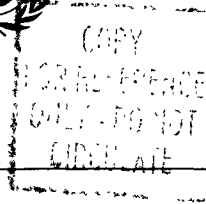


United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION
*Official Records**



SECOND COMMITTEE
41st meeting
held on
Wednesday, 16 November 1983
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

CONTENTS

- AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
 - (b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
 - (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
 - (f) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
 - (j) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
 - (k) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND
 - (m) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/38/SR.41
25 November 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

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

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.31/Rev.1

1. Miss GARCIA DONOSO (Ecuador), speaking also for the delegations of Bangladesh, China, Egypt and Mexico, introduced the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Population, 1984". The sponsors felt that the General Assembly should reiterate its support for that important Conference.
2. The preamble to the draft resolution referred to relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, while a number of measures for the preparation and conduct of the Conference were proposed in the operative part. The sponsors hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.35

3. Mrs. MORENO (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, introduced the draft resolution entitled "Development of the energy resources of developing countries". The Group of 77 regarded the matter as one of prime importance for economic development since the principal impediments to the realization of the indigenous energy potential of the developing countries were the scarcity of financial resources, insufficient analysis of exploration data, inadequate access to technology, and a shortage of skills. The international community should take effective and urgent measures to assist and support the national efforts of the developing countries to develop their domestic energy resources.
4. In the operative part the Secretary-General was requested to complete the report referred to in resolution 37/251, for which there had been insufficient time since the end of the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1983, and various other measures were proposed.
5. The Group of 77 regarded the draft resolution as a modest contribution to the efforts of the developing countries to explore and develop their energy resources, and since it contained no controversial provisions, the sponsors hoped that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (A/38/3 (parts I and II), 57, 68, 106, 132 and Corr.1 and 2, 168, 186 and Corr.1, 209, 302, 303, 324, 325, 329, 425, 479, 494, 495, 529, 537, A/C.2/38/3, 5 and 6)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE
- (b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (A/38/15, vols. I and II, 363, 487, 557, 580, TD/325 and Add.1; A/C.2/38/L.2 and L.3)

- (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/38/37 (part I and Corr.1 and part II))
- (f) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (A/38/39 and 493)
- (j) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
- (k) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND
- (m) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/471).

Draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.41

6. Mr. SZEREMETA (Poland), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Confidence-building in international economic relations", said that his delegation had had many informal consultations in Geneva and New York and the original text had been considerably amended accordingly.

7. The draft resolution consisted of three main elements; an expression of concern about the lack of confidence in international economic relations; an expression of the conviction that the reinforcement of confidence would introduce into those relations desirable elements of stability and reliability; and a request to the Secretary-General to consult all States, as well as organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, about the scope and the modus operandi of the possible economic confidence-building measures, and to report on his findings to the General Assembly at its next session, through the Economic and Social Council.

8. His delegation trusted that the General Assembly would agree by consensus on an open-ended list of confidence-building measures and for that to be done it was obviously essential that States should respond in a positive manner to the consultations which the Secretary-General proposed to conduct. The Swedish Minister of Foreign Trade had said recently that steps to reverse the protectionist trend in trade relations were an important confidence-building measure. The Polish delegation hoped that implementation of the draft resolution would carry initiatives of that kind still further.

9. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya) expressed disappointment with the Committee's meetings devoted to the general debate because far from helping to achieve a convergence of views and to map out a common strategy for tackling the issues on the agenda, they had been used as a forum for perpetuating political and propagandistic expositions. He hoped that at the current session there would be no repetition of the situation at the previous session created mainly by the negative attitude of a number of developed countries which had rejected practically all the resolutions put forward. That was particularly important in view of the fact that the world economic situation was even worse than it had been in the previous year and called for urgent measures.

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

10. There were at least four reasons why the North must help the economic advancement of the developing countries: firstly, because it was the main moral imperative of the times that the interests of any community must be protected by all its members; secondly, because the developing countries' economic situation would improve significantly if the resources spent by the North on the arms race were re-allocated to assisting them to progress; thirdly, because the economies of the developed countries were increasingly dependent on the ability of the developing countries to purchase their exports and supply them with important raw materials, in particular those which the developed countries used for military purposes; and, finally, because if the North helped the South to overcome its economic problems, that would in turn help to improve the international political climate and to bring about universal stability and peace.

