the State sector could play in developing countries, which were increasingly interested in an exchange and application of experience in that connexion, as evidenced by the adoption of six resolutions on the subject by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. What was needed now was a constructive exchange of actual experience with and among developing countries in regard to the role of the State sector. In the report called for under Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/48, the Secretariat could present its ideas on how the possibilities afforded by the institutional framework of the United Nations system could be used for that purpose.

24. His delegation believed that further work on the unified approach to the development analysis and planning should be based on different stocks of national experience, and it was therefore pleased to see that reflected in the Secretary-General's reports. However, there was also an international facet in evolving a unified approach. It had been stated both in the documents of the sixth special session of the General Assembly and during the Summit Meetings of the Non-Aligned States in 1976 and 1979 that the development of international economic relations was not determined solely by the operation of the laws of competition. The rational distribution of resources did not result simply from automatic market trends: it required effective co-operation among States on a planned basis. Long-term planning accommodated the economic and political interests of the parties and also strengthened the material guarantees for peace and security. In his delegation's view, the energy and raw materials crisis in the capitalist world bore striking testimony to the importance of coherent long-term planning.

25. As an active participant in aid programmes for a number of countries, the German Democratic Republic wished to stress the urgent need to assist the people of Nicaragua, who by their own efforts had freed themselves from the dictatorial Somoza régime.

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(Mr. Zachmann, German
Democratic Republic)

26. In its 30-year history, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance had established a new type of international economic relations based on full equality of rights and mutual advantage, and had made a significant contribution towards overcoming disparities in development among its member countries. For that reason, an increasing number of countries were seeking long-term co-operative relations with it.
27. The German Democratic Republic had just celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. The progress it had achieved in socialist construction was based on socialized ownership of the means of production, which ensured the working man's full enjoyment of the fruit of his labour. Despite increasing strains on its external economic relations, his country had unwaiveringly pursued its policy of planned economic growth aimed at improving its people's living standards. It was stable development of that kind which had enabled it to participate actively in international economic and social co-operation.
28. The CHAIRMAN congratulated the people and Government of the German Democratic Republic on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.
29. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) thanked those who had congratulated his delegation and said that the German Democratic Republic would continue working constructively in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in order to help to implement the tasks of the Organization and to translate its progressive resolutions and decisions into practical action.
30. Mr. AN Chih-Yuan (China) said that a significant feature of recent years had been the continued sharpening of various basic contradictions in the international economic sphere. Some economically powerful countries, particularly the super-Powers, had tried to shift their crises and difficulties on to the developing countries; the gap between the prices of industrial products and those of primary products had widened, and protectionism in trade was widely prevalent. In 1978, the developing countries had lost over \$30 billion as a result of worsening terms of trade, and their total foreign debt amounted to \$300 billion; at the same time the disparity between rich and poor was increasing.
31. In the knowledge that the root cause of the evils of the existing international economy lay in an irrational and inequitable international economic order, many developing countries were rightly demanding a fundamental restructuring of international economic relations. At their initiative, the sixth special session of the General Assembly had been convened in 1974 and had adopted the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a new International Economic Order. Since then the developing countries had strengthened their unity and fostered co-operation among themselves in the economic, scientific and technical fields on the basis of collective self-reliance while energetically striving to develop their national economies. During the same period, the developing countries had also put forward many reasonable proposals in various international forums and had made positive contributions to the promotion of negotiations on the establishment of a new international economic order. The Arusha programme, adopted at a

(Mr. An Chih-Yuan, China)

ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, and the economic documents of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-aligned Countries expounded the views of the developing countries on important international economic questions and formulated clear guidelines for negotiations with developed countries. Thanks to the efforts of developing and other countries, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had achieved some results. All of that represented a significant advance towards the establishment of the new international economic order.

32. Some developed countries had gradually come to recognize the importance of engaging in a constructive dialogue with third-world countries and had displayed a more realistic attitude in dealing with certain international economic issues. They had, for example, taken such positive measures as increasing economic, scientific and technical assistance and supporting the establishment of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the Common Fund. While still insufficient from an over-all standpoint, those efforts were to be welcomed and encouraged.

