



**ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT  
OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE  
ON THE RESTRUCTURING  
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 34 A (A/32/34/Add.1)

**UNITED NATIONS**





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**SUMMARY RECORDS  
OF THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SESSIONS**

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**OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 34 A (A/32/34/Add.1)**

**UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 1978

**NOTE**

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

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\* In accordance with the decision of the Ad Hoc Committee at its 34th meeting, the summary records of its meetings form part of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly (Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34)).



SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE FIFTH SESSION  
(16 February to 4 March 1977)

## 34th MEETING

Wednesday, 16 February 1977, at 3.40 p.m.

### STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee was entering what the General Assembly expected to be the final phase of the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). In undertaking that task, the Committee's objective had first been to develop an agreed set of interrelated guidelines and recommendations covering the eight problem areas which it had identified for priority attention and, thereafter, to formulate detailed action proposals, as required by the General Assembly's resolution.
2. By the end of 1976, the Committee had succeeded in reaching a wide measure of agreement on the restructuring process with respect to five of those areas, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, other forums for negotiations, structures for regional and interregional co-operation, and planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation. With regard to those five problem areas, the Committee had agreed to undertake further work in 1977 on the basis of the revised text prepared by the Chairman, which was contained in annex I of the Committee's report to the General Assembly (A/31/34). With regard to the three problem areas still to be discussed, namely, operational activities, interagency co-ordination and Secretariat support services, the Committee had agreed to base its work on the original text prepared by the Chairman, which was reproduced in annex II of the report.
3. In his opinion, the importance of the work done by the Committee thus far should not be underestimated. Indeed, some of the ideas on which the Committee had reached a consensus had been pressed to a conclusion in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Even on those issues where agreement had yet to be reached, members of the Committee had, as a result of the deliberations, arrived at a fuller appreciation of the points of divergence and of the political and substantive constraints which needed to be taken into account in the future.
4. At all events, the tasks that remained to be carried out by the Committee would be difficult, because the outstanding problem areas were fraught with complexity and because approaches differed. Moreover, the Committee must be ready to work at a higher level of specificity than hitherto if it was to develop the detailed action proposals required by the Assembly in resolution 3362 (S-VII). In the organization of its work the Committee should also bear in mind that the General Assembly, in extending the Committee's mandate (decision 31/421 A), had emphasized that its final recommendations should be completed in time for submission to it at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session; to accomplish that the Committee only had about three weeks of meeting time at its disposal. Furthermore, the Assembly, at its thirty-first session, had adopted a number of decisions and resolutions which had a direct bearing on the Committee's work and which related, among other things, to institutional arrangements for international environmental co-operation and for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, to the responsibilities of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and to other questions of planning, programming and budgeting within the United Nations system.



5. In conclusion, he associated himself with the sentiments expressed by the Secretary-General in his opening remarks at the Economic and Social Council's organizational session for 1977 (2039th meeting). At that time the Secretary-General had pointed out that, since every international organization was a creation of its member Governments, restructuring required a clear understanding by Governments of the purpose and nature of each institution and organizational arrangement, of the kind and scope of the relationships that should link them, and of their respective methods of work. Restructuring also called for the exercise of political will, and the Chairman was sure that all members of the Committee would join him in expressing the hope that that political will would find expression in the Committee's future work.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.179/12)

6. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) said that the provisional agenda had been prepared by the Secretariat on the assumption that both the Committee, in recommending an extension of its mandate, and the General Assembly, in deciding to extend that mandate, wished the Committee to continue working along the lines followed at earlier sessions. The main item on the provisional agenda, therefore, was item 3, whose wording was the same as that employed at earlier sessions.

7. He wished to call particular attention to annex II of the provisional agenda (A/AC.179/12), in which mention was made of General Assembly resolution 31/116, requesting the Committee to make available to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session any conclusions it had reached in the light of its over-all responsibilities which might have implications for institutional arrangements for human settlements. In that connexion it would be recalled that the Economic and Social Council had decided to establish an ad hoc sessional committee to consider that question at the beginning of its sixty-third session. Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 31/93 might perhaps require the Committee to make some changes in the texts concerning the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on which the Assembly had already reached agreement.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that it was possible that the Committee might not be in a position to adopt the report at the end of its fifth session, as was contemplated in item 5 of the provisional agenda. He suggested that the item should, however, be maintained on a tentative basis. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to adopt the agenda on that understanding.

9. The agenda was adopted.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

10. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to confirm its earlier decisions that the existing membership of the Bureau should be unchanged and that the summary records of its meetings should, as in the past, form part of its report, in which they would appear as an annex.

11. It was so decided.

12. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that, when adopting the calendar of meetings for 1977, the General Assembly had decided that the Committee should hold its sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 20 May 1977. One delegation had at that time requested the Secretariat to do its utmost to extend

the duration of that session. Despite all the efforts that had been made, that had so far proved impossible, because of the services that would be required for the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

13. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Secretariat should redouble its efforts to have the sixth session of the Committee extended, since the probability was that it would not be able to complete its work in the number of meetings allocated to it. He also suggested that, in accordance with established practice, the Committee should meet for the remainder of the session as an informal contact group for the purpose of concluding its negotiations on the eight critical areas on the basis of the texts included in document A/31/34, on the understanding that it would revert to formal meetings towards the end of the current session in order to review the progress made by the contact group and to decide on its future programme of work.

14. It was so decided.

15. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that it was his understanding that the contact group would begin by considering section VII of annex II of document A/31/34 and thereafter take up sections VIII and V. In that way the Chairman could, bearing in mind the deliberations of the contact group, reconcile the content of those sections with those included in the revised text of the Chairman, which the Committee would revert to at a later stage.

16. Mr. DONNELLY (United Kingdom) said that, before beginning its consideration of section VIII, the contact group might specifically discuss whether, in view of the very close relationship between that section and section V, section VIII might be considered paragraph by paragraph. The contact group should also consider whether, in view of the time available to the Committee, it would be in a position to make a second reading of the revised text of the Chairman.

17. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that such relationships as there were between the content of sections VIII and V would not necessarily prevent the contact group from considering them paragraph by paragraph, since that method would, in any event, make it possible to establish what links actually did exist between the two sections.

18. He suggested that the Secretariat should do its utmost to report to the Committee during the current session on the results of its efforts to extend the duration of the sixth session.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed that the contact group should start its work by considering section VII and that it should thereafter decide on what method it would use to consider sections VIII and V and whether it would be necessary to prepare a revised version of those sections.

20. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

Friday, 4 March 1977, at 7 p.m.

## RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. Mr. HOSSEN (Mauritius) said that he wished to inform the Committee of the position of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), of which the current Chairman was Mauritius, on one important aspect of the item under consideration. The OAU, bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), which contained the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, resolution 3281 (XXIX), on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and resolution 3343 (XXIX), had expressed the conviction that the United Nations economic system should be restructured on an urgent basis to make it more effective in carrying out its responsibilities for global development and playing its central role in the implementation of the new international economic order. It was also convinced that the application of an integrated interdisciplinary approach, conceptually and institutionally, was an imperative for the restructuring of the United Nations economic and social sectors. In view of those considerations, the African States believed that the establishment of a post of director-general for development and international economic co-operation would considerably enhance the capabilities of the Secretariat for over-all co-ordination of policy planning and research by raising the level of leadership, thereby permitting the question of development to receive the attention which it merited within the United Nations system. For that reason, OAU strongly recommended the establishment of such a post and hoped that the Committee would find no difficulty in accepting its recommendation.
2. Mr. RIMAWI (League of Arab States), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States, in resolution 3390 adopted at its sixty-fifth session, had also supported the establishment of a post of director-general for development and international economic co-operation within the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat.
3. The CHAIRMAN observed that the contact group had studied the matters dealt with in sections V (Operational activities of the United Nations system), VII (Interagency co-ordination), and VIII (Secretariat support services) of document A/31/34, annex II and that, despite many difficulties, the deliberations had been fruitful and had made considerable progress; accordingly, at the following session the Committee could build on what had already been done. In that connexion, there had been consensus in the contact group about the possibility of requesting the Chairman to prepare, in consultation with delegations, a revised version of sections V, VII, and VIII of the consolidated text in the above-mentioned document, which would serve as the basis for future work, in conjunction with the existing revised text of the other sections. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that procedure.
4. It was so decided.
5. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) pointed out that his delegation had submitted an amendment which had received the support of many delegations; he therefore requested the Chairman to reflect that fact in some way in the revised draft of the working document.

6. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of the Sudan that he would try to take his delegation's amendment into account.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the date and duration of the following session of the Committee, thanked the Government of Norway for the invitation to hold it at Oslo; he explained, however, that that had become unnecessary, since conference services had been secured in New York for a longer period than had originally been anticipated. In that connexion, he said that the contact group had agreed that, should the Economic and Social Council postpone the session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), the Ad Hoc Committee might meet from 2 to 20 May 1977.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that the holding of the Committee's session between those dates would depend on the Economic and Social Council's making the necessary arrangements for the Committee to be provided with the services assigned to the Council. Otherwise, additional expenditure would arise.

9. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he disagreed with the proposed extension of the session to three weeks. He believed that the better course would be to limit it to two weeks and to work more intensively, holding two meetings a day and starting meetings punctually. On the other hand, he had no objection to the postponement of the CPC session, on the understanding that its purpose was to enable the relevant documents to be prepared and studied within the time-limits provided for in the resolutions adopted in CPC and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, which should be unconditionally applied.

10. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) said that, while he would be reporting on the matter in greater detail to the Economic and Social Council, he was in a position to state that, as far as documentation for CPC was concerned, some sections of the proposed programme budget for 1978 and 1979 would be issued on 15 April and others on 30 April. With regard to the documents of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, he said that the ACC session in Paris would end on 8 April, so that the documents would arrive on 15 April and distribution would depend on the time needed for their reproduction.

11. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that the Committee had worked intensively and, even if less progress than expected had been made, the results had been satisfactory. His delegation was taking a very serious approach to the work of the Committee and, as it had stated in the contact group, agreed that the following session should be extended to enable the work assigned to the Committee to be completed.

12. Mr. DONNELLY (United Kingdom) concurred with the representative of Pakistan that hard work had been done and progress made in the Committee and said that it would be unrealistic to try to complete the work in the space of two weeks. Consequently, the member States of the European Economic Community agreed that a period of three weeks should be allowed for the following session.

13. The CHAIRMAN noted that the progress achieved had been possible solely because of the spirit of co-operation shown by all delegations. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to hold its following session from 2 to 20 May 1977.

14. It was so decided.

#### DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

15. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since the substantive work of the sixth session would be essentially the same as that of the current session, the same agenda (A/AC.179/12) should be adopted, subject to the deletion of item 4. The agenda would then read:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Organization of work
3. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system
4. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

16. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) asked whether, since the following session would be the final one of the first phase of the restructuring operation, it might not be advisable to include an additional item on follow-up activities.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that it might be unnecessary to add a separate item to that effect to the agenda, since a record of its opinions and recommendations concerning the follow-up to its session was an inherent part of the Committee's work.

18. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that, since the Committee's work would have to be completed at the following session, the wording of agenda item 3 should be modified to read "Completion of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system".

19. Mr. KOLEV (Bulgaria) supported the proposal of the representative of Poland, since the reason for extending the length of the sixth session to three weeks was to enable the Committee to complete its work.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, in extending the Committee's mandate (decision 31/421 A), the General Assembly had made it clear that, at the end of its sixth session, the Ad Hoc Committee should submit its final recommendations to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council. He found it unnecessary, therefore, to stress the fact that the Committee was to conclude its work by the end of the sixth session.

21. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) opposed the proposal of the representative of Poland, since he felt it would be difficult to assert that the restructuring work was to end at the following session of the Committee and that questions of the same type would not arise in other forums.

22. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that, in the light of the arguments put forward, he was withdrawing his amendment to the wording of item 3; however, he proposed

that, since the Committee was in any event to finish its work at the following session, the wording of agenda item 4 should be amended to read "Adoption of the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee".

23. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that the Polish proposal was acceptable. His delegation wanted the specific process of restructuring being conducted in the Committee to be brought to a successful conclusion, so that the matter would not be left in the air.

24. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) proposed that the wording of agenda item 4 should be amended to read "Adoption of the final report of the Committee on the work of its sixth session".

25. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that the proposal made by the delegation of Algeria was rather unusual. His own delegation's amendment was intended to express the sincere belief that, at its final session, the Committee would make every effort to bring the task entrusted to it to a successful conclusion.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the amendment submitted by the delegation of Algeria did not apply, since the Committee's report would cover the work done throughout the year. He himself suggested that agenda item 4 should read "Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee in accordance with General Assembly decision 31/421 A of 21 December 1976". If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the agenda for the sixth session with the amendment which he had just suggested.

27. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.

**SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SIXTH SESSION**  
**(2 to 20 May 1977)**

## 36th MEETING

Monday, 2 May 1977, at 3.50 p.m.

### OPENING OF THE SIXTH SESSION

1. The CHAIRMAN declared open the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. He recalled that, at the beginning of its fifth session, the Committee had decided to concentrate on the three problem areas to which it had previously been unable to devote detailed attention: interagency co-ordination, operational activities of the United Nations system and Secretariat support services. The Committee's proceedings had taken the form of an informal "reading", in the context of the contact group, of the consolidated text contained in its most recent report to the General Assembly (A/31/34, annex II, sects, V, VII and VIII).
2. On the subject of interagency co-ordination, the Committee had achieved a large degree of agreement on the main issues and orientation of the restructuring process. On the two interrelated areas of operational activities and Secretariat support services, the positions of delegations and groups had been clarified and a number of points of convergence had been crystallized; however, further intensive work would be necessary in order to overcome the considerable political and substantive constraints involved.
3. It had therefore been agreed that further examination of those areas should be undertaken at the current session, and for that purpose the Chairman had been requested to prepare a revised text of the relevant sections of the aforementioned document. The Committee had also agreed to undertake a final reading of the revised text of the five problem areas dealt with the previous year (A/31/34, annex I): the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, Other United Nations forums for negotiations, Structures for regional and interregional co-operation, and Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation.
4. He urged the members of the Committee to be ready to engage in serious, balanced negotiations on outstanding issues and to search for constructive solutions in a spirit of accommodation.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.179/13)

5. The CHAIRMAN announced, in connexion with the agenda, that he had received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, informing him that Mr. Robert Douglas Sturkey would not be able to continue to serve as Rapporteur of the Committee. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to add to the agenda an item entitled "Election of the Rapporteur".
6. It was so decided.
7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document A/AC.179/13, as amended.
8. It was so decided.



## ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

9. The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Robert Douglas Sturkey of Australia for the valuable services rendered to the Committee during his term of office as Rapporteur. The Chairman of the group of Western European and other States had informed him that Mr. R. J. Greet had been nominated for the post. If there were no other nominations, he would take it that the Committee agreed to elect Mr. R. J. Greet of Australia as Rapporteur of the Committee.

10. It was so decided.

11. The CHAIRMAN invited the Rapporteur to take his seat at the podium.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

12. The CHAIRMAN announced that the revised versions of sections V, VII and VIII of the consolidated text, which the Committee had requested him to prepare at the fifth session (see 35th meeting, para. 3), would be ready shortly. If there were no objections, he would suggest that over the next few days the Committee should meet in the context of the contact group in order to conduct a final reading of sections I to IV and section VI.

13. It was so decided.

14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the contact group should meet on the afternoon of the following day. Since the current session would be its last, the Committee might wish to consider at some stage the arrangements for the preparation of its report to the General Assembly, and he suggested that it should revert to that question when it became possible to assess the progress made in the contact group. Lastly, he drew the Committee's attention to correspondence exchanged with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, which mentioned a matter on which the Committee's advice was required, and suggested that the question should be considered together with other questions concerning co-operation between the Committee and the various organizations of the United Nations system.

15. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation reserved the right, if necessary, to refer again at the next meeting to the document containing the correspondence to which the Chairman had referred.

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the matter should first be considered in the contact group. If necessary, it could later be decided to discuss it at a meeting of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

37th MEETING

Friday, 20 May 1977, at 11.45 a.m.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM  
(continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that at the current session the consensus existing in respect of interagency co-ordination had been refined and widened. With regard to operational activities and Secretariat support services, a measure of progress on some of the major issues and orientations of the restructuring process had been achieved in the consultations held in the small group of "Friends of the Chairman". In the matter of operational activities, the group had reached an understanding on the issue of the consolidation of funds devoted to operational activities for development and on additional resources for those activities. As far as Secretariat support services were concerned, agreement had been reached on the identification and clustering of functions considered essential for the proper performance by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of their policy-making and co-ordination roles. In the contact group considerable progress had been made on a number of rationalization measures affecting the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
2. Other highly difficult problems which remained to be solved related to the role of the General Assembly, the streamlining of the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council, and other United Nations forums for negotiation, including UNCTAD and the specialized agencies.
3. Accordingly, the contact group had agreed that the Chairman should be requested to prepare an informal revised text of annexes I and II of document A/31/34 on the basis of the consultations that had taken place in both the contact group and the small group of "Friends of the Chairman" and in the light of such other contacts as he might undertake with the group of "Friends". It was the desire of the contact group that once that revised text had been circulated, consultations should be held at a very informal level in Geneva and New York with a view to broadening the areas of agreement on outstanding issues. In that connexion, it was the hope of the contact group that general agreement on all those issues would be achieved so that the Ad Hoc Committee could adopt the text at a brief session, to be held between 6 and 9 September. If those arrangements were acceptable to the Committee, the Secretariat would in due course arrange for the Economic and Social Council to be informed that the Committee's report would be made available to it at its resumed sixty-third session.
4. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Ad Hoc Committee agreed to the procedure which he had suggested.
5. It was so decided.
6. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) said that a statement of the financial implications of the decision just taken would be submitted to the Committee on Conferences when the request for meetings was considered.

7. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the socialist countries, said that it was regrettable that, despite the great efforts made, it had not been possible for the Committee to conclude its work by adopting its final report, as envisaged by the General Assembly and by the Committee itself at the last formal meeting of the fifth session.
8. At all sessions of the Committee, the socialist countries had worked constructively to ensure that it would achieve a substantive result. In order, therefore, to assist the Committee to fulfil its mandate, the delegations of the socialist countries had agreed to the procedure suggested by the Chairman for convening a resumed session. However, he wished to stress that those delegations considered the current session to be the final session of the Ad Hoc Committee, as had been agreed at the last formal meeting of the fifth session, and presumed that the resumed sixth session to be held in September would be limited to one or two meetings devoted to discussion and adoption of the Committee's report.
9. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question asked by the representative of Finland, said that it was his intention that the informal consultations should take place from the beginning of the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council onwards. The consultations would be arranged to suit the convenience of the "Friends of the Chairman".
10. Mr. BERG (Norway) said that his Government attached great importance to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. His delegation reaffirmed its confidence in the Chairman and in the successful outcome of the Committee's work.
11. His delegation, while understanding the apprehensions of some delegations about the proposal to consolidate United Nations operational funds and programmes for development, was nevertheless totally convinced that such consolidation would increase the resources available for operational development assistance. It would also be a clear indication to his Government that a more efficient United Nations structure was emerging, and would constitute an added inducement to it to continue to increase substantially its multinational assistance. The proposed consolidation would bring about greater savings and cost efficiency, thus freeing additional resources for practical projects and technical assistance efforts, and would also be interpreted favourably by those in his own country who had misgivings about the existing waste within the system and were therefore hesitant to increase Norway's multilateral assistance. It would also make it easier for his country's political authorities to take the necessary political decisions.
12. His delegation felt that it could speak with some frankness on the matter since it belonged to a group of countries which were currently providing more than 25 per cent of the total UNDP budget.

The meeting rose at noon.

**SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE RESUMED SIXTH SESSION**  
**(30 September to 14 December 1977)**

38th MEETING

Friday, 30 September 1977, at 4.10 p.m.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM  
(concluded)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the purpose of the meeting was to enable him to bring members of the Committee up to date on developments since the conclusion of their last session and to enable the Committee to agree on arrangements for the completion of its work. It would be recalled that at the 37th meeting, the Committee had decided to request the Chairman to prepare, on an informal basis, the revision of annexes I and II of document A/31/34 on the basis of the consultations that had previously taken place both in the contact group and in the small representative group of "Friends of the Chairman". The Committee had also agreed that on the basis of the revised paper, informal consultations should be held with a view to broadening the areas of agreement on the outstanding issues. In that context, the Committee had envisaged that such consultations would take place within the framework of the group of "Friends of the Chairman" both at Geneva, during the summer session of the Economic and Social Council, and in New York, in early September.