11. Since the beginning of the 1970s the international community had been making systematic efforts to eliminate the existing inequities and injustices in international economic relations. The appeals of the developing nations for the elimination of those imbalances had met with a response in 1974 when the General Assembly had adopted by consensus the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the main objective of which was to eradicate the existing inequalities and injustices in international economic relations and narrow the gap between the developed and the developing countries. However, those measures had not yet been applied, mainly because of the lack of action on the part of the North. Subsequently various supplementary initiatives had been taken, among them the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Decade for Development, adopted in 1980. Despite the adoption of the strategy, however, the goals proposed were still not being attained, owing, among other things, to the protectionist policies of some of the developed countries, the decline in real terms in official development assistance, and the anti-inflationary and monetary policies of some industrialized countries which were encouraging the deterioration of the world economy.

12. It was regrettable that no progress had been made since 1979 in launching a new round of global negotiations on international economic issues, despite the flexible approach adopted by the Group of 77 and the fact that such negotiations were provided for in the International Development Strategy. Moreover, when the Strategy had been drawn up, the current critical economic situation in the developing countries had not been envisaged. Turning to trade, he said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by other delegations at the scanty achievements of UNCTAD VI. It was difficult to speak about economic recovery when protectionism was on the rise in the North and commodity prices falling, exports declining and imports increasing in the South.

13. The international community must take urgent measures to remedy the liquidity problem of the developing countries and improve the serious situation of their balance of payments, which could have negative repercussions on the world economy. The major causes of the developing countries' indebtedness included high interest rates, protectionism and the deterioration in their terms of trade with the developed countries.

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

14. There was a close, three-sided relationship between development, disarmament and international peace and security. Disarmament was a means of achieving lasting international peace and security which were in turn closely linked with just social and economic development and with a recognition of the multidimensional interdependence which should exist among nations. That triangular relationship should be given full and wholehearted recognition by the international community.

15. The World Food Programme (WFP) was contributing successfully to the resolution of food problems. In its 20 years of existence, WFP had provided assistance totalling \$5.3 billion to more than 110 countries. Given its important contribution to the development process, ways should be found of strengthening the Programme to ensure that its fruitful work was continued in the future.

16. His delegation attached great importance to the question of energy. It was disappointed, however, by the lack of implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and by the results of the first session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. He drew attention to the misallocation of the world's resources and wondered why there was so much insistence on investing in energy resources in high-cost areas of low productivity in the developed countries, while the vast potential low-cost resources of the developing countries was passed over. At the international level, although the Committee he had referred to had been established, as had two Secretariat units - one in the office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the other in DIESA - much still remained to be done. It was necessary, for example, to create a continuing consultative linkage between all the public sector institutions of all Member States concerned with energy research, to provide unified direction for the various United Nations organs concerned with technical co-operation activities, and to set up within the United Nations a technical advisory service which would provide impartial advice for Governments on matters relating to the development of energy resources.

17. Energy had at long last achieved the status of a major programme within the United Nations system. Although the Secretary-General had not been able to submit for the current session the report requested in resolution 37/251 on the development of the energy resources of developing countries, the Secretariat had prepared a useful report (E/1983/91), whose ideas, if put into practice, would go a long way towards satisfying the aspirations of Governments as outlined in resolution 37/251. Among the most outstanding and relevant United Nations activities were the Nairobi Programme of Action, the preparations for a conference on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the ongoing work under the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, resolution 37/251 itself, the existence of energy units in DIESA, DTCD, UNDP and the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the existence of energy programmes in certain United Nations agencies and bodies, and the participation in energy matters of the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The time was ripe to take a serious look at the role of the Committee on Natural Resources, in respect of energy resources in particular, and to lay down specific guidelines.

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(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

18. Returning to the important matter of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, he said that Kenya subscribed fully to the relevant documents before the Committee and called for their urgent implementation. Among the most important were the World Economic Survey for 1983, the report of UNCTAD on economic co-operation among developing countries and the Declarations of the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 and of the non-aligned countries. He also hoped that careful consideration would be given to the observations and recommendations made in the Committee on the subject by a number of United Nations officials.

