



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/43/L.2, L.58 and L.75)

Draft decision on guidelines for international decades (A/C.2/43/L.75)

1. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Philippines), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced the draft decision. The responses received from the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly had been taken into account as requested.
2. Mr. PAXTON (New Zealand) said that it was regrettable that the Committee would not be adopting draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.2, which contained guidelines elaborated by the Economic and Social Council. It was understandable that some delegations believed the Economic and Social Council was not the appropriate forum for drawing up guidelines on decades. However, on other occasions, the Council had been selected to draw up guidelines for shorter periods. His delegation welcomed the Committee's decision that rather than allow the issue to lapse for a year, the Economic and Social Council should be given an opportunity to take it up again.
3. Draft decision A/C.2/43/L.75 was adopted.
4. Mr. DARAS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve regretted that guidelines had not been agreed to at the current General Assembly session. The adoption and implementation of such guidelines would contribute to the overall improvement and effectiveness of the United Nations. The Twelve hoped that further consideration of the guidelines by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session in early 1989 would pave the way for a consensus at the forty-fourth General Assembly session.
5. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group also regretted the failure to agree on guidelines. Its members were firmly committed to the proclamation of international decades which were of interest to the entire international community, irrespective of economic and social systems. The Group of 77 attached particular importance to decades for the solution of development problems in developing countries, and would also be receptive to constructive proposals for rationalizing the work of the United Nations. Guidelines which might be jointly agreed to for future international decades could not be applied retroactively to decades on which the Assembly had already made its decision. They included the United Nations development decades, the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa or the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.
6. Neither the Second Committee nor the Economic and Social Council could legitimately decide on a matter which was the concern of other Committees as well, particularly the Sixth Committee, from which a legal opinion would be requested. Consequently, after in-depth consideration by the Economic and Social Council, the final decision should be taken in 1989 without being referred to a specific

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Committee of the General Assembly. The Group of 77 agreed that further decades should be preceded by an evaluation within the United Nations system, and should be prepared in great detail prior to their declaration by the General Assembly. However, those standards must not be applied rigidly. Standards for future decades must provide for balance between sound management and the ability of the United Nations system to adopt innovative ideas.

7. Ms. RIGGELSEN (Denmark) speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that while the Nordic countries had joined in the consensus, they regretted that the Economic and Social Council guidelines would not be adopted at the current General Assembly session. Such guidelines would be useful in ensuring that international decades were proclaimed in a more rational manner and increasing the efficiency of the United Nations. The Nordic countries welcomed the fact that the Economic and Social Council would be considering the guidelines at its organizational session in early 1989. They hoped the guidelines would be adopted at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that since draft decision A/C.2/43/L.75 had been adopted, the sponsors wished to withdraw draft decision A/C.2/43/L.58, and that no action would be necessary on document A/C.2/43/L.2.

9. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/C.2/43/L.31/Rev.1, A/C.2/43/L.50, A/C.2/43/L.76)

Draft resolution on fulfilment of the target for official development assistance
(A/C.2/43/L.31/Rev.1)

10. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that a consensus had not been reached in the informal consultations, and he therefore commended the draft resolution for action by the Committee.

11. Mr. JONCK (Denmark) indicated that while a consensus had not been reached in the informal consultations, neither had the draft resolution been opposed. He wished to revise it orally, based on proposals made in informal discussions held since the informal consultations. Paragraph 5 should be deleted, as the draft resolution on operational activities for development (A/C.2/43/L.78), which was also before the Committee, contained a paragraph on contributions. The words "taking into account the necessity to improve the quality of official development assistance" should be added at the end of paragraph 3. Lastly, "adopting" in paragraph 3 should be replaced by the word "pursuing".

12. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that deletion of paragraph 5 would be acceptable on the condition that similar language was incorporated in the draft resolution on operational activities for development, which the Group of 77 hoped would be adopted by consensus. They would appreciate confirmation that a paragraph to that effect was contained in draft resolution

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A/C.2/43/L.78 before the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.31/Rev.1 as orally amended.

13. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. BEN MOUSSA (Morocco), Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia) and Mr. DARAS (Greece) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.78 before draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.31/Rev.1.