2. During the first round of consultations at Geneva, the "Friends of the Chairman" had concentrated on sections V (Operational activities) and VIII (Secretariat support services) of annex II. With regard to operational activities, the "Friends of the Chairman" had been able to work out a near-consensus based, inter alia, on a delicate and carefully defined balance between, on the one hand, the principle of consolidating various funds devoted to operational activities for development and, on the other hand, the need for a parallel commitment to increase the level of contributions to those funds. The formula as had been developed by the "Friends of the Chairman" related only to those operational activities for development financed by extrabudgetary resources falling within the ambit of the United Nations proper. Those funds would, in any event, retain their separate identities for purposes of resource mobilization and, furthermore, the process of consolidation would be subject to checks and balances through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to ensure that it proceeded pari passu with the rate of increase in voluntary contributions to those activities.

3. On section VIII (Secretariat support services), the "Friends of the Chairman" had been much less successful and there remained, despite further efforts made during subsequent consultations in New York, a number of issues which had yet to be resolved. Chief among those issues was the proposal for the establishment of the post of Director-General for development and international economic co-operation, who would assist the Secretary-General in providing leadership to the various components of the restructured United Nations system, ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis, and exercise over-all co-ordination. Another outstanding issue related to the manner in which the purely sectoral functions of the United Nations Secretariat should be related to the proposed capability for interdisciplinary research, policy analysis and over-all planning, on the one hand, and to the function of providing substantive support for operational activities through the United Nations itself, on the other.

4. During the second round of consultations held in New York, the "Friends of the Chairman" had been able to produce fairly clean agreed texts covering a number of other areas on which there already existed a large measure of agreement. Those areas included: section I (General Assembly); section IV (Structures for regional and interregional co-operation); section VI (Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation); and section VII (Interagency co-ordination). Of the major outstanding issues, the Chairman thought that perhaps he should refer briefly to those arising in connexion with section II (Economic and Social Council) and section III (Other forums for negotiation). So far as the Economic and Social Council was concerned, there was broad agreement on a number of rationalization measures designed to enable the Council more effectively to discharge its role under the Charter. There was also general agreement that, in the light of its experience with subject-oriented sessions, the Council should assume, to the maximum extent, direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies, which would accordingly be discontinued. Agreement had not been reached, however, as to the bodies to be thus abolished. In the same context, there was some divergence of views on the need to expand the membership of the Economic and Social Council in order to provide for the loss of representation possibilities following from the abolition of subsidiary bodies and to take into account the increase in United Nations membership since 1973. Also, there was no consensus as yet on the need to review the pattern of the distribution of seats on United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields. As regards section III, relating to other forums for negotiation, there was disagreement regarding the manner in which the obligation of the specialized agencies to give effect to specific policy recommendations emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should be defined.

5. A new informal paper, representing a comprehensive revision of the consolidated text, embodying the results of all the consultations to date, was being processed and would be made available to delegations early the following week. Delegations would then have an opportunity to consult their Governments and among themselves in the hope that in a spirit of mutual accommodation, a consensus regarding the package of measures indicated in the paper could be reached. It seemed to him that there would be little purpose in allowing more than, say, two weeks for that purpose; the difficulties requiring to be resolved were primarily political and substantive in character, and their solution depended not on extra time but on the exercise of political will.

6. In conclusion, the Chairman stated that he would take the liberty of making the following personal remarks. The Committee had begun its work with highly ambitious objectives: most members had been aiming at nothing less than a comprehensive package of detailed and action-oriented restructuring measures which would make the United Nations system more effective and more responsive to the requirements of the new international economic order. As the months wore on, members had tended to seek refuge in a strict construction of the language of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) which admittedly spoke only of "initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system". The eight areas which the Committee had identified for priority attention had become the exclusive - rather than the initial - focus of the Committee's work. Nearly two years after the establishment of the Committee, outside observers could legitimately ask whether even this de-escalated set of objectives was close to attainment.

7. True, the issues involved were enormously complex; a considerable amount of progress had been made; and a great deal of intensive effort had been deployed on them. But he, for one, was far from satisfied with the results achieved thus far. His dissatisfaction was not much less than it had been when the previous May he had offered, at a meeting of the contact group, to step aside as Chairman. He had not changed his view of the reasons he had perceived at that time for the unsatisfactory state of affairs - although he would refrain from going into them at that time. At that stage he would only like to say that it should not be forgotten that, in subscribing unanimously to General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), they had accepted the view that the restructuring of the United Nations system was an integral and indispensable step in the establishment of the new international economic order. Experience suggested that, if there was the determination to fulfil a mandate which was based upon the existence of a consensus on the need to achieve certain objectives, Governments would, even at the eleventh hour, display the flexibility which was required to solve outstanding issues and produce agreement. It was solely on that basis that he made a last appeal to all concerned.

8. As to the practical arrangements for the conclusion of their work, the Chairman would suggest that the contact group should meet no later than 15 October, in order to consider the reactions of delegations to the revised text. He believed two or three sittings of the contact group immediately preceding the meeting of the Committee would suffice to determine whether there was agreement or, should that unfortunately not be the case, to ascertain that the Committee would be forced to inform the General Assembly that agreement had not proved possible. He, for one, would not wish the last meeting of the Committee to be held after 30 October. Besides, it was important that the Secretary-General should be allowed enough time to prepare a full statement on the financial - and, especially, administrative - implications of the measures recommended by the Committee, a statement without which the General Assembly would undoubtedly find it difficult to act on the report.

9. Mrs. WELLS (United States of America), reiterating the importance her delegation attached to a successful outcome of the restructuring exercise, said that the exercise had been made more difficult because the Committee had been dealing, on the one hand, with management and organization issues and, on the other, with political factors. Her delegation's interest encompassed both aspects.

10. The Ad Hoc Committee's objective - to devise ways of making greater and more efficient use of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations - had been sharpened by the urgent need to improve the United Nations system's capability to serve as the institutional framework for dialogue on international economic co-operation. A successful restructuring operation would encompass: an enhanced planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation capability for the Secretariat with a view to more efficient and productive utilization of the United Nations system's increasing resources; strengthened policy analysis, research and data-gathering capabilities in order to provide the inputs required for more effective consideration of international economic and social issues by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; and the streamlining of structures and management improvement so as to reduce fragmentation and duplication of effort. Such changes would convert the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system into effective organs for deliberation and decision, and would ensure that decisions were efficiently implemented by the Secretariat.

11. The proposals in the newly revised text which was shortly to be circulated were a package and would have to be viewed in terms of their over-all impact on the system. Her delegation hoped that the package that finally emerged would produce stronger leadership in the management and co-ordination of economic and social affairs. In the case of the Government of the United States, the issues involved had attracted the attention of officials at the highest level and the proposals would be reviewed as part of the genuine commitment to the United Nations of the United States.

12. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee had reached an informal gentleman's agreement that it would work by consensus and that it would leave aside issues - such as the revision of the Charter - that were likely to impede approval of its recommendations. If those conditions continued to be observed, there was a fairly good chance of securing a sufficient degree of agreement to enable the General Assembly to discuss the Committee's conclusions without extraneous complications. His delegation could agree to the programme of work just outlined by the Chairman and hoped that the Committee would be able to conclude its work within the proposed time-limit.