33. It should be pointed out that the opposition of some economic Powers, particularly the super-Powers, had hampered progress in many important negotiations. Despite the great efforts made by the developing countries, the fifth session of UNCTAD had not produced the desired results. Progress had also been slow in the preparatory work on the new development strategy and in the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/174. It should be noted that the super-Power which posed as the natural ally of the developing countries and made eloquent speeches was in fact creating obstacles everywhere, opposing the efforts of the developing countries and refusing to undertake obligations. Such behaviour revealed its true nature with ever-increasing clarity.

34. The establishment of a new international economic order was an objective historical need. If the developed countries were to grant genuine equality in decision-making in international economic affairs to the developing countries, engage in constructive negotiations with them with a view to narrowing the gap between rich and poor countries, and establish just international economic relations based on equality and mutual benefit, they would not only be helping to solve current international economic problems but would also be promoting the cause of world peace and stability.

35. Faced with the impasse reached in many negotiations, the Group of 77 had put forward a proposal concerning global negotiations. In view of the close relationship among various spheres of the international economy - raw materials, energy, trade, finance and monetary matters - the Group of 77 was rightly advocating integrated consideration of those issues. His delegation supported the view that global negotiations should be conducted within the framework of the United Nations and that the equal right of all countries to voice their opinions and make decisions should be guaranteed. The global negotiations, which were an important initiative in promoting the North-South dialogue, would also be conducive to the establishment of a new international economic order and the implementation of the new international

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development strategy. His delegation hoped that agreement could be reached on the proposal at the current session through consultations with all parties concerned.

36. His delegation was concerned about the slow progress in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy. In its view, the new strategy should embody international measures which could create favourable external conditions for the economies of the developing countries. National measures, to be formulated by the developing countries themselves in accordance with their priorities and stage of development, should be based on the principle of respect for sovereignty. In that context, the developed countries should undertake unequivocal obligations with respect to the development strategy.

37. His delegation hoped that the special session of the General Assembly in 1980 would make an important contribution towards establishing a new international economic order and formulating a new international development strategy. The Committee of the Whole had a major responsibility in the preparation for the special session and for the global negotiations.

38. In 1979 the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was being commemorated. For 30 years the Chinese people had been waging a heroic and indomitable struggle and had overcome a multitude of difficulties and achieved impressive results in various aspects of national construction. An independent and comparatively complete national industrial and economic system had been established, and the backwardness and destitution of old China had been overcome. However, there was still much to be done. China was still a developing country, but its people were determined to turn it into a modern, powerful socialist State by the end of the century. As from 1979, the country was embarking on a process of socialist modernization.

39. The Chinese people had always had the support and solidarity of other peoples, and would continue to maintain friendly relations with the countries of the world and to co-operate with them in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields. At the same time, China would like to strengthen co-operation with the development institutions of the United Nations system. The Chinese people, together with all peoples and countries which were lovers of peace and justice, would continue to oppose hegemonism and inequitable and irrational international economic relations, and to strive for peace and for the establishment of a new international economic order.

40. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) congratulated the German Democratic Republic on the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation. He said the existing state of the world economy was gloomy: sky-rocketing inflation, growing unemployment and a slump in production in a majority of Western countries were having a negative impact on international economic co-operation, particularly the expansion of world trade. The problem had been discussed at the most recent session of the Committee of the Whole, and the debate had made members acutely aware of the fact that not only was the state of the world economy far from good but the prospects for the years to come were not promising either. That opinion was shared by noted Western economists, who admitted that fear and uncertainty prevailed in the world economy and predicted

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(Mr. Kulaga, Poland)

further deterioration. That only confirmed that crises were the characteristic trait of a market economy and that developing countries depending on such a system were therefore exposed to much suffering.

41. Inflation, unemployment, lack of stability in raw materials markets, fluctuations in monetary systems and the protectionist measures being introduced by Western countries had a disruptive effect on world-wide economic co-operation and represented a very heavy burden, particularly for the developing countries. Those factors adversely affected the balance of payments and terms of trade, which in turn impeded economic progress and efforts to narrow the gap between developing and developed countries. For countries having a low per capita income, such a situation meant suspension of their development plans, lowering living standards below the minimum subsistence level and, ultimately, poverty and hunger.

