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**UNITA COLLECTION**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING**

**Chairman:** Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia)

**CONTENTS**

**AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)**

(a) **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued)**

(b) **TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)**

(c) **FOOD PROBLEMS (continued)**

(f) **LONG-TERM TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)**

**AGENDA ITEM 83: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)**

**AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)**

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

**DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOR 1989-1990**

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**A/C.2/43/SR.49**  
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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/C.2/43/L.3, A/C.2/43/L.39, A/C.2/43/L.84)

Draft decisions on development and international economic co-operation  
(A/C.2/43/L.39, A/C.2/43/L.84)

1. The CHAIRMAN introduced draft decision A/C.2/43/L.84, which was based on informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/43/L.39.
2. Mr. RWAMBUKA (Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that owing to time constraints it had not yet been possible to process a programme budget implications statement for distribution in all languages. A Fifth Committee document would be prepared in due course for submission to that Committee and eventually to the General Assembly.
3. The first paragraph of the draft decision dealt with the convening of a resumed forty-third session. The estimated cost of that session would be approximately \$211,600, on the assumption that there would be six meetings of the Second Committee, and two meetings each of the Fifth Committee and the Plenary. Under the current budgetary arrangement, no additional appropriation would be required for that amount, assuming that the recent pattern of meetings and conferences continued unchanged.
4. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, drew attention to a number of errors in the Spanish, Arabic and French translations of document A/C.2/43/L.84. He cited as an example paragraph 2 of the annex to the document: of the reference to "dialogue, discussion and deliberation", a reference which had been inaccurately rendered in the French translation, while the important words "including the need for recovery and revitalisation of growth and development of developing countries" had been omitted. There were also a number of other errors. He assumed that in its work the Committee would disregard the translated texts and work solely from the English version.
5. He also drew attention to a number of serious errors in the English version of the press release relating to the Committee's previous meeting prepared by the Department of Public Information. For example, the press release stated that the text adopted on poverty had been withdrawn, and that the text on external debt had been adopted by consensus. He asked the Chairman to draw the attention of the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, to the problem.
6. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) drew attention to a discrepancy between the agreed text of the footnote and the text as it appeared in the document before the Committee. It was his understanding that the agreed text read "The Secretariat shall make available to the Second Committee at the resumed forty-third session the attached informal paper related to this draft decision for further consideration".

7. Mr. SALARICH (Spain) endorsed the Tunisian representative's remarks regarding the translation, and also drew attention to certain errors of omission in what had been intended as a carefully drafted consensus text. One such error, he said, was the omission of the words "take a final decision", in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph (a) of the English text, from the Spanish version.
8. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, confirmed that, according to his records, the representative of China was correct in his understanding with regard to the wording of the footnote.
9. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) suggested that the Committee should continue its work on the basis of the original English text, and ensure that a careful review was made of the other texts to ensure that all versions would be authentic when the matter came to be considered in the Plenary. On behalf of the Secretariat, he apologized for the mistakes that had been made.
10. The CHAIRMAN concurred with the comments made regarding the errors, and suggested that the Committee should proceed with its work on the basis of the English text, and that the footnote should be restored to the wording read out by the representative of China.
11. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria), Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee), Mr. ZIADA (Iraq), Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt), the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) and Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia) took part, Mr. ZIADA (Iraq) said that, in a spirit of flexibility, his delegation could agree to join in the consensus.
12. Draft decision A/C.2/43/L.84 was adopted by consensus.
13. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and his own delegation, said that they had supported the idea of convening a special session of the General Assembly in 1990, and had taken an active part in the consultations on that matter. Those consultations had confirmed the need for an effort, undertaken at a high political level, to seek mutually acceptable solutions to the problems facing the world economy, and in particular, to revitalize growth and development in developing countries. The various new trends in world development called for a thorough and comprehensive study and joint action by the international community to benefit all nations. A special session could usefully serve those goals. It was thus regrettable that the political will and spirit of co-operation which had prevailed during the Committee's discussions had not extended to questions relating to the convening of the special session. The countries on whose behalf he spoke had joined the consensus on the decision just adopted, in the firm belief that, at its resumed forty-third session, the General Assembly would be able to adopt a consensus resolution on the subject, thereby making it possible to begin preparations for the special session.

14. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group was aware that in the wake of the successive shocks brought about by the economic crisis and its impact on the developing countries, the present-day world was undergoing a profound ideological, political, economic, social, scientific and technological upheaval. Few Governments were capable of controlling the forces for change that were currently shaping the international economic situation, in a climate of continued economic instability in which there was a new awareness of global interdependence. The calming of East-West confrontation at a political level, with the concomitant détente in regional conflicts, the impending emergence of a Single European Market, the recent co-operation agreement between the EEC and CMEA, the creation of a free-trade area between the United States and Canada, the gradual formation of regional economic groups in various parts of the world, the emergence of new protagonists on the international economic stage and the growing role of transnational corporations were examples of factors calling for joint reflection on an intensified multilateral framework aimed at giving new impetus to international economic co-operation and revitalising growth and development in the developing countries. The external debt crisis, the slump in commodity prices, access to markets and new technologies and the new importance attached to protection of the environment were further factors to be considered in a spirit of joint responsibility.

15. The Group of 77 believed that the time had come for the international community to make common cause in democratizing the world economic order with a view to achieving equitable rules and commercial, financial and military systems that gave just recognition to the need to create a world economy which would foster the requirements and objectives of development. It was unthinkable that three quarters of mankind should continue to be relegated to a marginal role in the world economy, and that Governments and the United Nations should have only a secondary impact on the considerable changes taking place in the world. It was thus with determination and hope that the Group of 77 looked forward to the resumed forty-third session, with a view to finalization of the decision on the convening and the substantive content of the session.

16. The international community should recognize the remarkable effort being made by the Group of 77 to achieve a comprehensive forecast of the future evolution of international economic relations. The Group also wished to stress the need to make every effort to achieve a new consensus on the preparatory process and to ensure that the special session should take place in 1990 at a high political level, with the full participation and full political will of all concerned.

17. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution because they supported in principle the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on the basis of the common understanding negotiated during the current session. They believed that the special session should take into account the diversity of the international economy and should avoid duplicating the work being done in other forums. The emphasis to be placed on new, pragmatic approaches to the stimulation of dialogue in the search for solutions was welcome. The special session should give impetus to the formulation of a new international development strategy, and he urged all delegations to participate in the

(Mr. Papadatos, Greece)

preparatory process for both the special session and the international development strategy, which were closely linked.

18. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said that his Government supported the idea of convening a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the reactivation of economic growth and development in developing countries. The session would be an important instrument in the promotion of the North-South dialogue and the reactivation of growth.

19. While the arduous consultations held on the draft resolution had led to a consensus, he was obliged to concede that his delegation was not fully satisfied with the outcome, and would welcome the adoption by all parties concerned of a more positive attitude towards the convening of the special session and the preparatory and organizational arrangements. With the resumed forty-third session of the General Assembly less than two months away, he hoped that all delegations would endeavour to ensure the successful convening of the special session, to whose objectives many delegations attached great importance.

20. MR. SHAABAN (Egypt) said he was pleased that the Committee had adopted the draft decision and that the informal paper had been attached to it. It was his delegation's interpretation that the common understanding set out in the annex to the informal paper would be given further consideration at the Committee's resumed session.

21. The special session of the General Assembly to be convened in 1990 was a timely and essential event, given the recent upheavals in international economic relations, particularly the economic plight of the developing countries. The session should help to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system in dealing with issues relating to international economic co-operation. His delegation looked forward to the preparations for that session and hoped that all delegations would participate in them.

22. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that his delegation's eagerness for a genuine dialogue for North-South issues had led it to support the convening of a special session of the General Assembly. However, if such a session was to be held, it should be truly meaningful. It was easy to call for a new approach to the North-South dialogue, but much more difficult to identify such an approach. The main theme and purpose of the session must therefore be clarified before the Committee resumed its session in 1989. During the negotiations on the draft decision, his delegation had clearly and repeatedly drawn attention to the essence of a linkage between the substantive themes and the preparation of the international development strategy. Formulation of that strategy must address the new challenges which had arisen in the field of international economic co-operation. Finally, for the special session to be meaningful, all States must participate in it, and his delegation was prepared to work to ensure its success.

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, as no draft proposal had been submitted in connection with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology (A/43/763), he suggested that the Committee should adopt a draft decision that would read: "The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology (A/43/763)."