13. In future, the Committee should confine its work to the eight issues mentioned by the Chairman: any extension of its scope would make it difficult to achieve a comprehensive agreement. Moreover, although some might be critical of the results achieved by the "Friends of the Chairman" group, they were quite creditable when compared with what had been achieved by similar initiatives in the past. In any event, if proposals for additional topics were to be considered, there were many other tasks that might legitimately be referred to the Committee - for example, the item which had been considered at the resumed thirty-first session of the General Assembly. However, his delegation believed that the Committee should continue on the basis of what had previously been agreed.

14. Mr. LOQUET (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, said that it was regrettable that full agreement on all issues had not proved possible. However, the problems were complex, and any answers that the Committee produced would profoundly affect the functioning of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations for a long time to come. It was understandable that agreement should be difficult, since all parties to the negotiations had a clear and fixed opinion on all issues. The Community would review the revised text with interest and would consider the proposals as a package. It would re-examine any aspects that had proved particularly difficult in a positive spirit and would strive to reach an agreement that was not only acceptable to all delegations but would give the economic and social sectors of the United Nations the ability to respond to problems and to produce effective solutions for the developing countries. The Community would continue to collaborate with the Committee and would observe the time-limit proposed by the Chairman.

15. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that, comparatively speaking, the Committee had made progress; the areas of disagreement had at least been narrowed. With regard to the revised text being drafted by the Chairman, all sections of which were to be dealt with as a package, he pointed out that sections V and VIII also formed a kind of unit within that package, inasmuch as the extent of the agreement reached on section V depended on the solution of outstanding difficulties in connexion with section VIII.



16. He was confident that a text revealing a greater degree of agreement could be produced for submission to the Committee within the agreed time-limit, provided that other groups made appropriate adjustments in their positions. His delegation agreed with the proposed programme of work for the Committee.

17. The CHAIRMAN, commenting on the point raised by the representative of Pakistan, said that the revised text would embody a caution to the effect that all sections were interrelated, particularly sections V and VIII, and that the provisional approval of its content by the "Friends of the Chairman" was being given on that basis. There would be a second statement relating to parts of section II (Economic and Social Council) making it clear that certain portions of paragraph 2 had not been given detailed consideration and that, although varying degrees of support had been expressed for the ideas contained therein, they remained the responsibility of the Chairman and none of his "Friends" were committed to them.

18. He proposed that, in view of the favourable response to his earlier comments, the contact group should meet on 17 October and that the Committee should adopt its report to the General Assembly not later than 30 October.

19. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

39th MEETING

Tuesday, 14 December 1977, at 11.50 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISION 31/421 A OF 21 DECEMBER 1976 (A/AC.179/L.11 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2 and 3; A/C.5/32/86)

1. The CHAIRMAN, in the light of consultations he had held over the past few days, proposed the following amendments to section II of the recommendations contained in paragraph 36 of the draft report (A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1):

Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8: Delete the square brackets.

Paragraph 9 (a): Replace the three sentences in square brackets by the following sentence: "In addition, consideration should be given to ways and means of making the Economic and Social Council fully representative." Insert a foot-note to the above sentence, reading: "See annex II for reservations and interpretative statements regarding this formulation."

Paragraph 11: Delete all square brackets and the words "inter alia". Insert a foot-note to the last sentence, reading: "See annex II for interpretative statements regarding this paragraph."

2. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) said it had been his understanding that agreement had been reached in the contact group that the Chairman should be consulted about any propositions on financial implications. On behalf of the Group of 77, he wished to ascertain whether that had been done.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, as far as he recalled, the contact group had decided that the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management should contact him if clarification was required on any of the questions which the Under-Secretary-General had put to the group and to which he had not received a reply. In fairness to the officials concerned, he felt it was necessary to point out that they might not have needed any clarification. He had seen the statement of financial implications himself only that morning.

4. Mr. CAMILLERI (Malta) said that, although his delegation had not had time to study document A/C.5/32/86, which dealt with the financial implications, it was somewhat surprised that such a document had been prepared without consultation. At first sight, it seemed to include a number of elements which had intentionally been omitted from the negotiated text, particularly in paragraph 39. He distinctly remembered that the question of gradual integration of the present complex of extrabudgetary programmes and funds had been one of the most difficult issues and that the negotiating group had purposely avoided such wording in order to arrive at agreement. The same paragraph stated that the Secretary-General foresaw many legislative and political problems. All delegations which had been involved in the exercise had been particularly aware of the acute political problems, but document A/C.5/32/86 was not the place to mention them. His delegation had strong feelings about the inclusion of such references in the document.

5. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) proposed the deletion of the word "including" from the first line of paragraph 1 of section III of the recommendation (A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1) and the insertion of commas after the words "should" in the fifth line and "instruments" in the sixth line. Unless the word "including" was deleted, the impression would be given that GATT was a specialized agency.
6. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the United States amendments should be approved. As the foot-note to the heading of the section made clear, GATT was treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency.
7. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) said the United States proposal to delete the word "including" would contradict the foot-note.
8. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the wording of the title and the foot-note was the outcome of several hours of negotiation.
9. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that, on reflection, his delegation would prefer to see the reference to GATT placed after the reference to the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences.
10. Mr. MADEY (Yugoslavia) expressed the view that, since the wording was the result of lengthy negotiations and the United States amendments were basically of a grammatical nature, the text should remain unchanged.
11. Mr. PFANZELTER (Austria) said that his delegation would be prepared to accept either the United States amendments or the proposal made by the representative of Yugoslavia.
12. The CHAIRMAN said that he would be loath to reopen the whole question, in view of the very complex legal and political issues involved. He appealed to those concerned to agree to leave the text as amended by the United States.
13. Chapter III (Conclusions and recommendations) of the draft report (A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1), as amended by the United States, was adopted.
14. Mr. HAIDAR (India) 1/ said that his delegation had general reservations regarding the report. The Committee's recommendations were unrelated to the original context in which restructuring had been conceived, namely the establishment of the new international economic order. There had since been very little progress in the direction of the new international economic order, and in those circumstances any recommendations concerning restructuring were bound to be either premature or unrealistic. The Committee had done what it could in those circumstances, but the results were irrelevant in the context of the new international economic order.
15. His delegation also had strong reservations of principle regarding the recommendation for the creation of a post for a high-level official for development and economic co-operation. That post was intended to be under the authority of the Secretary-General. As everyone knew, the Secretary-General, as head of the Secretariat, represented one of the six principal organs of the United Nations in

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1/ This statement has been given full coverage in the summary record in accordance with the decision taken by the Ad Hoc Committee during the meeting.

terms of Article 7 of the Charter. It was therefore a matter of principle with his delegation that any appointment within the Secretariat and the creation of any post under the authority of the Secretary-General should be done in consultation with the Secretary-General and with his consent. His delegation was informed that the Secretary-General had not been consulted about the proposed question of a high-level post. It was not too late to consult him for his views. In the absence of such consultation, India could not be a party to that particular recommendation.

16. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium), 2/ speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, said that the arrangements for restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations proposed in document A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1, which the Committee had just adopted, generally reflected compromises reached at the end of nearly two years of negotiation under the able and impartial chairmanship of Mr. Dadzie. It would not be correct to say that the text corresponded entirely to the views of the EEC member States and their desire for a fundamental and dynamic restructuring of the economic and social sectors, particularly with regard to operational activities and to those areas which fell within the competence of the Economic and Social Council. However, they accepted the negotiated text in good faith.

