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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Alawi AL-HADDAD (Democratic Yemen)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a general discussion on item 12 (see A/39/789, para. 5). The Committee's consideration of the proposals submitted under the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/39/SR.38-41, 43, 46, 54-56 and 58).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.25, L.125 and L.135

2. At the 38th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Venezuela introduced, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, India, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam, a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.25) entitled "Protection against products harmful to health and the environment", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982 and 38/149 of 19 December 1983,

* The report of the Second Committee on item 12 will be issued in three parts.

"Reiterating that products that have been banned from domestic consumption and/or sale because they have been judged to endanger health and the environment should be sold abroad by companies, corporations or individuals only when a request for such products is received from an importing country or when the consumption of such products is officially permitted in the importing country,

"Reiterating further that all countries that have severely restricted or have not approved the domestic consumption and/or sale of specific products, in particular pharmaceuticals and pesticides, should make available full information on those products with a view to safeguarding the health and environment of the importing country, including clear labelling in a language acceptable to the importing country,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment, 1/

"Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products, 2/ and welcoming the effort being made in various international forums with regard to the exchange of information on such products,

"1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the timely distribution of the first issue of the consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or, in the case of pharmaceuticals, not approved by Governments, and commends the Secretariat for the high quality of the work performed;

"2. Decides that the updated consolidated list should be published and distributed annually, in English, French, Spanish and Arabic;

"3. Reiterates its appreciation of the co-operation extended by Governments in the preparation of the consolidated list, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to provide the necessary information for inclusion in the updated versions of the list;

"4. Notes with satisfaction the co-operation provided by the appropriate organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in the issuance of the list and urges them, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and

1/ A/39/452.

2/ A/39/290-E/1984/120.

"5. Expresses its appreciation of the co-operation provided by non-governmental organizations in this regard, and urges them to continue to extend co-operation to the Secretary-General in the preparation of the consolidated list, particularly in the identification of potential sources of information among national Governments and in obtaining governmental information on relevant regulatory actions;

"6. Considers that the consolidated list should be developed further, with particular emphasis on the legal, public health and commercial context of the regulatory actions and with information on safe uses of products included in the list, and requests the Secretary-General to make the data available to Governments and other users in such a manner as to permit direct computer access to those data;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the existing organizational arrangements to provide capabilities for legal analysis, risk assessment, commercial marketing analysis, as well as for maintenance of liaison with Governments and appropriate organizations and for the improvement in the quality and quantity of international product safety information;

"8. Also requests the Secretary-General and the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries, at their request, for the establishment or strengthening of national systems for better use by those countries of the information provided with regard to banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products, as well as for an adequate monitoring of the importation of those products;

"9. Further requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its forty-second session and every three years thereafter about the implementation of Assembly resolutions 37/137 and 38/149, as well as of the present resolution."

Subsequently, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Oman and Qatar joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.25) was circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.81.

4. At its 58th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.125) submitted by Mr. Habib M. Kaabachi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.25. The draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982 and 38/149 of 19 December 1983,

"Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment, 3/

"Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products, 4/ and welcoming the effort being made in various international forums with regard to the exchange of information on such products,

"Mindful of the need to have access to useful information regarding products in international trade that have been banned or severely restricted by nations because of their potential for harm to health or the environment,

"Recognizing that several specialized agencies have programmes on the collection, evaluation and dissemination of information related to the hazards associated with products in international trade, and noting in particular that the United Nations Environment Programme has drawn up a provisional notification scheme for the exchange of information on potentially harmful chemicals, in particular pesticides,

"Noting that the World Health Assembly, by its resolution WHA37.33 of 17 May 1984, called for a meeting in 1985 of a group of experts on the rational use of drugs,

"Noting also that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is preparing a code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides,

"Seeking to gain full participation by Governments in response to General Assembly resolution 37/137 and to resolve outstanding issues, such as those described in the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

"1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, and commends him, for the distribution of the first issue of the consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or, in the case of pharmaceuticals, not approved by Governments;

"2. Reiterates its appreciation of the co-operation extended by Governments in the preparation of the consolidated list, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to provide the necessary information for inclusion in the updated versions of the list;

"3. Notes with satisfaction the co-operation provided by the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in the issuance of the list and urges them, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the

3/ A/39/452.

4/ A/39/290-E/1984/120.

World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations to continue to co-operate fully in the preparation of the updated versions of the list;

"4. Expresses its appreciation of the co-operation provided by non-governmental organizations in this regard, and urges them to continue to extend co-operation to the Secretary-General in the preparation of the consolidated list;

"5. Decides that:

"(a) An updated consolidated list should be issued annually and that the data should be made available to Governments and other users in such a form as to permit direct computer access to it;

"(b) In order to keep costs to a minimum, the consolidated list should be published and made available in all the official languages of the United Nations in sets of alternating languages each year, with no more than three languages per year and with the same frequency for each language;