24. The draft decision suggested by the Chairman was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/C.2/43/L.31/Rev.1)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued) (A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1)
- (b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/43/L.79)
- (c) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued) (A/C.2/43/L.82)
- (f) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)  
(A/C.2/43.L.56/Rev.1)

AGENDA ITEM 83: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)  
(A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.2)

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/43/L.80)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/C.2/43/L.29)

Explanations of vote

25. The CHAIRMAN invited delegations wishing to do so to explain their positions with regard to the proposals on which action had been taken at the 48th meeting.

26. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), explaining the position of the 12 States members of the European Community with regard to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1, said that the Twelve were disappointed to have been unable to support the draft resolution, as they had been willing to support an earlier text submitted by the Group of 77. The European Community recognized the seriousness of poverty in developing countries, and its policy was aimed at eradicating that problem. The Twelve nevertheless believed that the text placed excessive attention on extraneous factors and failed to pay sufficient attention to the significance of reform in improving the overall economic situation of countries in which poverty existed. Reform efforts must take into account the needs of the most vulnerable social

(Mr. Papadatos, Greece)

groups by monitoring objectives for economic growth and social justice simultaneously. While a favourable international economic environment was essential for the success of the developing countries' efforts, national efforts were equally important; that notion should have been more adequately reflected in the text.

27. The Twelve had been pleased to support draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1, believing that the new international development strategy must be thoroughly prepared on the basis of an assessment of new challenges and the experience of past strategies. However, they were concerned at the manner in which the programme budget implications of that draft resolution, contained in document A/C.2/43/L.81, had been handled: the Committee had not been given adequate time to consider them, nor had the Secretariat provided any explanations. Moreover, paragraph 8 of document A/C.2/43/L.81, which described a series of meetings to be held in 1989 and 1990, went far beyond what was expected of a statement of programme budget implications. It would have been preferable to have that document discussed in the Committee before it completed its work, for while the matter could be discussed in the Fifth Committee or the Committee on Conferences, those bodies were not the most appropriate forums for that exercise. It was to be hoped that the organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to be held in March 1989 would include a full discussion of the preparatory process, including the calendar of meetings. In that connection, he considered the timetable set out in document A/C.2/43/L.81 to be merely indicative.

28. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.51/Rev.2, which the Twelve had supported, he said that a dialogue on the subject of external debt should lead to an international consensus on that subject. The Second Committee had always constituted a forum for the interplay of ideas and initiatives which had often led to new perceptions of specific problems. Debt was not an isolated subject, and the changes in thinking on that subject were beginning to reflect political realities. He expressed support for an open dialogue on the debt problem within the United Nations and noted the growing consensus that the debt strategy must evolve further in order to bring about recovery in debtor countries. That realization had led to a number of initiatives whose chief value was their market orientation. It was to be hoped that such efforts would succeed in bringing about sustained growth and development.

29. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China), explaining his delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1, said that China had consistently supported the launching of a new international development strategy and was thus disappointed that a procedural draft on the strategy had been put to a vote in spite of many hours of negotiation. It was to be hoped that the lack of consensus on that subject would not be permanent, and he invited the delegation which had abstained in the vote to reconsider the matter seriously and more flexibly in order to be able to join in the preparation of the new strategy, thereby contributing to enhanced international co-operation for development.

30. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said his delegation regretted having had to abstain on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.2. Although it had actively participated in the

(Mr. Taniguchi, Japan)

informal consultations on the draft text and had put forward comments and amendments, several paragraphs of the draft resolution did not reflect his delegation's concerns, placing undue emphasis on political elements in approaching the question of external debt. Nevertheless, his delegation's abstention would not affect the Japanese Government's efforts to solve the external debt problem.

31. His delegation was very disappointed by the way in which the Committee had dealt with the important issue of the preparation of a new international development strategy in draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1. His delegation had already pointed out that a new approach to the international development strategy was needed, and it was prepared to co-operate in the identification of such an approach.

32. Mrs. GROSS (United States of America) said that, even though her delegation had chosen to abstain on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1, it was committed to supporting the economic progress of developing countries and had actively participated in the development and implementation of three prior development decades. She nevertheless had reservations as to the effectiveness of decades in promoting the economic growth of developing countries and the need to perpetuate that process. There was obviously no single development strategy that could be applied to all developing countries. Consequently, development strategies must be formulated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the specific needs and situations of individual countries. An appropriate step which the United Nations could take in that context would be to review successful development strategies and help developing countries apply them to their own circumstances.