17. Until that very morning, however, there had remained several very important areas on which it had not been possible to reach full agreement. Fortunately, a formulation had been found for chapter III, section II, dealing with the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council. The EEC member States interpreted the new second sentence of paragraph 9 (a) as having the primary purposes of compensating for the loss of representation possibilities arising from the proposed discontinuance of subsidiary bodies and enabling observers to play a fuller part in the work of the Economic and Social Council. Where section VIII, dealing with Secretariat support services, was concerned, the contact group had managed to reach agreement after lengthy negotiations on the nature and scope of the functions to be assumed, under the authority of the Secretary-General, by the high-level official referred to in paragraph 5. The EEC member States firmly believed that it was for the Secretary-General, who would make the appointment, and for him alone, to determine the grade level of the official concerned.

18. Subject to those reservations, the States members of EEC accepted the whole package of restructuring arrangements proposed in the eight sections of document A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1, and they would continue to study the problem of implementing them. However, should any basic arrangements be extracted from the package and be made the subject of separate proposals, they would of course reconsider their position.

19. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica), 3/ speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Ad Hoc Committee had come to the end of its work after two years of painstakingly detailed and difficult discussions on the subject of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. From the outset, members had been aware of the great magnitude and importance of that task, and of its complexity; for the task required not the creation of a new set of institutions

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2/ Idem.

3/ Idem.

where none had existed before - which would have been difficult enough - but the consideration of fundamental changes to a set of institutions which had come into existence over the previous 32 years and which had evolved in many ways and were deeply engaged in ongoing activities.

20. The Group of 77 had been aware of the importance of that exercise. It had been the feeling of developing countries that the establishing of the new international economic order, to which they were fully committed, required a major input from the United Nations system and that, in order to ensure that that contribution was forthcoming, the system would require a restructuring and improvement in its working arrangements. In addition, it was well known that, at the time of the establishment of the United Nations, most of the developing countries had not been independent and had not had the right to membership. They had therefore had no part in the process of establishment of the United Nations or in the early evolution of the system. They now sought to have an adequate place in the decision-making processes, and that was one of the preoccupations which they had brought to the task of restructuring.

21. In reflecting on the tremendous amount of work which had been done on that issue over the preceding two years, he would like, on behalf of the Group of 77, to pay tribute to all who had been involved in the work, including members of delegations on all sides and Secretariat personnel. Particular tribute was due to the Chairman, whose responsible approach and fairness throughout had enhanced the stature not only of the developing countries but of the entire United Nations membership. From the perception of the Group of 77 at least, the restructuring exercise would long ago have been abandoned or left in total disarray, had it not been for the Chairman's very substantial contribution to the work of the Committee.

22. At the insistence of other groups, the Committee had agreed to concentrate its attention only on the United Nations proper, despite the fact that the relevant section of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) had been concerned with making the United Nations system as a whole more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation in a comprehensive and effective manner, and with making it more responsive to the requirements of the new international economic order. To the extent that the work of all the specialized agencies was deeply involved in those issues, that insistence had been, in the view of the Group of 77, unfortunate.

23. In examining the draft report, it might therefore be asked whether, in practical terms, reference to the "system" was justified in the light of the results of the Committee's work. In that context, it was perhaps paradoxical that the main element in the exercise which offered any real possibility for some ongoing effect on parts of the system outside the United Nations proper was the one which remained unresolved in the Committee's recommendations, and which it would presumably be left to the General Assembly to resolve. The Group of 77 hoped that, in that matter, the prerogatives of the General Assembly would be respected.

24. However, the resolution to which he had referred also spoke of initiating a process of restructuring in the context of the establishment of the new international economic order; and it would be foolish to pretend that progress in the latter exercise had equalled that made in restructuring, even within the limits established for the initial phase.

25. Thus, in once again restating its commitment to the implementation of the new international economic order, the Group of 77 reaffirmed its determination to ensure the necessary restructuring of the global machinery which should facilitate that, namely the United Nations system as a whole. Perhaps, in the light of all those circumstances, one could not be too disappointed with the results achieved in the context of the first phase of the exercise.

26. He wished, therefore, to make a few comments on the recommendations which were being submitted to the General Assembly for action. In accepting, in section I, a formulation which reaffirmed the General Assembly as the principal forum for policy-making and harmonization of international action in respect of solving international economic, social and related problems, and reaffirming the power of the Assembly to assign specific negotiating functions to other forums in the system, the Group of 77 understood that the Assembly itself had the power to negotiate issues which it might have assigned elsewhere.

27. The Group of 77 also gave particular emphasis to the promotion and assistance to be rendered by the General Assembly in respect of strengthening and enlarging the mutual economic co-operation between developing countries, in the context of measures agreed upon by those countries.

28. With regard to section II, the Group of 77 supported the reaffirmation of the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing strong support to the work of the General Assembly, which was the supreme and principal policy-making and negotiating forum in the system in the economic and social fields. The Group thought that the Council's efforts could be enhanced by organizing its work around subject-oriented sessions, which in turn would be facilitated in some cases by assumption by the Council itself of the work of its subsidiary bodies, and by regrouping and redefinition in some cases. However, he wished to make it very clear that the Group of 77 would not be in a position to agree to any specific measures which might be worked out by the Council in that respect at the appropriate time, unless the Council was in a position to agree, before approval of the implementation of such measures, to the required compensatory increase in the membership of the Council itself.

29. The Group of 77 also firmly supported the reaffirmation of UNCTAD as the major organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic co-operation. It also felt that the recommendations set out in section IV established a firm basis for the relationships between the United Nations, the system as a whole, the regional commissions and the Governments of the regions themselves, and for the delegation of the relevant and adequate budgetary, financial and executing authority, as appropriate and in the context of the desires of the regional Governments individually and collectively.

30. The Group of 77 had made very sincere efforts to meet the concerns and desires of other delegations with regard to the matters dealt with in section V - operational activities. In so doing, it had been extremely conscious of the link between sections V and VIII, and had agreed to open the way for the type of integration desired by other groups and delegations by agreeing to certain initial and specific steps at the present stage, but also in a sense committing the General Assembly to future action in that regard. The latter aspect was the only real guarantee for developing countries in respect of the projected increase in resources for operational activities, and he need only emphasize at present the clear agreement that all the initial steps were to be undertaken under the guidance of the General Assembly and no other body.

31. In that context, he anticipated that the General Assembly would have before it at its thirty-third session specific proposals from the relevant elements of the Secretariat relating to methods of implementation of the measures concerned. At the same time the General Assembly would, in the light of such proposals, be in a position to take the necessary action with regard to the establishment of the single governing body envisaged in section V, paragraph 8.

32. He noted that the General Assembly had already taken action on recommendations which had been agreed at earlier stages in the Committee's work with regard to sections VI and VII, dealing with planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation and with interagency co-ordination; in that context, the Committee's work had already been a contribution to the United Nations system. Action on the other recommendations in those sections would therefore constitute further progress in those areas.

