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Chairman: Mr. Koudelka (Vice-Chairman) (Czech Republic)

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In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Koudelka (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Agenda item 50: Macroeconomic policy questions
(continued)

(a) International trade and development
(continued) (A/C.2/60/L.18)

Draft resolution on international trade and development

1. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.18 on international trade and development contained no programme budget implications. However, the Canadian delegation had requested a recorded vote on paragraph 13 while the United States delegation had requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

2. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed deep regret that the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on such an important resolution, especially in light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which had strongly reaffirmed that the United Nations had a fundamental role to play in the promotion of international cooperation for development. The Group of 77 and China, while carefully avoiding issues and formulations that would have prejudged the outcome of the upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong, had nevertheless hoped that a strong political message could have been sent to that Meeting. The Group remained firm in its commitment to discuss all important aspects of trade, including the vital links between trade and development, at the United Nations.

3. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union would vote in favour of paragraph 13. Work towards full duty-free and quota-free market access for all least-developed-country products was intensifying in Geneva. The European Union hoped for a result that would fully address the concerns of all parties, including by an appropriate legal form.

4. **Mr. Adsett** (Canada), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that Canada would vote against paragraph 13. Canada was a strong supporter of

least developed countries, as its actions, including the Market Initiative for Least Developed Countries, had consistently demonstrated. His delegation's vote was intended to reflect specific concerns over the text rather than any change in that support. Indeed, Canada remained fully committed to advancing the Doha Development Agenda, including its development aspects.

5. While the General Assembly had a legitimate role to play in encouraging progress in the WTO negotiations, it should not alter the balance of agreements that had already been reached or prejudice the outcome of ongoing negotiations. In that regard, the original draft of the resolution, especially paragraph 13, went beyond commitments that WTO members had made in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and in the "July package" of 2004. Canada also opposed the inclusion of the word "all" before the word "products" in paragraph 13.

6. **Ms. Grindlay** (Australia) said that Australia, which had the most comprehensive laws in favour of least developed countries in the world, would vote in favour of paragraph 13. She hoped that the issue would be resolved successfully in Hong Kong.

7. **Ms. Rødsmoen** (Norway) said that she would vote in favour of paragraph 13 and urged all developed countries as well as developing countries that were in a position to do so to provide full duty-free and quota-free market access to all products from least developed countries.

8. *A recorded vote was taken on paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.18.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana,

Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation, Switzerland.

9. *Paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.18 was adopted by 149 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.*

10. **Mr. Aho-Glele** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of least developed countries, expressed regret that a vote had had to be taken on a provision so vital for development. It was unfortunate that certain countries which claimed to be partners and supporters of least developed countries failed to support issues of priority importance to those countries and even actively undermined their development efforts.

11. **Ms. Grindlay** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, South Africa and Uruguay, expressed disappointment that consensus had not been reached on the draft resolution. The Doha Round was

approaching a critical juncture and leaders must seize the opportunity to bring the negotiations to a close. The reform of global agricultural trade was crucial to unlocking the full potential of the agricultural sectors of developing countries.

12. The lack of progress in reforming agricultural trade was particularly disappointing in the context of the commitment to foster development during the current year. There had been a welcome push for increased ODA and many countries had responded, including Australia, which had agreed to double its ODA by 2010. However, giving ODA without reforming agricultural trade was not a genuine commitment to development. Solidarity did not mean easy handouts; it was a long-term partnership based on equality. Indeed, solidarity could not exist while distortions in world agricultural markets continued to undermine the ability of many developing countries' agricultural sectors to contribute to sustained economic development and poverty alleviation.

13. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his country, a leading advocate of trade liberalization, had made bold proposals for ambitious results as negotiations had proceeded towards the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong. It had acknowledged the important impact that a successful Doha Round would have on development, poverty eradication and the further integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system. It had hoped that the resolution on trade and development would encourage progress on the Doha Agenda. His delegation supported certain elements of the draft resolution but felt that it prejudged the outcome of the negotiations that would take place in Hong Kong and beyond. It made the General Assembly a vehicle for shadow negotiations on issues that were under negotiation or review at WTO and other specialized agencies. Therefore, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

14. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Norway and Ukraine, expressed regret that no consensus had been reached on that important draft resolution. A political consensus message on trade and development for the

WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong would have allowed the international community to reconfirm its full commitment to the broad and balanced WTO Doha Development Agenda, particularly to its development dimension.

15. The European Union had found the overall approach of the draft resolution a useful basis for its work but had decided to abstain in the voting, since some paragraphs could create uncertainty in relation to all the European Union's WTO commitments. However, the lack of agreement did not reflect the progress that was being made on a number of development issues in the run-up to the Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting. In particular, the European Union welcomed the 6 December decision of the WTO General Council for a permanent solution on the WTO TRIPS Agreement and public health. The European Union would continue its efforts in WTO for further progress on a development package in Hong Kong, including a firm commitment by developed countries, as well as developing countries in a position to do so, to provide full duty-free and quota-free market access to all products from all least developed countries. The European Union remained firmly committed to an overall ambitious and balanced outcome of the entire WTO Doha Development Agenda and hoped that the Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting would provide a comprehensive platform for that objective.