19. Notwithstanding the efforts made to improve the functioning of the Second Committee, there were still serious deficiencies in its methods of work. They could be minimized by the completion of the restructuring referred to in General Assembly resolution 32/197. Some of the efforts that had been made were beginning to bear fruit. For example, the Secretariat's presentation of documentation had been considerably improved; the next thing was to improve its quality. He suggested that the Chairman, in consultation with interested delegations, should draft resolutions and decisions on procedural questions or questions on which a consensus had emerged in the Committee.

20. Among the causes of the Committee's failures at the previous session were the lack of progress in the health of the world economy, the impotence of the international conference system and its inability in recent years to prescribe the necessary measures for restoring and improving the condition of the world economy; the lack of discipline among some delegations and within some sections of the Secretariat; the misplacement of priorities; the general character of debates in the Committee; the negative attitude of some developed countries towards certain issues; and the lack of political will on the part of some of those countries. It was to be hoped that in 1983 the Committee would adopt a more positive approach to its work and past mistakes would not be repeated.

21. For the Committee to be successful in its work it was essential for Governments to demonstrate their political will, namely, their willingness to modify their individual positions for the good of the international community so as to conclude agreements negotiated on a basis of trust and understanding.

22. The preparatory work for the review and appraisal in 1984 of the International Development Strategy should begin immediately. The issues to be reviewed should be identified and specific roles should be assigned to the relevant organs in the United Nations system which would be involved in the exercise. The organizational session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal should provide guidelines on the measures to be adopted.

23. Lastly, his delegation stated its position on various matters. With regard to the global negotiations, it would be preferable for the President of the Assembly to continue to conduct informal consultations with various delegations or groups of delegations, rather than for the item to be taken up again and again in plenary meeting. In the field of trade and development, Kenya fully endorsed the position of the Group of 77. The Common Fund for Commodities should become operational with

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

effect from 1 January 1984. Kenya supported the idea of convening a world conference on money and finance, proposed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and the proposals recently put forward by the Commonwealth study group. With regard to food and agriculture, immediate and urgent measures should be taken to alleviate the serious problems of African countries. In the longer term steps should be taken to strengthen their production and export capacity; to formulate national food strategies; to identify priorities in the food and agricultural sectors of the economy; to mobilize the financial resources needed to overcome food problems; and to intensify the international community's efforts to attain food security and eliminate hunger on a global scale.

24. In conclusion, he said that it was necessary to take concrete measures to ensure world economic recovery and to end the recession. The Bretton Woods system should be reformed, since it did not meet current needs. Economic recovery could not be an isolated phenomenon in certain countries, but should involve the entire world economy. Recovery in the industrialized countries should allow them to eliminate protectionist measures and increase the resources allocated to ODA. UNCTAD, GATT, IMF, the World Bank, IDA, IFC and other appropriate entities within and outside the United Nations system should establish a system of consultation, co-operation and co-ordination on all matters of interest to the international community.

25. Mrs. DANIELSEN (Norway) said that the present state of the North-South dialogue was not satisfactory. Negotiations at various multilateral forums on the main economic and trade issues had not resulted in effective measures to promote world economic recovery, to give new impetus to development in developing countries or to improved market access for the least developed countries. Nor had the sixth session of UNCTAD lived up to expectations, although it should be recognized that conferences in themselves could not bring about change, and that they were part of long-term complex processes. Considering the seriousness of world problems, the efficiency of existing multilateral negotiating forums within the United Nations system was open to doubt. If they proved inadequate, decisions would be increasingly taken outside the system, which would be a major setback for the United Nations in general.

26. Given the degree of interdependence at every level, it was obvious that recovery concerned both developed and developing countries. Nevertheless, recovery in the industrialized countries would not resolve the crisis in the developing countries unless it was complemented by measures aimed at alleviating their serious problems. Concrete action had to be taken in the areas of commodities, trade and the monetary and financial system. In that connection Norway proposed the adoption of certain measures, all of which would complement the sixth session of UNCTAD: making the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund operational as soon as possible and giving renewed political impetus to the work on new commodity agreements; implementing decisions on the elimination of protectionist measures, particularly those adopted during the economic recession; and mobilizing additional financial resources for development through the World Bank, IDA and the multilateral funds and programmes in the United Nations system, as well as through bilateral co-operation.