14. It was so decided.

Draft resolution on international co-operation for development: towards competence and common approaches (A/C.2/43/L.50)

15. Mr. OTCHAO (Nigeria), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that Poland, the sponsor of the draft resolution, wished to withdraw it.

16. Mr. WORONIECKI (Poland) confirmed that his delegation wished to withdraw the draft resolution. In earlier debates, the States Members of the European Community, Canada the Nordic countries and others had reaffirmed the importance of co-operation for development. However, a number of delegations were still unprepared to adopt a resolution on common approaches, especially with regard to economic issues confronting the developing countries and measures to strengthen confidence in international co-operation for development. It was unfortunate that time constraints had prevented further progress on the subject. It was his delegation's understanding that at its second regular session in 1989, the Economic and Social Council would consider deferred draft resolution (E/1988/L.34) on confidence-building in international economic relations. His delegation hoped that such further consultations would lead to consensus.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.50 was withdrawn by the sponsor.

Draft decision on the convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (A/C.2/43/L.76)

18. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Philippines), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced the draft decision, which represented the consensus outcome of informal consultations.

19. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) said that his delegation had been pleased to join in the consensus but regretted that for the second time, the Committee had been unable to conclude its deliberations on the matter. At the forty-fourth session, the question should be assigned to the plenary rather than to a specific Committee, in which it could not always be dealt with appropriately. For example, the draft resolution not only fell within the competence of the Second Committee, but also the Sixth.

20. Draft decision A/C.2/43/L.76 was adopted.

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21. Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve welcomed the adoption of the draft decision. With regard to document A/43/784, the question it dealt with merited thorough consideration; the Sixth Committee could make a valuable contribution in that regard.

22. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group of 77 supported the statement by the representative of New Zealand. It was regrettable that it had not been possible for document A/43/784 to be adopted at the current session. The attention of the General Committee should be drawn to the question at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

23. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) said that his delegation agreed with the representative of New Zealand. The Committee was not necessarily the most appropriate forum for discussion of the question. It should be dealt with by the General Committee in order to ensure that all of the Committees concerned could make an effective input at the forty-fourth session.

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/43/L.6 and A/C.2/43/L.53, A/C.2/43/L.7, A/C.2/43/L.55 and A/C.2/43/L.77)

Draft resolutions on an international conference on money and finance for development (A/C.2/43/L.6) and an international conference on money and finance (A/C.2/43/L.53)

24. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), introducing the draft resolutions, said that the group of Member States which had taken part in the informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.6 had decided that it should again be carried over to the following year. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.53, the informal consultations had not resulted in a consensus.

25. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.53.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon

Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Turkey.

26. Draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.53 was adopted by 112 votes to 19, with 5 abstentions.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.6 until the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

28. It was so decided.

Draft resolutions on protectionism and structural adjustment and on commodities (A/C.2/43/L.7)

29. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, said that on the basis of informal consultations, a consensus had been reached to carry the draft resolutions over again to the following year.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone consideration of the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.2/43/L.7 until the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

31. It was so decided.

Draft resolution on the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/C.2/43/L.77)

32. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introducing the draft resolution, said that it was the result of a consensus reached through informal consultations. He therefore commended it for adoption by the Committee.

33. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) said that the consensus to which the previous speaker had referred had been ad referendum, and his delegation was not yet in a position to go along with it. He therefore requested that discussion should be deferred until the Committee's next meeting.

34. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, proposed that the meeting should be suspended for five minutes, so that the representative of Canada should clarify his reasons for requesting a postponement.

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35. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. LABERGE (Canada), Mr. MOHIUDDIN (Bangladesh) and Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would suspend its deliberations briefly.

36. The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

37. Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the proposal by the representative of Canada would have serious implications for the procedures followed by the Committee, especially in regard to the relation between formal meetings and informal consultations. The Group of 77 did not wish for the various draft resolutions before the Committee to receive different treatment according to the topics with which he dealt. Accordingly, they requested that the meeting should be suspended without any further adoption of draft resolutions so that delegations could receive instructions from their Governments in due form.

38. The CHAIRMAN read out rule 118 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly concerning motions for suspension.

39. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. DARAS (Greece), Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Mr. STOEY (Secretary of the Committee), and Mr. ELGHOUAYEL (Tunisia) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to defer action on the remaining draft proposals to the following meeting.

40. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.