16. **Mr. Sunaga** (Japan), expressing regret that consensus could not be reached on the draft resolution, said that Japan would abstain from voting, since there were aspects of the text that it had difficulty accepting. He believed that the United Nations should send a strong message to WTO that a successful conclusion of the Doha Round would benefit developing economies. Unfortunately, the current draft resolution did not serve that purpose. He hoped that the language in the text, which many countries found unacceptable, would not be used in any future meetings, including the upcoming Hong Kong WTO Meeting. Japan had made every effort to ensure that the Doha Round outcome would be beneficial to developing countries, and his Government had created a development initiative aimed at empowering developing countries through the Doha Round, which would be officially unveiled at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.

17. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.18.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.18 was adopted by 109 votes to 1, with 48 abstentions.*

19. **Mr. Aho-Glele** (Benin) said that he did not understand why many countries that claimed to support least developed countries had either voted against or abstained from voting on resolutions concerning the provision of support to those countries or developing countries in general. He now embraced the view that international trade was used by some as a hidden weapon to prevent the development of the poorest countries.

20. **Ms. St. John** (Grenada) said that her delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution and not to abstain, as recorded by the machine.

Agenda item 52: Sustainable development (*continued*)
(A/C.2/60/L.14/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the use of spirulina to combat hunger and malnutrition and help achieve sustainable development

21. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the Secretariat had received a letter from the representative of the Dominican Republic, the main sponsor of the draft resolution, informing the Committee of the wish to withdraw the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors.

22. **Mr. Lorenzo** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government recognized the importance of spirulina in combating malnutrition and achieving sustainable development, as emphasized by the draft resolution. However, in the light of the failure to reach a consensus and following consultations with other delegations, his delegation had decided to withdraw the draft resolution.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.14/Rev.1 was withdrawn.*

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)
(A/C.2/60/L.20 and L.58)

Draft resolution on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

24. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.58, which had been submitted by

Mr. Toscano, Vice-Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.20.

25. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman, said that in the twelfth preambular paragraph, the words “intergovernmental preparatory meeting” should be capitalized; and in paragraph 7, the words “in this regard” should be replaced by “, and, in this regard.”

26. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution did not contain any programme budget implications.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.58, as orally revised, was adopted.*

28. **Mr. Kotis** (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and was very active in the Commission on Sustainable Development. Corporate responsibility was important but must be placed in its proper context. Firms’ principal responsibilities were to those with whom they had contractual or business relationships. Their principal function was to produce and sell goods and services in markets, and when they did that in pursuit of their private interests they provided public benefits in the form of healthy economies, jobs, income, goods, services, skills, capital and technology.

29. His delegation firmly believed in the promotion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises as a tool for achieving sustainable development and was pleased to see the language on that subject included in the draft resolution. It was concerned, however, that consensus had not been reached on promoting women’s participation in decision-making at all levels, mainstreaming gender perspectives, eliminating violence against women and improving women’s access to economic opportunity, land, credit, education and health care in the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Such a situation was particularly troubling given that many of the same Governments that had agreed to the inclusion of gender in the outcome document of the World Summit on Sustainable Development had opposed its inclusion in the draft resolution on that Summit within the framework of the General Assembly.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.20 was withdrawn.*

(f) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (continued)
(A/C.2/60/L.28 and L.53)

Draft resolution on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme

31. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.53, which had been submitted by Mr. Toscano, Vice-Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.28.

32. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman, said that in paragraph 7, the words “the Government of the People’s Republic of” should be inserted before “China” and the words “the Government of the Federal Republic of” should be inserted before “Germany”.

33. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution did not contain any programme budget implications.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.*

35. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.28 was withdrawn.*

(h) Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)
(A/C.2/60/L.22 and L.55)

Draft resolution on the Convention on Biological Diversity

36. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.55, which had been submitted by Mr. Toscano, Vice-Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.22. He informed the Committee that the draft resolution did not contain any programme budget implications.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.55 was adopted.*

38. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.22 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 57: Operational activities for development (continued)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (continued)
(A/C.2/60/L.30)

Draft decision on operational activities for development of the United Nations system

39. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft decision A/C.2/60/L.30, which had been submitted by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of 77 and China. He informed the Committee that the draft decision did not contain any programme budget implications and that a recorded vote had been requested.

40. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that she wished to know which delegation had requested a recorded vote.

41. **The Chairman** said that the delegation of the United States had requested the recorded vote.

42. *A recorded vote was taken on draft decision A/C.2/60/L.30.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

43. *Draft decision A/C.2/60/L.30 was adopted by 157 votes to 1.*

44. **Mr. Malkin** (United States of America) said that throughout the discussion on funding for United Nations operational activities for development, the United States position had been that voluntary funding was the most effective way to ensure results and accountability. During the past year, an attempt had been made to turn the discussion to consideration of various schemes to compel funding, like the so-called “voluntary indicative scales of contribution” as suggested by the Secretariat and supported by some countries. Those schemes were unacceptable to the United States as they were unrelated to performance results and accountability and incompatible with the voluntary funding principle for operational activities for development enshrined in previous resolutions. If the United Nations could demonstrate that its programmes were efficient and effective in meeting the needs of people in developing countries, donors would provide sufficient funding for them.

45. **Ms. Rødsmoen** (Norway) said that her delegation supported the draft decision and the reports and statistics mentioned therein. Having noted, however, that paragraph (b) referred to comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2003, it expected updated statistics to be provided in time for the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2006.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.