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(Mrs. Danielsen, Norway)

27. In order to give impetus to the North-South dialogue it was necessary to revitalize UNCTAD. At its last session and at the last meeting of the Trade and Development Board hardly any progress had been made. Ministers should participate more regularly in UNCTAD's activities to stimulate its work and remove some of the pressures and unrealistic expectations which arose at the four-yearly conferences. The Trade and Development Board could meet at the ministerial level once a year or once every two years, with a highly selective agenda.

28. With regard to financial and monetary problems, another item taken up at the sixth session of UNCTAD, Norway was gravely concerned by the financial situation of the least developed countries and by the reduced level of resources available to such bodies as UNDP, the World Bank and IDA. Negotiations on replenishment should allow those institutions to continue to assist the least developed countries, at least at the same level as in previous years.

29. In view of the level of indebtedness of some of the least developed countries, it was encouraging that the international financial and monetary system had so far managed to avoid any major crisis. Nevertheless, it was imperative to take steps to alleviate the most pressing financial problems of the developing countries, bearing in mind, furthermore, that that would benefit the world economy. International financial institutions had to be strengthened so that they could act as catalysts for private capital transfers and investments. It seemed appropriate to consider the proposals for a new international monetary conference within the framework of the Bretton Woods institutions. Broad agreement on its organization and terms of reference would have to be reached for positive results to be attained. Norway was willing to participate in such an exercise.

30. Mr. KAZEM (Afghanistan) said that the current international economic situation, and particularly the economic policies of the capitalist countries, had hindered realization of the objectives of the International Development Strategy and had prevented developing countries from attaining the growth rates it established. Nor had it yet proved possible to launch the global negotiations which were the main instrument for implementing the Strategy. Afghanistan reaffirmed its support for those objectives and urged all donor countries to take steps to devote 0.7 per cent of their GNP to ODA. His delegation welcomed the decision to carry out a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Strategy in 1984, and trusted that the international community would actively participate in that exercise.

31. The serious problems besetting the developing countries in their trade relations with the developed countries were the result of the existing international economic system, which continued to deteriorate as a result of the protectionist measures and non-tariff barriers imposed by some capitalist countries. Limited access to Western markets and the rapid increase in the prices of industrial products had caused serious problems for the developing countries. All barriers to imports from developing countries and all forms of economic coercion or commercial threats incompatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations must be eliminated. The developed countries must review their

(Mr. Kazem, Afghanistan)

trade legislation and regulations relating to anti-dumping, as agreed at the sixth session of UNCTAD. The Generalized System of Preferences was intended to be an effective instrument for promoting the trade of developing countries. However, the preferences accorded under the system to the developing countries had not always met the expectations. For various reasons, some developed countries had not recognized all developing countries as beneficiaries of the preferences. The preference-giving countries should extend tariff preferences to all developing countries, especially the least developed, without discrimination of any kind and without insisting on reciprocity, so that the Generalized System of Preferences could serve effectively to promote exports.

32. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was an integral part of the efforts of those countries to restructure international economic relations but such co-operation must not be viewed as a substitute for co-operation between the developed and the developing countries nor as absolving the developed countries from their obligations and commitments vis-à-vis the developing countries on a basis of equity and mutual interests. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the Declaration on Collective Self-Reliance among Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries adopted at the Seventh Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, the Declaration on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, and the resolution on future activities in that area adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 at Buenos Aires, and noted with satisfaction the progress which had been made in implementing the various programmes of action relating to those types of co-operation. The holding of 18 technical meetings during the past two years showed that the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action had entered a new and more action-oriented phase, and it was to be hoped that the rest of the technical meetings and the follow-up would be completed, as scheduled, by early 1984, and that, in 1984 and 1985, the appropriate sectoral review meetings would be held, as recommended by the second meeting of the intergovernmental follow-up and co-ordination committee for economic co-operation among developing countries. Afghanistan reaffirmed its support for the idea of harmonizing the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation of the Non-Aligned Countries and the Caracas Programme of Action.

33. It was to be hoped that the discussion on item 78 (m) in the Second Committee would enhance and accelerate the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/38/471, para. 5), it seemed that during the first half of the Third United Nations Development Decade the gross domestic product per head in the least developed countries would continue to stagnate. It was indicated in the same report (para. 22), that in 1981 concessional flows from the countries that were members of the Development Assistance Committee to the least developed countries had declined by 3.2 per cent and from the OPEC countries by 16.3 per cent. In view of that situation, the international community must implement fully and effectively the Substantial New Programme of Action and provide financial assistance to the least developed countries tailored to their immediate and long-term needs, and the developed countries must implement Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) and convert all outstanding bilateral loans into grants for all least developed countries without discrimination.