"(c) The format of the consolidated list should be kept under continuing review with a view to its improvement, in accordance with resolution 37/137, in co-operation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taking into account the complementary nature of the list, the experiences obtained and the views expressed by Governments on this matter, and that the next review should be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"(d) The review of the consolidated list should particularly cover the advantages and disadvantages of introducing to the list such information as the legal, public health and commercial context of the regulatory actions, as well as complementary information on safe uses of the products, and also give due consideration to the possible advantages and disadvantages of streamlining its content, so that users, when alerted to the potential hazards of a product, may be directed to sources of more complete information;

"6. Urges importing countries, bearing in mind the extensive legal, public health and safety information already provided to the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to avail themselves of the information provision facilities of those organizations, which include, in some cases, direct computer access;

"7. Invites the specialized agencies to provide the Secretary-General with an evaluation of the information collection and dissemination procedures now in operation within the appropriate agencies in the light of General Assembly resolution 37/137 by December 1985, bearing in mind the need to increase their efforts to make available to Governments information regarding

national regulatory action taken with regard to products within their respective spheres of responsibility, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of that evaluation to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General and the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries, at their request, for the establishment or strengthening of national systems for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products, as well as for an adequate monitoring of the importation, manufacture and use of those products;

"9. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Economic and Social Council, to inform the General Assembly at its forty-first session and every three years thereafter about the implementation of Assembly resolutions 37/137 and 38/149, as well as of the present resolution;

"10. Further requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution."

5. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.125) was circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.127.

6. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman withdrew draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.125.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Sweden, in accordance with rule 122 of the rules of procedure, reintroduced draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.125 5/ and orally revised it by:

(a) Deleting the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eight preambular paragraphs;

(b) Adding, at the end of operative paragraph 4, the words:

"particularly in the identification of potential sources of information among national Governments and in obtaining governmental information on relevant regulatory actions";

(c) Deleting from operative paragraph 5 (d) the words:

"and also give due consideration to the possible advantages and disadvantages of streamlining its content, so that users, when alerted to the potential hazards of a product, may be directed to sources of more complete information";

5/ The draft resolution, as reintroduced by the representative of Sweden, was subsequently issued as A/C.2/39/L.135.

(d) Replacing operative paragraph 7 by the following text:

"7. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the appropriate specialized agencies, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a report on a review of the various information exchange schemes now in operation within the United Nations system".

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.25, made a statement.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution reintroduced by the representative of Sweden by a recorded vote of 127 votes to 1 (see para. 22, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

10. In the light of the adoption of the above draft resolution, draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.25 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community), the United States of America, Canada and Venezuela (see A/C.2/39/SR.58).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.33

12. At the 39th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Egypt introduced, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, a draft resolution (A/C.2/39/L.33) entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa".

13. The Secretary-General submitted a statement (A/C.2/39/L.79) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

14. At its 58th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee voted on the draft resolution as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4 was retained by a recorded vote of 102 votes to 1, with 22 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 6/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6/ The representative of Liberia stated that, although his delegation was shown as having abstained in the vote, it had voted in favour of retaining operative paragraph 4.

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(b) Operative paragraph 7 was retained by a recorded vote of 94 votes to 14, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.

(c) The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 105 votes to 1, with 20 abstentions (see para. 22, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,

/...

Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Japan, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77), Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Germany, Federal Republic of (see A/C.2/39/SR.58).

C. Draft decisions A/C.2/39/L.107 and L.132

16. At the 56th meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Egypt introduced, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, a draft decision (A/C.2/39/L.107) entitled "Reconvened special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session, held from 11 to 29 June 1984, 7/ and decides:

"(a) To request the Chairman, together with the other members of the bureau of the reconvened special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, to initiate consultations aimed at overcoming the present impasse regarding the negotiations on the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations, bearing in mind the proposals of the Chairman and the Rapporteur and the progress achieved thus far during the special session;

"(b) To request the Centre on Transnational Corporations to prepare a study on the outstanding issues in the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations, particularly on the questions of international law/international obligations vis-à-vis national legislation, to be circulated to Governments prior to the reconvened special session;

"(c) To reconvene the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for one week in June 1985 in order to examine the study requested in paragraph (b) above and, in the light of that examination and the results of the consultations mentioned in paragraph (a) above, to prepare a report, including suggestions regarding the most appropriate steps to be taken to complete the code of conduct, to be submitted, for consideration, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and to the General Assembly at its fortieth session."

17. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft decision (A/C.2/39/L.107) was circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.117.
18. At its 58th meeting,, on 10 December, the Committee considered a draft decision (A/C.2/39/L.132) submitted by Mr. Habib M. Kaabachi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/39/L.107.
19. At the same meeting, after a statement made by the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, the Committee adopted the draft decision in A/C.2/39/L.132 (see para. 23).
20. In the light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/39/L.132, draft decision A/C.2/39/L.107 was withdrawn by the sponsors.
21. After the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see A/C.2/39/SR.58).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

22. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982 and 38/149 of 19 December 1983,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment, 8/

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products, 9/ and welcoming the effort being made in various international forums with regard to the exchange of information on such products,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and commends him for the distribution of the first issue of the consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or, in the case of pharmaceuticals, not approved by Governments;