33. Of particular significance to the developing countries was section VIII, relating to Secretariat support services. Certain aspects would be left for final determination by the General Assembly. However, the Group of 77 regretted that it had not been possible to reach complete agreement on all aspects of the section in the contact group of the Committee or in the Committee itself. The Group of 77 had already made substantial concessions with regard to the definition of functions, the clustering or reclustered of such functions, the matter of method of implementation, and particularly on the question of the functions of the post which was intended to facilitate the pulling together of all the relevant inputs within the United Nations and throughout the system.

34. Despite those concessions, and despite the full agreement on the functions of the post as it related to system-wide activities, great difficulty had been encountered in getting agreement on the level and status to be applied in order to ensure that the holder of such a post would be capable of fulfilling the functions determined, particularly at the system-wide level. While the Group of 77 was still open to consultations on that point, even up to the time when action would be taken by the General Assembly, he wished to make it abundantly clear that, as far as the Group of 77 was concerned, the post must have the capability for ensuring the coherence of all activities of the United Nations system related to development and international economic co-operation, and particularly to the implementation of the new international economic order. The Group felt very strongly that that could not be facilitated, given the nature of the United Nations system, without the provision of a level and status conducive to it.

35. In that context, the Group of 77 had expected that the Secretary-General, in presenting to the General Assembly the financial implications on the subject, would indicate clearly the implications in respect of each of the three alternative formulations relating to the matter of level in that section. The members of the Group had seen the information contained in document A/C.5/32/86 and, as that matter was not for discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee, they would make substantive comments at the appropriate time. It sufficed to say that the formulation was not, in their view, in keeping with the recommendations in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. They were disturbed that the procedure used had not been in conformity with the agreement in the contact group, particularly in respect of consultations with the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. In addition, it was their view that the substance of the document concerned was not in keeping with the spirit and letter of the recommendations in the report before the Committee. They

hoped that the financial implications would be re-examined in the light of their concerns. Adoption of the report in no way implied acceptance of the financial implications as they had been presented. The Group of 77 would return to that matter in the Second Committee.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that all statements made at the current meeting should be reproduced in extenso in the summary records annexed to the Committee's report.

37. It was so decided.

38. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic), <sup>4/</sup> speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR, said the delegations of the socialist countries maintained that the economic and social sectors of the United Nations should fulfil the progressive purposes and goals set out in the decisions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly on the establishment of a new international economic order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the tasks of restructuring international economic relations on a progressive and equitable basis, taking account of the rightful interests of all countries.

39. The delegations of the socialist countries therefore continued to believe that the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations should proceed in strict conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, should be orientated towards achieving the most effective use of the resources of the United Nations devoted to economic and social activities, and should seek to avoid duplication and overlapping. Their basic position was that measures to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations should not entail any growth in the United Nations budget, the establishment of any additional organs or Secretariat departments or any increase in staff, but should, on the contrary, lead to a more rational use of existing resources.

40. On the understanding that the Ad Hoc Committee had been working on the basis of consensus, the delegations of the socialist countries agreed to accept the Committee's report without a vote. At the same time, they considered that the same understanding should prevail in the further consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and in the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

41. While supporting in principle the basic lines of the agreed recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, the delegations of the socialist countries considered it essential to restate their position on specific proposals on which only partial understanding had been obtained, and on those on which no understanding had successfully been reached.

42. The delegations of the socialist countries were firmly opposed to the inclusion in the report of recommendations the implementation of which would entail revision of the Charter of the United Nations. They could not, therefore, agree with proposals to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council.

43. The delegations of the socialist countries were not convinced that the implementation of the proposal to establish a post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would in itself lead to greater effectiveness in the work of the United Nations Secretariat in that field. In their

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<sup>4/</sup> Idem.



view, it was not necessary to create within the Secretariat an additional high-level post the appointment to which would require confirmation by the General Assembly.

44. The delegations of the socialist countries did not consider that the proposals in paragraph 1 of section V of the recommendations, concerning operational activities, imposed on the socialist countries any obligations of a financial nature in relation to voluntary funds and assistance programmes within the United Nations system.

45. As already stated by the representatives of the socialist countries during the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Committee, certain questions referred to in its report were not related to the problem of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, and exceeded the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. Among such questions were the proposals to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and of the Economic and Social Council, proposals on the relationships to be maintained with non-governmental organizations and on financial support of the work of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and certain others.

46. The delegations of the socialist countries were prepared to co-operate constructively with other interested delegations in the further consideration and implementation of agreed measures in the field of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. They were also prepared to participate in the constructive consideration within the framework of the Economic and Social Council, as recommended in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, of questions concerning the simplification and improvement of the system of subsidiary bodies and possible improvements in the working methods and organization of work of the Council itself.

47. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) said that his delegation had strong reservations concerning the recommendations adopted by the Committee. Those recommendations were far removed from the exercise of restructuring, and contributed little to the establishment of the new international economic order. His delegation also regretted the conditions in which the work of the Committee had been conducted, involving excessive pressure on delegates and inadequate time. Lastly, his delegation had strong reservations concerning the financial implications, and would comment further on that subject in the Fifth Committee.

48. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) <sup>5/</sup> said his delegation was gratified that the Ad Hoc Committee's deliberations had been able to reach a conclusion after two years of lengthy but meaningful discussions. In the process, all the participants had achieved a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of the United Nations and how its ideals and objectives could best be served. He paid a tribute to the Chairman for his handling of the very complicated and delicate issues that had been before the Committee.

49. With regard to some of the substantive issues included in the draft report, his delegation considered the concept of subject-oriented sessions of the Economic and Social Council to be a great improvement in the Council's pattern of work, but at

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<sup>5/</sup> Idem.

the same time it felt that that new scheme, together with the assumption by the Council, to the maximum extent, of direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies should be undertaken in parallel with the measures to streamline the subsidiary bodies, in order to avoid creating confusion and duplication.

50. On the question of the operational activities of the United Nations system, his delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the agreement reached with respect to measures at the country level, since in its view the improved coherence of action and effective integration of the operational activities at the country level were most important to the development of the developing countries. However, his delegation regretted that the Committee had not been able to reach agreement on the earlier version of the text (CRP/CH/5), which was more general in nature and had been agreed upon informally.

51. With regard to section VIII relating to the Secretariat, his delegation would like to express its understanding of the following points: firstly, on the provision in the last sentence of paragraph 3, that the clustering of the function in subparagraph (f), either to the functions defined in subparagraphs (a) and (b) or to those defined in subparagraphs (c) and (d), should be left to the discretion of the Secretary-General; and secondly, regarding the provision in the penultimate sentence of paragraph 5, that the term of office of the "official" corresponded in principle with that of the Secretary-General.

52. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) <sup>6/</sup> said that, while the origins of concern about the United Nations system obviously went back much further, the formal origins of the restructuring exercise were to be found in General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), which had established the Ad Hoc Committee with a mandate to prepare detailed action proposals. The resolution had also provided general guidelines for efforts to make the United Nations system more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the new international economic order.

53. In the two years since that resolution had been adopted by consensus, his delegation had actively participated in the various formal and informal negotiations. It had done so because the United States believed in the United Nations and in the objectives he had just described.