33. Although her delegation had concerns about the draft resolution, including its lack of reference to the need for evaluation of the implementation of the most recent strategy, it would not rule out the possibility of participating in a new strategy, if the strategy provided a flexible framework for the identification and analysis of development problems and the examination of alternative courses of action to address them. One of the major weaknesses of the current strategy had been its focus on statist approaches to development; thus any new strategy which failed to take the private sector, competitive markets and individual initiative into account could not be truly effective.

34. She regretted that a consensus had not been reached on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.2, particularly as there had been many indications from previous sessions of the General Assembly as well as from UNCTAD, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank that there was scope for general agreement in the area of external debt. The United States Government, which considered debt an important issue, was strongly committed to addressing the financial problems of developing countries, including debt, on the basis of a co-operative approach. That was the spirit of the international debt strategy endorsed at the recent annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF, which sought to achieve sustainable economic growth through a combination of market-oriented reforms, external financing and a supportive international environment. In fact, the progress made under that strategy had led to an abatement of the current debt crisis and had brought about important changes in the attitudes of debtor nations. The strategy



(Mrs. Gross, United States)

was adaptable and innovative, and would facilitate agreement between debtors and creditors.

35. Unfortunately, the draft resolution failed to reflect that progress. It also placed full responsibility for solving the debt problem on the international community, overlooking the fundamental importance of developing countries' economic policies. Her delegation was also troubled by attempts to politicize debt issues; while debt problems could influence the political climate in debtor countries, the problems themselves were economic and financial in nature and must be addressed on that basis. Consequently, negotiations between debtors and creditors must take place voluntarily, since attempts to achieve a concerted political solution might lead to unrealistic expectations on the part of developing countries that would undermine their own efforts to restructure their debt, obtain financing and implement needed reforms.

36. Referring to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1, she said that while the United States recognized that the reduction of poverty was a crucial objective of development, and had intensified its efforts to achieve that goal, it had voted against the text. In order to address poverty in the long term it was essential to lay the foundation for broad-based, sustainable growth. The draft resolution focused, however, on the potentially negative effects of structural adjustment programmes. Although adjustment could have adverse social effects, the failure to adjust was far more damaging to the poor in the long run. Special attention should be paid to vulnerable groups during periods of adjustment, and that meant designing adjustment programmes and adopting well-targeted compensatory measures, as necessary, to help shield the poor from any potentially adverse effects.

37. She hoped that the Secretary-General's report would concentrate on the benefits of structural adjustment, and on the need for appropriate domestic policies to restore growth and alleviate poverty. It should not focus on external factors to the exclusion of internal causes of poverty in developing countries, and any recommendations that emerged should reflect the need to continue the co-operative approach to development adopted to date.

38. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.2 was particularly significant for the developing countries. He welcomed, in particular, the spirit of co-operation displayed by the European Community, the Nordic countries and Canada, amongst others. The Group of 77 had adopted a comprehensive approach to external debt, which would throw new light on the problem and help achieve a lasting solution. The seventh preambular paragraph and paragraph 9 were especially significant as they affirmed the need for debt reduction arrangements to apply to all types of debts and would, therefore, affect all indebted developing countries.

39. With regard to the requests set out in paragraphs 11 and 12, it was to be hoped that the Secretary-General's activities would have a catalytic function and that it would be possible, through his high-level consultations, to achieve a common understanding.

(Mr. Elghouayel, Tunisia)

40. With reference to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.29, the Group of 77 had had certain reservations. The text as a whole lacked balance. In particular, the fifteenth preambular paragraph emphasized national shelter strategies, without referring to the need for international co-operation, while the sixteenth preambular paragraph referred to the content of national strategies for which individual States had exclusive competence. Paragraph 2 was particularly unbalanced and its terminology inconsistent with usage within the United Nations system as a whole.

41. The Group of 77 had been greatly concerned by the attitude to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1 on the part of some developed countries. Poverty was not restricted to developing countries, but was an issue affecting all. He hoped that the matter could be dealt with in the appropriate framework, i.e., in the context of international co-operation, and with the most appropriate approach.

42. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.82, he indicated an error in paragraph 24 of the Spanish text: in the penultimate line, the phrase "a largo plazo" should be replaced by "a corto plazo".