2. Reiterates its appreciation for the co-operation extended by Governments in the preparation of the consolidated list, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to provide the necessary information for inclusion in the updated versions of the list;

3. Notes with satisfaction the co-operation provided by the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in the issuance of the list and urges them, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, to continue to co-operate fully in the preparation of the updated versions of the list;

4. Expresses its appreciation for the co-operation provided by non-governmental organizations in this regard, and urges them to continue to extend co-operation to the Secretary-General in the preparation of the consolidated list, particularly in the identification of potential sources of information among national Governments and in obtaining governmental information on relevant regulatory actions;

5. Decides that:

(a) An updated consolidated list should be issued annually and that the data should be made available to Governments and other users in such a form as to permit direct computer access to it;

(b) In order to keep costs to a minimum, the consolidated list should be published and made available in all the official languages of the United Nations in sets of alternating languages each year, with no more than three languages per year and with the same frequency for each language;

(c) The format of the consolidated list should be kept under continuing review with a view to its improvement, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/137, in co-operation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taking into account the complementary

nature of the list, the experiences obtained and the views expressed by Governments on this matter, and that the next review should be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

(d) The review of the consolidated list should cover particularly the advantages and disadvantages of introducing to the list such information as the legal, public health and commercial context of the regulatory actions, as well as complementary information on safe uses of the products;

6. Urges importing countries, bearing in mind the extensive legal, public health and safety information already provided to the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to avail themselves of the information provision facilities of those organizations, which include, in some cases, direct computer access;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the appropriate specialized agencies, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a report on a review of the various information exchange schemes now in operation within the United Nations system;

8. Requests the Secretary-General and the competent organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries, at their request, for the establishment or strengthening of national systems for managing hazardous chemicals and pharmaceutical products, as well as for an adequate monitoring of the importation, manufacture and use of those products;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Economic and Social Council, to inform the General Assembly at its forty-first session and every three years thereafter about the implementation of resolutions 37/137 and 38/149 and of the present resolution;

10. Further requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 38/150 of 19 December 1983 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, by which it approved the organization of technical consultative meetings and studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/68 of 27 July 1984,

Considering the priority attached to transport and communications in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa 10/ and the Final Act of Lagos, 11/ and the endorsement of the programme for the second phase (1984-1988) of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa in its resolution 487 (XIX) of 28 May 1984, 12/

Noting the approval of the programme for the second phase of the Decade by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its 4th meeting, held at Conakry from 7 to 11 February 1984, 13/ and the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in the preparation of the plan,

Bearing in mind that the programme for the Decade requires regular adjustment throughout the Decade,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa on the implementation of the programme for the first phase (1980-1983) of the Decade and the approved programme for the second phase (1984-1988), 14/

1. Reaffirms its resolution 38/150 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and calls for its immediate and effective implementation;
2. Endorses the programme for the second phase (1984-1988) of the Transport and Communications Decade approved by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa;
3. Notes the financial support provided by the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the Economic Commission for Africa for the preparation of the programme for the second phase of the Decade and for the continued operations of the Decade Co-ordination Unit;
4. Invites all Governments, particularly those of the developed countries, and international financial institutions to increase substantially their financial support for the programme for the second phase of the Decade and to accord particular attention to the financing and implementation of transport and communications projects of the land-locked countries, to

10/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

11/ Ibid., annex II.

12/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 11 (E/1984/21), chap. IV.

13/ A/ECA/CM.10/22.

14/ A/39/271-E/1984/98.

participate fully and positively in the scheduled technical consultative meetings and to provide financial and technical resources on liberal terms to African countries for the implementation of the programme for the second phase of the Decade;

5. Appeals to the international community and international financial institutions to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with experts for short terms who would carry out specialized activities in the programme for the Decade, including the preparation of project documents;

6. Appeals also to the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with funds during the next programming cycle;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to enable it to:

(a) To fully implement the activities previously mandated in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 38/150;

(b) To ensure the preparation of relevant financial and technical documents of selected projects for the programme for the second phase of the Decade;

(c) To ensure prompt follow-up on interests expressed by Governments and international financial institutions in financing Decade projects during technical consultative meetings;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of this resolution and to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade programme.

* * *

23. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reconvened special session of the Commission on
Transnational Corporations

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To take note of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session, held from 11 to 29 June 1984; 15/

(b) To request the Chairman, together with the other members of the bureau of the reconvened special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, and with the assistance of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, to initiate consultations aimed at overcoming the present impasse regarding the negotiations on the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations, bearing in mind, inter alia, the proposals of the Chairman and the Rapporteur and the progress achieved thus far during the special session;

(c) To request the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations to prepare a study on the outstanding issues in the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations, including, inter alia, the questions of international law and international obligations vis-à-vis national legislation, to be circulated to Governments prior to the reconvened special session;

(d) To reconvene the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for one week in June 1985 in order to examine the study requested in paragraph (c) above and, in the light of that examination and the results of the consultations mentioned in paragraph (b) above, to prepare a report, including suggestions regarding the most appropriate steps to be taken to complete the code of conduct, to be submitted, for consideration, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.