54. It would come as no surprise that the text before the Committee represented a compromise and thus probably was not totally satisfactory to any delegation. Certainly his delegation would have wished that certain parts of the text might be stronger, and some of the concepts contained in it continued to cause his delegation concern. Nevertheless, the final product was a constructive contribution. As set forth in the Charter, one of the purposes of the United Nations was to harmonize the actions of nations, and that required a mutual understanding and a mutual willingness to seek a common ground for action.

55. Such a common ground had been found in the draft report and, whatever its short-comings, it did provide an opportunity for progress in many areas. Without

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<sup>6/</sup> Idem.

attempting to be exhaustive, he noted that the text contained provisions for a strengthened Economic and Social Council that could serve as a central forum for the discussion of international economic and social issues; a comprehensive review of all operational activities of the United Nations system, which should greatly assist Governments of Member States in understanding the over-all effort of the system in the area of economic and social development and improving its effectiveness; increased efficiency and effectiveness in United Nations operational activities; improvements in planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation procedures and a reaffirmation of the vital role of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; and significant proposals for the reorganization of the United Nations Secretariat.

56. The United States Government was prepared to give its support to that text, which represented a significant step in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. He would like, however, to indicate his Government's understanding of certain sections of the recommendations in document A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1.

57. With regard to section I, his delegation could accept the broad definition of the responsibilities of the General Assembly contained in that section with the understanding that the provisions did not, in fact, go beyond the authority vested in the Assembly under the Charter. Thus, while the Charter called on the General Assembly to promote solutions of international economic and social problems, its role was neither to negotiate precise agreements nor to place restraints on the negotiations in other forums. His delegation therefore interpreted "policy-making" as in the first instance applying to the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations programmes and bodies. On a broader level, it interpreted "policy-making" as establishing general guidelines of a recommendatory nature, not decision-making. In developing those guidelines, the United Nations must strive for genuine consensus which would be reflected in the other forums.

58. With regard to section III, his delegation interpreted the phrase "should, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and within the scope of their respective basic instruments, give full and prompt effect to their /the General Assembly's and the Economic and Social Council's/ specific policy recommendations" as consistent with the recommendatory nature of such resolutions under the Charter, the specific relationship agreements of the relevant organizations and the integrity of the decision-making process in each of the organizations as set forth in their respective basic instruments. The text rightly spoke not of "decisions" but of "recommendations". That understanding also applied to similar references in section VII, dealing with interagency co-ordination.

59. His delegation would also like to indicate its reservations about a number of specific paragraphs. With regard to section I, paragraph 1 (b), his delegation would note that the Charter did not vest the General Assembly with the authority to "assign" negotiations to forums other than subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly itself. With regard to section II, paragraph 9, while his delegation could accept the phrase calling for "consideration" to be given to the membership of the Economic and Social Council, that should not be interpreted as in any way prejudging the final decision following such consideration. His delegation had accepted the proposal that section II, paragraph 11, should be retained, but it interpreted that paragraph as in no way derogating from the basic criteria for consultative status set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1949 (LVIII). In connexion with

section III, paragraph 3, his delegation's position with regard to General Assembly resolution 31/159 remained unchanged. As to section VI, paragraph 10, his delegation continued to have reservations about the consideration of the expansion of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions beyond 16 members.

60. His delegation noted with regret that, in spite of the Committee's best efforts, it had not been possible to arrive at an agreed text for section VIII, paragraph 5. His delegation was still hopeful that a genuine consensus might be achieved but was very much aware of all the sensitivities involved, and it would strongly urge that there should be no effort to solve the issues that remained by a vote, either in the Ad Hoc Committee or in any subsequent body. It also hoped that the procedure for resolving those issues would be such as to permit the Secretary-General the opportunity to provide Member States with his views.

61. With those interpretations and reservations in mind, he would reiterate that his Government was prepared to support the proposals for the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system as contained in the text before the Committee, and urged all other countries to do likewise. The approval of that text was not an end but the beginning of a process. The text itself was not self-executing but would require specific implementation in the appropriate bodies. It would require the co-operation of the Secretary-General and his staff. But more than anything else, it would require the continuation by Member States of their collective efforts to translate the broad principles into practical measures and the exploration of new areas in which improvements might be made. It was only through such continuing commitment and effort that the United Nations could realize its full potential "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character".

62. Miss RICO (Spain) said that her delegation reserved its right to set forth its interpretation of the recommendations contained in the draft report and its position with regard to the statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/32/86) when the matter was discussed in the General Assembly.

63. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada) paid tribute to the Chairman on behalf of the group of Western European and other States.

64. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that his delegation was deeply concerned about the manner in which the statement of financial implications had been prepared and about its contents, which were not in accordance with the spirit of the recommendations contained in the draft report. He urged the competent authorities to reconsider the statement of financial implications in the light of those recommendations before the matter was considered by the General Assembly.

65. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of the Sudan and noted that the representative of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, had made a formal request that the statement of financial implications should be reviewed before it was put before the Second Committee.

66. Mr. GREET (Australia), Rapporteur, referring to chapters I and II of the draft report (A/AC.179/L.11), recalled that the Ad Hoc Committee had conducted its work primarily in the informal contact group and the group of "Friends of the Chairman".

As there was no record of the discussions in those informal groups, chapter II did not deal with the substance of the restructuring issues considered but merely provided indications as to the order in which they had been taken up and which of them had been the subject of intensive negotiations or had caused particular difficulties. Paragraphs 36-38 (A/AC.179/L.11/Add.3) did, however, refer to two matters which had been discussed by the Committee in a more detailed manner. The Committee had considered personnel administration and information activities as possible subjects for inclusion in section VIII of its report, and it had been agreed that appropriate reference should be made in the body of the report to the proposals on those subjects, on the understanding that the proponents could pursue their proposals in any appropriate forum at some future time.

67. Referring to a number of editorial changes and additions, he said that in document A/AC.179/L.11 the last sentence of paragraph 9, which appeared in square brackets, should be deleted. In document A/AC.179/L.11/Add.2, a paragraph might be added specifically acknowledging the assistance received by the Ad Hoc Committee from the Secretariat, as suggested by the representative of Jamaica and others. Lastly, as anticipated in document A/AC.179/L.11/Add.3, arrangements would be made to incorporate in the report the texts of reservations expressed by delegations with regard to its contents.

68. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since the representative of Japan had referred to document CRP/CH/5, the Rapporteur might be asked to decide whether to include that document as an annex to the draft report or refer to it in a foot-note.

69. He invited the Committee to take a decision on the draft report as a whole.

70. The draft report as a whole (A/AC.179/L.11 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2 and 3), as orally revised, was adopted.

#### CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

71. The CHAIRMAN said the time was not opportune for an assessment of the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. He felt sure, however, that these results would not be greeted with uniform abuse. He thanked the officers of the Committee, the spokesmen and co-ordinators of the various groups, and all delegations for their co-operation. He also expressed his deep appreciation for the support and interest in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee shown by the Secretary-General and for the co-operation of other senior officials of the Secretariat, and paid a tribute to all members of the secretariat of the Committee who had made valuable contributions to the Committee's work. He declared the resumed sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

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