42. His delegation shared the opinion of the developing countries that no fundamental progress had been achieved in the implementation of the most important decisions connected with the establishment of the new international economic order. That situation was the result of policies pursued by countries which refused to give up their privileged position and preferred to try to improve the existing system of international economic relations through corrections and adjustments rather than by supporting a fundamental change in those relations, which was the only sure way of achieving a new and just international division of labour, and a consequent improvement of the economic position of developing countries. His delegation understood very well the approach of those countries and therefore supported their demands for speedy implementation of the resolutions adopted at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

43. It was obvious that economic development occurred in a specific social and political environment and that a propitious political atmosphere was indispensable for the development of dynamic economic relations based on non-discrimination, equality and mutual advantage. For Poland, détente was not an end in itself; it was a state which created momentum for better relations, for increasing confidence and for more fruitful and equal co-operation in all fields, including the economic. In contemporary conditions, disarmament was the crucial basis for such détente and dynamic co-operation.

44. In 1979 the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. Since its inception CMEA had helped to develop close economic ties among its members and had advanced the cause of building socialism and communism and changing the structure of the national economy. Within its member countries the industrial sectors had been developing rapidly, and in many areas of science and technology the world's highest level had been attained. Thirty years earlier the States members of CMEA had together contributed about 18 per cent of the world's industrial production, compared with the current level of approximately one-third of that production, and their national income, which had then accounted for 15 per cent of the world's total, had risen to 25 per cent.

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(Mr. Kulaga, Poland)

45. Those achievements were due to the establishment of socialist production relations based on public ownership of the means of production and on economic planning. A special role in the development of co-operation among the CMEA States was played by co-ordination of national economic plans, which allowed for full use of the advantages of the international division of labour and provided the CMEA countries with a clear perspective, enabling each of them to make effective use of its national resources and the advantages offered by international specialization and co-operation in production.

46. Poland also fostered relations with the developing countries, and the expansion of ties with them was a major objective of its policies, based on the recently adopted 10-year comprehensive programme of relations with the developing countries. That programme expounded the idea of "partnership for development", based on the conviction that the most effective ways of assisting the developing countries were those which strengthened their economic capacity, particularly in the industrial field, and allowed for better utilization of their resources. Poland strove to assist the developing countries in their efforts to remodel the structure of production with a view to increasing the share of manufactured goods in their exports. Every year, the share of manufactured goods in Poland's imports from developing countries had increased. Poland continued to lend assistance to the developing countries for the construction of their own industries; for example, credits offered for financing industrial projects could be repaid in the form of the output from those industries.

47. Other important aspects of the programme of "partnership for development" were the training of personnel and the participation of Polish specialists in expanding the production capacities of developing countries. Its own experience of rebuilding an economy totally destroyed by war had shown the importance of trained national cadres for accelerating economic development. Poland was ready to make that experience available to other countries and to increase the participation of Polish specialists in the development of interested countries.

48. Given the obvious need to normalize the world economic situation and expand over-all economic co-operation among all countries based on democratic principles, knowledge of long-term trends in economic development and the identification of the productive capacities of different countries and regions and the degree of complementarity among them could be very useful. His delegation therefore noted with satisfaction that the relevant reports prepared by the Secretary-General and the studies carried out by the regional commissions had confirmed the necessity for that kind of research. However, since the work done so far was only the first step towards the achievement of the aims defined in General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX), his delegation would in due course introduce a draft resolution on the subject proposing that the General Assembly should keep the matter under constant review.

49. His delegation shared the concern of the developing countries over the lack of substantive progress in negotiations on the new international economic order and stressed that what was needed was not corrections or adjustments but thorough,

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50. Mr. BALASUBRAMANIAN (Sri Lanka) said that the global economic picture, characterized by galloping inflation, rising unemployment, sluggish economic growth and mounting protectionism, was indeed gloomy. Efforts by the international community in recent months, at the fifth session of UNCTAD, in the Committee of the Whole and in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, had not resulted in solutions to the most pressing problems. As the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka had pointed out in his statement to the General Assembly, the restructuring of the existing economic order could not be approached with slogans or threats; it had to be approached in terms of co-operation and not confrontation.