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34. Mr. QUOL DUNG (Viet Nam) said that 1984 would be an important year for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, since, it was to be hoped, the international community would be able at the organizational session of the Committee set up for that purpose to identify the real causes for the lack of progress in implementing the Strategy. In view of the fact that the long-term objective of the Strategy was to establish a new international economic order, sub-item 78 (a) was closely related to the sub-item on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of which would be observed the following year. His delegation supported the decision to conduct at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly a comprehensive review of the aims and objectives of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, in the light of the results of the North-South negotiations. The implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was being hindered by the lack of political will on the part of the major developed capitalist countries. The North-South dialogue had been at a stalemate in recent years, the important measures decided on by the international community to restructure international economic relations had remained a dead letter, and there had even been some negative trends.

35. As his delegation and others had pointed out, the imperialists had been exerting various forms of economic pressure on the developing countries and some socialist countries, including embargoes, blockades, sabotage and the suspension of aid, credits and loans, and had, either directly or through their strategic allies, launched military attacks on the economic installations of those countries, thereby jeopardizing their security. Recently, they had even resorted to invasion of sovereign and independent States in the pursuit of their selfish interests.

36. Viet Nam had been the victim of various policies and practices of violence directed against its economy. After 30 years of war of aggression, it was subjected to a war of attrition waged by the international reactionaries acting in collusion with the imperialists. An attempt had been made to sabotage the economic foundations of the country's six northern provinces, its industrial and agricultural installations and its production units. Pressure had been exerted on international organizations and other countries to induce them to cut off aid to Viet Nam and to refrain from establishing normal trade relations with it. In spite of the innumerable difficulties placed in the way of the economic and social development of his country, the international reactionaries had not been able to bleed it or subdue its people, and in the preceding year the economy had begun to recover.

37. Such practices were incompatible with both the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the International Development Strategy, and, if they were not stopped, they would set a dangerous precedent with regard to international economic co-operation. In that connection, his delegation supported General Assembly resolution 37/203, which called upon all countries to adopt the necessary measures to reverse the current negative trends in the world economy.

38. With regard to sub-item (b), his delegation noted with regret the disappointing results of the sixth session of UNCTAD, which were due to the lack of

(Mr. Quol Dung, Viet Nam)

political will on the part of the major developed market economy countries. Those countries must take measures to facilitate the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the session. The new wave of protectionist measures was jeopardizing the stability of the international trade system and causing a deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries, whose external debt had reached a level unprecedented in the past 40 years, while commodity prices had declined to their lowest level in 50 years. The developed countries should give special emphasis to preferential treatment for the exports of developing countries and to the prices and quotas for such exports, and refrain from applying restrictions, conditions and discriminatory treatment to them. His delegation regretted that the draft resolution on protectionism and structural adjustment, which would benefit developed and developing countries alike, had not been adopted.

39. Another serious problem for the developing countries was the reverse transfer of technology. His delegation supported the proposal for the establishment of an international labour compensatory facility as an important element in an integrated action programme for the elimination of the negative effects of the brain drain. In that context, it was also important that the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development should be effectively implemented, and that the international community should provide the developing countries with the necessary assistance with a view to developing and strengthening their technological and scientific capacity.

40. The negative attitude of the major countries with market economies and the unfavourable international economic situation had made economic and technical co-operation among developing countries more important than ever before, as had been recognized in the International Development Strategy and other important documents adopted by the General Assembly. Since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Caracas Programme of Action, the developing countries, at recent meetings and conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77, had reaffirmed their commitment to achieve the objectives of collective self-reliance through economic and technical co-operation among themselves. Progress in that respect had been very slow, however, because of, inter alia, the insufficiency of resources and technical skills, and the international community should therefore accord high priority to that question.

41. The economic and social situation of many of the least developed countries was continuing to deteriorate. The substantial new Programme of Action aimed to achieve self-sustaining development and to promote the structural changes necessary to overcome the enormous difficulties faced by those countries. It was to be hoped that the international community would provide the necessary financial assistance and meet the specific targets established in respect of official development assistance; in that regard, the efforts of the socialist and Nordic countries were commendable.