43. With reference to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.78 and draft decision A/C.2/43/L.80, which were linked, he emphasized the importance that the Group of 77 attached to the role of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. It looked forward to the recommendations and proposals that he would make in his report in 1989.

44. Mr. KHALIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at the previous meeting, his delegation had voted for the draft resolution entitled "External debt crisis and development: towards a durable solution of the debt problem" (A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.1). As Mr. M. S. Gorbachev had emphasized in his statement in the plenary session of the General Assembly, in which he had described the measures the Soviet Union was prepared to take to alleviate the debt burden of the developing countries, the external debt was a very serious problem.

45. His delegation supported the provisions of the report of the Trade and Development Board on the reduction of commercial bank debt, and suggested that consideration should be given to the idea of ensuring State support of market mechanisms for settling the debt of third world countries, including the establishment of a special international institution for buying up debts at reduced rates. The Soviet Union was in favour of a substantive discussion in multilateral forums, including the United Nations, of ways to settle the debt crisis.

46. His delegation considered it very important and timely that the Secretary-General had been requested to hold consultations with heads of State or Government, as well as with other parties concerned, in order to contribute to a common understanding towards a solution to the debt problem of developing countries. Such consultations would help give political impetus to concerted action on the part of the international community in its efforts to solve the problem of external debt and ensure the stable and harmonious development of the world economy in the interests of all countries. The concept of international economic security which

(Mr. Khalikov, USSR)

had been put forward by his delegation was particularly relevant to the search for collective solutions to the major problems facing the world economy.

47. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) said that his delegation had reluctantly abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1, despite Canada's unequivocal commitment to the eradication of poverty, which was a central priority in its official development assistance policies and programmes. In its view, the resolution was fundamentally flawed because it focused on one aspect of the problem, namely, inadequate economic growth and development in the international context. As a result, it was unbalanced and one-sided, suggesting that poverty in the developing countries was the product of an unfavourable external environment and a problem which only the international community could resolve. His delegation did not believe that to be the case. The eradication of poverty called for balanced and concerted action at both national and international levels. Although his delegation and others had endeavoured to introduce into the text minimal recognition of national obligations, the sponsors had been unwilling to accept that responsibility. The importance of the shared responsibilities and obligations of both the developed and the developing countries should, however, be emphasised. It was to be hoped that the report referred to in paragraph 3 would consider the issue in all its dimensions, and contain recommendations for concrete and effective measures at national and international level.

48. Mr. KIURU (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that those countries had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1 because they believed that a carefully planned and well-focused international development strategy, more qualitative than quantitative in approach, would serve a useful purpose. Such a strategy should indicate guidelines for the Governments of both developing and developed countries, and address the different needs of individual countries, subregions and regions, reflecting current realities. Although a new strategy should not involve the setting of global economic targets, a mechanism should exist to monitor overall progress and to register trends. The Nordic countries believed, however, that the United Nations targets for official development assistance continued to be valid and should be enhanced.

49. The fight against poverty and the development of human resources should be central elements of a development strategy focusing on the interlinked issues of growth, solidarity and ecological considerations, in other words, on sustainable development. He regretted that consensus had not been reached with regard to the substance of the strategy, and emphasised the urgent need to initiate the preparations, given the relatively short space of time available.

50. Mr. BISTA (Nepal) said that, had his delegation been present during the voting on draft resolutions A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.2, L.40/Rev.1 and L.56/Rev.1, it would have voted in favour of all of them.

51. Mr. JONCK (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that they had abstained from the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1, although they fully endorsed its objective of eradicating poverty and considered that an appropriate issue for discussion within the Committee. Emphasizing the need for

(Mr. Jenck, Denmark)

adjustment "with a human face", he said that the donor countries, international organisations, financial institutions and the developing countries themselves should intensify their efforts to improve conditions for the poor and to shield them and other vulnerable groups from the adverse effects of adjustment policies. It could hardly be disputed that the developing countries were primarily responsible for their own development and for the welfare of their peoples. International efforts should support, rather than replace, national efforts. Accordingly, it was regrettable that the draft resolution presented by the Group of 77 had focused exclusively on international actions: although marginal improvements had been made, the text did not contain adequate recognition of national efforts, and therefore lacked a proper balance. With regard to the report referred to in the resolution, he pointed out that many such reports were already being produced elsewhere and hoped that the Secretary-General would make extensive use of the analyses that they provided.

