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SECOND COMMITTEE  
51st meeting  
held on  
Monday, 27 February 1988  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING**

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Mr. Antoine Blanca, and paid special tribute to his predecessor, Mr. Jean Ripert, for his very valuable contribution over the years to the work of the Second Committee.
2. Mr. BLANCA (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that he was pleased to take the floor before the Second Committee. Having been his country's ambassador to several Latin American and Caribbean countries, he had seen concrete examples of the anguish caused by the debt crisis and increasing social problems in a number of democracies. He had also witnessed the tragic difficulties confronting most African countries and some Asian countries. However, the vitality and innovative, entrepreneurial spirit of the people of the third world and the diversity of the natural resources abounding in their countries gave good cause for hope. The essential challenge was to revitalize growth and environmentally sound development, a challenge which, in a world where everything was interdependent, was chiefly a matter of co-operation. Future steps to restore balance, combat unemployment and stimulate growth in the industrialized countries should be taken within an international perspective. Moreover, the evolving situation in several socialist countries and their integration into the world economy as a whole deserved a broad, long-term approach. In that regard, the robust recovery of growth in China was an important stabilizing element. The intensity and complexity of the problems required courageous decisions and innovative methods. In the last analysis, the major economic problems were a political challenge; they could not be solved unless Member States showed firm political will and a spirit of compromise. He undertook on behalf of the Secretariat to co-operate with them in that endeavour.

ELECTION OF A RAPPORTEUR (A/C.2/43/L.1/Add.2)

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, owing to the resignation of Mr. Walter (Czechoslovakia), the Committee would have to elect a new Rapporteur from among the members of the Group of Eastern European States. The Group had submitted the name of only one candidate, Mr. Sepelak (Czechoslovakia). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Sepelak Rapporteur by acclamation.
4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/C.2/43/L.39, L.85)

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the Second Committee was reconsidering the item at the request of the General Assembly which, by its decision 43/443 of 20 December 1988, had decided to convene a resumed forty-third session so that the Second Committee might consider further and take a final decision on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1990 devoted to international economic

(The Chairman)

co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development in the developing countries. The Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its decision 1989/101, would also consider the question. In document A/C.2/43/L.95, the Secretariat had issued the text of the informal paper which the Committee was to consider in accordance with decision 43/443. Since the first four points of the paper were acceptable in principle, he suggested that section V ("The Preparations") and any other questions concerning the convening of a special session should be given priority during the informal consultations to be held immediately following the current meeting.

6. It was so decided.

DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOR 1989-1990 (continued)  
(A/C.2/43/L.71/Rev.1)

7. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 1989-1990.

8. Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta) felt that item 2 (g) did not reflect the consensus which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/53 on the protection of global climate. He requested the inclusion of the topic as a separate item, which could be inserted after item 3.

9. Mr. BEN MOUSSA (Morocco), referring to item 1 (1), entitled "Patterns of consumption: qualitative aspects and indicators of development", proposed that the resolution recently adopted by the Statistical Commission on the subject should be included in the documentation.

10. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) noted that, in document A/C.2/43/L.71, the question of the eradication of poverty in developing countries had been included between brackets, but had been completely eliminated from the revised document. On the contrary, the brackets should have been removed and the topic as contained in document L.71 should have been retained.

11. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) and Mr. SALARICH (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, supported Malta's proposal.

12. Mr. LEHNE (Norway) recalled that document L.71 had included an item 2 (g) entitled "Sustainable and environmentally sound development", and that his delegation, supported by several others, had advocated, during the December 1988 discussions, that it should be retained. His delegation had not changed its position and proposed, as a compromise solution, that "Environment and development" should be made a separate item, under which could be included, inter alia, the sub-item "Sustainable and environmentally sound development".

13. Mr. SALARICH (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, pointed out that the long list of documents on the subject of the environment would be enough to justify making it a separate item. He therefore

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(Mr. Salarich, Spain)

supported the proposal put forward by the representative of Norway and asked him to specify what the sub-items might be.

14. Mr. LEHNE (Norway) said that a detailed list of sub-items could be drawn up during the informal consultations suggested by the Chairman. In his view, the sub-items might include "Sustainable and environmentally sound development", "Protection of global climate" and "Desertification and drought".

15. Mr. TAI (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, expressed the Group's view that the environment should remain a sub-item of item 2. The Group recognized its importance, but felt that, if it were a separate item, it might take more time during the work than other major development issues which appeared to be at least as crucial.

16. Mr. PAULINICH (Peru) said that he agreed with the representative of the Group of 77 and supported Colombia's proposal that sub-item 2 (1), as contained in document L.71, should be retained.

17. Mr. DJOHLAF (Algeria) felt that the Committee should continue its consideration of the programme of work during informal consultations.

18. Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta) repeated his request for the inclusion of a separate item on the protection of world climate for present and future generations, since his proposal was quite different in nature from any of the other proposals concerning the programme of work. He pointed out that the question had already been settled by the General Assembly in plenary session on 6 December 1988, when it adopted resolution 43/53. The Second Committee was therefore not authorized to decide otherwise.

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take a decision on Malta's proposal and on the other proposals for which no opposition had been expressed. Any proposals to which there were objections could be considered during informal consultations.

20. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) requested that a decision should be taken on his proposal also.