51. No marked improvement in the world economy was possible without fundamental structural changes in the global economic system, and those changes could not take place without agreement being reached between the developed and the developing countries. It was therefore necessary to break the deadlock in the North-South negotiations. In the view of his delegation, a global campaign of education and information on the new international economic order would help to create the political will and commitment necessary to change into a true dialogue the two monologues that had so far characterized the negotiations. If funding difficulties made it impossible to organize a large-scale operation, it might be possible to undertake a campaign of education and information on a modest scale under one of the existing programmes. The United Nations might give assistance to a number of non-governmental organizations that were actively engaged in creating a favourable climate for finding solutions to global development problems.

52. Referring to agenda item 55 (d), "Multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources", his delegation urged the speedy implementation of the relevant resolutions adopted at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly. His delegation was also interested in agenda item 67 "Unified approach to development analysis and planning". The principal objectives under that item should be: to leave no sector of the population outside the scope of change and development; to effect structural changes which encouraged national development encompassing all sectors of the population; to encourage equitable distribution of wealth and income; and to give high priority to the development of human potential, including vocational and technical training, the provision of employment opportunities and meeting the needs of children. Sri Lanka had succeeded to a great extent in reducing income disparities, a source of serious social tensions.

53. Turning to agenda item 66, "Examination of long-term trends in economic development", he pointed out that during the last 15 years the gulf between developing and developed countries had widened. The world economic order would have to be restructured to narrow it. The international community and, in particular, the developed countries should recognize that fact, and demonstrate the political will necessary to bring about those fundamental changes. They should take steps to change their development strategy so that the finite resources of the world could be judiciously utilized to ensure sustained economic development in all the regions of the world. His delegation commended the Secretary-General for the work undertaken by him in studying world development prospects. Those

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(Mr. Balasubramanian, Sri Lanka)

efforts should be further expanded so that the international community could be better guided in taking decisions on economic and social matters.

54. Mr. BA-ISSA (Democratic Yemen) stressed the developing countries' disappointment at the failure of UNCTAD V and at the scant progress achieved in various negotiating bodies, in particular, in the Committee of the Whole and in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy. The developed countries should help to overcome the present stalemate, which resulted from a manifest lack of political will. Given those circumstances, new ways of furthering discussion had to be found.

55. To save the millions affected by hunger and poverty, new international relations had to be established which took into account the developing countries' needs. Little had been achieved to date, the gulf between developed and developing countries continued to grow and developing countries were far from being able to play their rightful role in international decision-making. They laboured under the negative effects of capitalist policies. Meanwhile, capitalist countries refused to alter their consumption patterns or to modify their priorities. Some of them manoeuvred to obstruct more radical solutions and attempted to undermine the solidarity of the developing world, even going so far as to threaten the withholding of aid.

56. At the Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77 and the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Havana, the need for the developing countries to stand united and to co-operate with each other had been emphasized. Democratic Yemen fully shared that view, as was indicated by its statement issued jointly with Yemen, which underlined the importance of policy co-ordination and co-operation between the two countries. Democratic Yemen also set great store by its relations with the whole of the Islamic world. Specifically, Democratic Yemen was in need of foreign investment, which was slow in coming. Under such circumstances, it was appropriate to indicate the importance of co-operation between developing countries.

57. The new international development strategy should take into account the interests of the less developed countries, and the struggle of developing countries to provide their peoples with a satisfactory lifestyle. That objective could only be achieved by the elimination of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism, including zionism, and foreign aggression and occupation. A great deal could be achieved if the vast resources currently squandered on destructive ends were rechannelled into development.

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58. The CHAIRMAN said that at the start of the following week, preferably on Monday, he hoped that the Committee would consider the draft resolutions on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and on the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation programme for the Sudano-Sahelian region. It would also be appropriate for the Committee to take a decision at that time on the draft resolution on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, which the Economic and Social Council had referred to the General Assembly for adoption.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.