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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 12 and 83 (c) of the
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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS
AND DUTIES OF STATES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1989
Agenda item 2
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL POLICY, INCLUDING
REGIONAL AND SECTORAL
DEVELOPMENTS

Letter dated 6 July 1989 from the head of the delegation of the
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the Economic and Social
Council at its second regular session of 1989 addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

I would be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly under items 12 and 83 (c) of the preliminary list and of the second regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council under item 2 of its agenda.

Gyennadi OUDOVENKO
Head of the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR
to the session of the Economic and Social
Council, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Joint statement of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council and the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

The socialist countries attach great importance to the just and harmonious co-ordination of the rights and duties of States in the field of international economic relations. In our view, the real significance of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States is that it sets forth principles of international economic intercourse. With increasing economic interdependence, guideposts are needed in order to foster multilateral economic co-operation to the advantage of all countries, to co-ordinate economic activity at the national and international levels and to solve global problems, including problems of development.

The continuing relevance of many provisions of the Charter is evidenced in particular by the fact that they have been confirmed by consensus in a number of subsequent United Nations documents and in other major international forums.

In the 15 years since the Charter was adopted, progress in implementing its goals and tasks has been insignificant. That was due largely to a deterioration of international economic and social problems, which are becoming increasingly complex and global in scope and affect all members of the world community without exception. Disparities in the economic development of different groups of countries and regions are increasing, difficulties and disequilibria in world trade and in currency and financial relations persist, and the situation of many developing countries continues to deteriorate as a result of reduced growth rates, the burden of external indebtedness and the decline in export earnings as a result of the fall in prices for many types of raw materials. The need to help increase the flow of resources from all sources into the developing countries in order to accelerate their development is becoming increasingly important.

The persistent difficulties in international economic relations are intensifying because of the lack of adequate approaches on the part of the world community to the interrelated problems of development. Efforts to find practical solutions are frequently unco-ordinated and undertaken within the narrow confines of individual economic groupings without due regard for the interests of all countries and for the interdependence between world economic processes and the social and economic parameters of development.

The task seems to be to universalize the dialogue and the negotiating process. A special role must be played here by the United Nations and all the organizations and agencies of the system, which have the capabilities needed to harmonize multilateral approaches to the various aspects of international economic relations and to co-ordinate macro-economic policy on a universal and voluntary basis by working out consensual agreements reflecting the balance of interests of all States.

The well-known initiative taken by the socialist countries in the United Nations concerning international economic security is also aimed at encouraging a multilateral dialogue with a view to reaching consensus on ways to secure the conditions for a predictable, stable and sound development of the world economy. The creation of such conditions would enable all States to start restructuring international economic relations jointly, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the still fully relevant principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and other basic United Nations documents.

Recent events show that a realistic approach geared to reaching consensual agreements opens the way for solving many problems that burden world economic development.

Favourable changes in the international arena, developments in the area of disarmament and reduction of military expenditure, as well as the defusing of regional conflicts, are directly linked to the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States concerning the duties of States to help achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, peaceful coexistence, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international co-operation and social justice.

The continuation of efforts to reduce the burden of military spending, which absorbs a large part of the national revenue of many countries, will contribute to progress towards such goals of the Charter as restoring the flow of financial resources to developing countries and ensuring their steady economic growth.

In contacts among States, universal interests and humanistic principles are beginning to come to the fore, demanding that a new approach be taken to contemporary economic problems. Most of these problems found reflection in the Charter, but in the past 15 years their magnitude and complexity have increased immeasurably. One of the most complex problems is that of the external debt. The intensive dialogue going on in international forums and meetings, including the United Nations, concerning this problem should help to find practical ways of alleviating the debt burden, which is having an adverse effect not only on debtor countries but also on the international economy as a whole. General Assembly resolution 43/198, which instructs the United Nations Secretary-General to begin consultations on the debt problem at the highest political level, is very important in this connection. We think that the success of such efforts will depend above all on the good will of all interested countries and their readiness to weigh each other's interests.

The world community's increasing attention to the environmental crisis is reassuring. The various conceptual studies undertaken at the United Nations and the practical steps taken have lent impetus to international co-operation in this sphere. The major initiatives put forward by the leaders of many States, including the socialist countries, the resolutions on environmental problems adopted by the United Nations, the ideas of the Brundtland Commission and numerous other findings create a genuine basis for stepping up the search for ways and means of ensuring ecologically safe development.

New life is being breathed into such Charter ideas as the need to make the activities of international economic organizations universal and more effective, in the interests of all countries. As the Final Act of the seventh session of UNCTAD pointed out, there is "a growing consensus that the revitalization of development, growth and international trade in an increasingly interdependent world is a common objective which requires continued co-operative efforts within a multilateral framework involving all States."

A consensus is also gradually emerging with regard to ways of putting into practice the provisions of the Charter concerning the freedom of every State to choose its economic system and the forms of organization of its foreign economic relations, and the inadmissibility of the use of economic measures to coerce another State into subordinating the exercise of its sovereign rights. In particular, the Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Principle of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations (General Assembly resolution 42/22), which was adopted by consensus, declares that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.

There is a growing consensus on the actual directions that United Nations activities with regard to transnational corporations should take. Early agreement on a draft code of conduct for transnational corporations would be especially important for these activities.

We believe that the positive changes taking place in attitudes to international economic problems should be carried further in preparing the international development strategy for the 1990s and in preparing for the special session of the General Assembly on economic questions scheduled for April 1990. That is especially true of questions relating to the co-operation of all States in enhancing the effectiveness of international economic organizations, particularly organizations of the United Nations system, as instruments of constructive multilateral dialogue and negotiation aimed at finding a balance of interests among all participants in international economic relations.