52. Mr. BOECK (Austria) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1 because, although the eradication of poverty was one of the prime objectives of Austrian co-operation for development, the text was not sufficiently balanced and focused almost exclusively on external factors and international efforts.

53. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia), referring to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1, said that when his delegation had suggested to the Group of 77 that such a resolution should be submitted on the subject, it had done so in the conviction that it was appropriate and necessary for solutions to be sought within the United Nations system. The response of the developed countries had been disappointing, particularly since the original idea had derived largely from statements that they themselves had made. He had not anticipated that it would be possible to reach a consensus only if the adoption of internal measures was made a pre-condition for action by the international community. Nevertheless, the possibilities available had not been exhausted and it was still possible for concrete action to be taken by the international community to avert the threat to democracy and political stability represented by poverty.

54. Mr. RENDOH (Botswana) said that, had his delegation been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.31/Rev.1.

55. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that, in their explanations of vote, some delegations had referred to the action which the Secretariat, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation or the Secretary-General had been requested to take in pursuance of a number of the decisions or recommendations which had been recently adopted. He had taken careful note of those comments. He was encouraged by the firm determination of many delegations to continue to work hard, either at a resumed session of the Second Committee or in the preparatory committees, to resolve outstanding problems. His Office was also prepared to work hard. The Second Committee should adhere to the timetables it had set for itself; otherwise, the Secretariat would have difficulty in carrying out the work requested of it by the Committee. The timetables contained certain problems which must be clarified,

(Mr. Ripert)

and the Committee should organize, in January 1989, informal contacts with delegations to examine more closely the arrangements relating to the preparations of the new international development strategy.

DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOR 1989-1990  
(A/C.2/43/L.71)

56. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco), referring to item 1 (1) of the draft programme of work for 1989 contained in document A/C.2/43/L.71, drew attention to the fact that, while General Assembly resolution 40/179 had the same title as that item, the title of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/6 of 26 May 1987 was "Indicative patterns of consumption: qualitative indicators of development". He therefore suggested that the title of item 1 (1) should be amended to read "Patterns of consumption: qualitative aspects and indicators of development".

57. Mr. STOBX (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat would take note of that suggestion, and drew attention to a number of corrections to document A/C.2/43/L.71. The report title appearing in brackets ("Report of the Secretary-General on preparations ...") in the documentation under item 2 for 1989 should be deleted, the brackets around item 2 (a) should be deleted, and the symbol of the document under that item should now be A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1. In the list of documents shown in connection with item 2 (f) for 1989, the brackets should be removed from around the eighth title, the symbol of the document referred to there should be A/C.2/43/L.36/Rev.2, and the brackets should be removed from around the last title ("Draft resolution ..."). In the list of documents under item 2 (j) for 1989, the brackets should be removed from the second title ("Report of the Commission on Human Settlements ..."). The brackets around item 2 (1) should be deleted and the symbol of the document under that item should be A/C.2/43/L.56/Rev.1. The brackets should also be removed from item 3 for 1989; in the list of documents under that item, the brackets should be removed from the first title, and the relevant symbol should be A/C.2/43/L.15/Rev.2, while the second bracketed report title should be deleted and replaced by "Draft decision entitled 'Establishment of an Advisory Commission on Debt and Development (A/C.2/43/L.19)'". The heading of item 6 (b) for 1989 should now read "International strategy for the fight against the locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa".

58. In the programme of work of the Committee for 1990, the brackets should be removed from item 2 (a) and the symbol of the document listed under that item should now be A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1; in the list of documents shown in connection with item 2 (b), the brackets should be deleted from the third report title ("Report of the Secretary-General ...").

59. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, endorsed the suggestion by the representative of Greece at a previous meeting that the report of the Secretary-General on the accession by the United Nations to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, Vienna, 1986, and to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Emergency, Vienna, 1986, listed in the documentation under item 2, should not be considered by the Second Committee but

(Mr. Elghouayel, Tunisia)

referred to the Sixth Committee and to the next plenary session of the General Assembly. The Group of 77 was not aware that a request had been made for the inclusion of a new sub-item entitled "Sustainable and environmentally sound development"; it therefore suggested item 2 (g) for 1989 should be deleted and the list of relevant documentation for it transferred to item 2 (f), which dealt with the environment. All other items relating to the environment should also be grouped under item 2 (f). Under item 4 for 1989, it appeared that the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had been omitted. Finally, he noted that, despite the adoption of a resolution on the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/43/L.66), in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its forty-fourth session, no agenda item on that subject had been included in the draft biennial programme of work for 1989-1990.