42. Lastly, he referred to the lies and slander which had been voiced in the Committee by a small group of puppets who had been instigated by their masters, the international reactionaries, to attack Viet Nam and its people in order to divert

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(Mr. Quol Dung, Viet Nam)

the attention of public opinion from their dangerous manoeuvres against three countries of Indo-China. It was clear that those so-called "representatives" represented no State but the genocidal régime which had murdered 3 million of its own citizens and had been condemned by the international community; Viet Nam therefore considered that its calumny was without foundation.

43. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that his delegation continued to attach considerable importance to the International Development Strategy, which was a significant development tool despite its imperfections. Thus the review and appraisal of the Strategy was an important opportunity to review the achievements and shortcomings of the first years of the Decade and to examine and possibly refine or reassess the appropriateness of certain policy measures. Canada believed that, in that review, efforts should be concentrated on considering in a practical and realistic way the appropriate combination of policy measures relating to the efforts of developing countries and to international supporting actions in order to strengthen the implementation of the Strategy and adjust it to current circumstances. It therefore welcomed the informal consultations which had been initiated so that questions relating to documentation and working procedures for the review could be decided upon at the organizational session of the Committee. At that session, clear guidelines should be established on the nature of the documentation and the contributions that should be received from various parts of the United Nations.

44. Canada hoped that there would be an opportunity to exchange views on priority subjects for the review of the Strategy prior to the substantive session. One example was the question of the role of women in development. The full integration of women in development was not solely an issue of social justice, but also an economic imperative. Yet the contribution of women to the development of their countries was often underestimated and his Government was therefore contributing to the funding of a study on the impact of development on women, and in particular on women's problems and opportunities in the areas of trade, investment and aid programmes. The contribution made by women was also substantial in food and agriculture and consideration should be given to how small-scale food and agricultural production could be increased and by improving women's level of education and their access to appropriate technologies and credit.

45. With regard to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, Canada believed that fewer resolutions were required and that more attention should be devoted to policy questions; that approach would attract experts from various countries who would provide valuable assistance in understanding the substantive issues. In that context, Canada supported the proposals made by Sweden at the Committee's recent meeting. The Committee should play a greater role in promoting the effective delivery of scientific and technological information to users, especially in the developing countries. In that respect, it would be useful to review the programmes and experience of national and international training and research centres. Canada hoped that the relevant experts would be involved and that they would develop practical and effective suggestions.

(Mr. Lee, Canada)

46. Canada shared the disappointment at the inadequate substantive results achieved at the twenty-seventh session of the Industrial Development Board. Nevertheless, a good start had been made on negotiations on one major substantive concern, the work programme to be pursued by UNCTAD regarding protectionism and structural adjustment. At the same session of the Industrial Development Board, the Group of 77 had submitted a proposal concerning the convening of a ministerial session of the Board at its thirtieth session. Although that question needed further consideration, Canada believed that there was merit in giving political attention to specific negotiations at certain key junctures. Nevertheless, if those meetings were to produce results, the participants must be willing to select a manageable number of issues and to prepare the subjects carefully beforehand. Moreover, at the Board's recent meeting a resolution had been voted on concerning the procedures and conduct of negotiations that would lead to a global system of trade preferences among developing countries. Canada hoped that the Board, at a future session, would be able to evolve consensus guidelines which, while respecting the basic United Nations principles, would accommodate the interests of all groups and countries.

47. Canada also supported the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries. In that respect, it welcomed the positive reactions of the UNDP Governing Council. The availability of a significant portion of IPF funds for projects of technical co-operation among developing countries provided major resources to enable countries to undertake such projects.

48. Canada reaffirmed its commitment to assist the least developed countries; in 1981, Canada had accepted the target of devoting 0.15 per cent of its development assistance to those countries, and it was close to reaching that goal. It had also made progress in other areas to assist those countries as, for example, in according them duty-free access for products covered by the general system of preferences. The least developed countries within the limits of their resources, should continue to take the necessary domestic measures to foster their development.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

49. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in connection with the general debate on item 79 to be held in the following week, if there was no objection, the deadline for inclusion on the list of speakers should be 6 p.m. on Thursday, 17 November.

50. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.