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

Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and
Duties of States

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/44/266-E/1989/65) contains, in an annex, a summary of replies from Governments to a questionnaire distributed to all Member States by the Secretariat. Subsequent to the completion of the report of the Secretary-General, additional replies to the questionnaire were received, and have been summarized in an addendum (A/44/266/Add.1-E/1989/65/Add.1). The present addendum summarizes another reply.

Summary of replies received from Governments:

2. In its reply, Poland stated that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had provided a fundamental policy framework for establishing a pattern of economic relations among all countries based on the principles of equality, full sovereignty, justice and global rationality. The purpose of the Charter is to end the era of colonial domination and suppression. Poland has always provided full and unconditional support to the cause of struggle against all forms of colonial exploitation, unfair treatment and subordination.

* A/44/150.

3. Many of the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States still await implementation by Member States. Market-oriented mechanisms and market-based solutions have been adopted, rather than long-term economic strategies based on strict targeting of growth and changes in the institutional setting, and such measures have a significant bearing on the approach to and assessment of the implementation of the Charter. The world economy has also witnessed much turbulence in the past 15 years that has affected many countries, including Poland.

4. The most important obstacles impeding implementation of the Charter include changing views on development and the prospective changes in the world economy, and the lack of political will to fulfil the provisions of the Charter. Increasing interdependence has not resulted in the level of co-operation required to cope with global problems such as debt and protection of the environment. The world economy has suffered from growing imbalances and setbacks. The global debt crisis has been immensely disruptive, as have other phenomena such as altered patterns of demand. Many countries are more concerned with economic survival than with the comprehensive transformation of legal norms and regulations guiding the conduct of international economic relations.

5. The significant trends and changes in the world economy that have occurred over the past 15 to 20 years, as well as recent positive changes, warrant an objective United Nations analysis that could culminate in a comprehensive study focusing on conditions and ways and means of implementation of the Charter. Such a study could also include a critical appraisal of the economic, technological and financial interlinkages in the world economy and the prevailing economic relations among various groups of countries. The threat of marginalization for some countries, growing imbalances, and the extent to which implementation of the Charter could counter such trends, should also be covered in the analysis.

6. Multilateral approaches are called for more than ever before. The common challenge of solving acute global problems necessitates the involvement of all countries. The Charter is one instrument that can be of use in multilateral endeavours. Poland will continue to support all international instruments approved within the United Nations that are designed to foster confidence in international economic relations and promote co-operation, thus enhancing international economic security.