60. Mr. OULD EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that his delegation had understood from the text of paragraph 17 of draft resolution A/43/L.41/Rev.1 that the General Assembly had decided to include the question of the locust and grasshopper infestation as a separate item - and not as a sub-item - in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session. The question of the locust and grasshopper infestation did not appear in the Second Committee's programme of work for 1990, and his delegation hoped that the Committee would not have to request the Assembly to include it there.

61. Mr. VIK (Norway), supported by Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), said that there was a very good basis for retaining item 2 (g) since the General Assembly in its resolution 42/187 had invited the governing bodies of the organs, organisations and programmes of the United Nations system to report on progress made in their organisations towards sustainable development. In response to that request, item 82 (g), entitled "Long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development", had been included in the agenda of the forty-third session of the Assembly. An interim report had been submitted and the main report was to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. It was therefore appropriate to have a separate sub-item on that question in the Committee's programme of work.

62. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that item 2 (g) should not have been included as a separate sub-item since no request had been made - or draft decision taken - on that subject. The Group of 77 wished to receive assurance from the Secretariat that item 1 (n), entitled "Guidelines for international decades", would be included on the agendas of all the Main Committees of the General Assembly. The title of item 2 (1) should be amended to read "International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" in keeping with the title of the report of the Secretary-General in the documentation under that item. Finally, the Group of 77 had noted that the agenda for 1990 did not include an item dealing with the crisis of debt and development, and requested an explanation for that omission.

63. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that, since the programme of work had been drawn up on the basis of existing legislation, the Committee's programme

(Mr. Stoby)

of work for 1990 was more tentative than its programme of work for 1989. In the documentation for 1989 under item 2, the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/714) would be drawn to the attention of the General Committee for reference to the Sixth Committee and perhaps to the plenary at the next session of the General Assembly. The Secretariat would follow the same practice with regard to item 1 (n). He pointed out that the documentation for item 2 (b) included a report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

64. Mr. OULD EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that the report which the Secretary of the Committee had just mentioned did not appear in the French text of document A/C.2/43/L.71.

65. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the title of item 2 (1) would be changed to "International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries". With regard to item 4, no report had been listed for UNICEF since, in accordance with the biennialization agreements, a UNICEF report would be forthcoming in 1990. On the basis of the comments which had been made in the Committee, the secretariat would include a separate item on external debt and development in the Committee's programme of work for 1990. The secretariat would have no objection if the members of the Committee felt that the reports listed under item 2 (g) should be listed in the documentation under item 2 (f).

66. Mr. LICHTINGER (Mexico) said that the documentation under item 2 (h), on protection of global climate, should also be included under item 2 (f).

67. Mr. VIK (Norway) said his delegation wished to propose that item 2 (g) should remain a separate sub-item. While items 2 (h) and 2 (i) were clearly related to environmental issues, they were distinct from the various issues dealt with under item 2 (f). Item 2 (g) was a pervasive concept and therefore substantially different from other specific environmental issues. His delegation therefore believed that items 2 (f), (g) and (h), owing to their distinctive character, should be retained as separate sub-items.

68. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that when a programme of work was being prepared, it was important to regroup and simplify agenda items with a view to economizing in the preparation of documentation. Those who attached importance to the exact wording of the agenda in a political sense might perhaps be able to wait until a precise agenda was established, at which time the proper headings and sub-items would be determined. In the case of desertification, items had been regrouped in the past; if in the case of the environment items 2 (f), (g) and (h) could be similarly combined, that would result in simplification, without prejudging the decisions on the agenda to be taken by the General Committee.

69. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia) said that item 2 (g) referred to two basic General Assembly resolutions, 42/186 and 42/187. Resolution 42/186 did not deal with sustainable and environmentally sound development; in resolution 42/187, on the other hand, the General Assembly had decided to include in the provisional agenda

(Mr. Elghouayel, Tunisia)

of its forty-third session a sub-item entitled "A long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development" under the agenda item "Development and international economic co-operation". Accordingly, the two resolutions dealt with two different questions and could not be linked. If the Norwegian delegation wished to make a formal proposal, that was of course its prerogative, but the members of the Committee would need time to discuss it and could not take a decision on the matter at the current meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.