21. Mr. LEHNE (Norway) said that document A/C.2/43/L.71/Rev.1 formed a whole. It was therefore inadvisable to deal with items separately. The programme of work must be considered in its entirety during informal consultations.

22. Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta) noted that his delegation's proposal had not been the subject of discussion. The question of climate must clearly be included in the agenda as a separate item. There was no reason to include it under item 82, since no decision had been taken to that effect. He left it to delegations to act in good faith to preserve the consensus that had led to the General Assembly's decision. Otherwise, he would bring the matter before the Legal Council. If the Committee wished, it might consider the question of climate in conjunction with other agenda items, but it did not have the right to arbitrarily make it a sub-item.

23. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) endorsed the views expressed by the representatives of Malta and Spain. Like the Chairman, he thought it would be useful to hold informal consultations to determine whether there should be one or two items to cover questions relating to economic co-operation and the environment. He recommended the inclusion of two separate items. The concern expressed by the Group of 77 seemed to him unfounded. His own delegation was prepared to take part in informal consultations to resolve the problems that had been raised.

24. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in drawing up the biennial programme of work, the Secretariat had referred to General Assembly resolution 39/217, which introduced the idea of a biennial programme of work, to previous decisions of deliberative bodies and to the Committee's practice. The proposals on protection of climate had been formulated on that basis. The observations of the representative of Malta and other delegations were certainly pertinent. From a technical point of view, however, there was nothing else the Secretariat could do because the basic texts were ambiguous. The Second Committee must settle the matter.

25. The representative of Morocco had proposed including a reference to a resolution of the Statistical Commission in paragraph (1) (Patterns of consumption) under item 1. That resolution must be endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1989. A reference to it could not be included until the decision was taken.

26. With regard to the question of poverty, which had been raised by the representatives of Colombia and Peru, it should be noted that the original General Assembly resolution simply referred to a report. No other information had been available to the Secretariat. There again, the Committee must resolve the matter.

27. In the case of the portion of the programme of work dealing with sustainable and environmentally sound development, the Secretariat had based itself on General Assembly decision 42/435, which set out the biennial programme of work for 1988-1989. Under that decision, the Secretariat was to submit a report on the subject as part of the general documentation on the environment rather than in the context of a separate item.

28. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the proposal of the representative of Malta. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to include the question entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" as a separate item in its agenda, making it item 4.

29. It was so decided.

30. Mr. LEHNE (Norway), raising a point of order, asked whether the Committee intended to settle all outstanding questions during the current meeting, or only some of them.

31. The CHAIRMAN replied that, with the exception of the Norwegian proposal, the questions raised had elicited no opposition. The Committee might therefore take action on them at once in order to save time.

32. Mr. LEHNE (Norway) said that, as the Secretary had just confirmed, the Committee was justified in opposing the inclusion of certain items such as "Eradication of poverty" in its programme of work. For the sake of coherence, all questions should be treated equally, including the question of deciding whether to include the eradication of poverty as an item or a sub-item.

33. The CHAIRMAN said that document A/C.2/43/L.71/Rev.1 had been submitted to the Committee for action. Apart from the issue raised by the representative of Morocco, the Secretary had indicated that the proposed changes posed no difficulties. Consequently, the Committee was in a position to take an immediate decision, as it had done in the case of the proposal by the representative of Malta. It was only the question raised by the representative of Norway that should be considered in informal consultations.

34. Mr. JONCK (Denmark) expressed support for the arguments put forward by the representative of Norway regarding his proposal and the Colombian proposal. A question of principle was involved. Should the Committee depart from the practice it had followed thus far in interpreting texts of deliberative bodies which governed the inclusion of agenda items? The eradication of poverty and environmentally sound development were two important questions and as such should be included in the agenda as sub-items under item 2. He proposed that the Committee should take action on those two questions at the same time.

35. Mr. LEHNE (Norway) said that his previous statement could be taken as an objection regarding the proposal by the representative of Colombia.

36. Mr. LICHTINGER (Mexico) pointed out that document A/C.2/43/L.71/Rev.1 formed a whole. The various questions and proposals that had been put forward were interrelated. In order to respect established rules and practices, the Committee should consider them simultaneously in informal consultations.

37. Mr. WOLFF (Colombia) said that his delegation had proposed that the paragraph on the eradication of poverty should be retained for the simple reason that, since document A/C.2/43/L.71 had been issued, the General Assembly had taken the decisions that would make it possible to delete the brackets. However, in view of the position taken by Norway on the subject of poverty - a question which seemed to bother a number of delegations - he wished to modify his initial proposal. Since his delegation attached as much importance to the eradication of poverty as Norway did to the protection of the environment, it wanted the question to form a separate item, rather than become a sub-item under item 2.

38. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) recalled the proposal he had made earlier and explained that he had not sought to have the Statistical Commission resolution included as though it had been adopted but simply to have it mentioned as a matter of information. In the meantime, the Statistical Commission had adopted the resolution on the basis of a report, which could be mentioned.

39. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that additions would be made to the list of documents once the outcome of the Economic and Social Council's work was known.

40. Mr. OLUKANNI (Nigeria) recalled that the Committee had a number of important questions to consider. He proposed that the discussion should be continued informally with a view to reaching an agreement.

41. The CHAIRMAN spoke briefly about the organization of work and appealed to delegations to demonstrate a spirit of co-operation.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.