



SECOND COMMITTEE
47th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 20 November 1984
at 3 p.m.
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

later: Mr. de la TORRE (Argentina)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

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1. Mr. GAYAMA (Congo) said that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States represented the most thoroughgoing attempt ever made to rationalize international economic relations. Ten years after its adoption, there was every indication of its continued validity. Among the motives underlying the Charter, the demand for justice occupied an important position. There could, in economic affairs, be no reliance on the blind laws of the market. If, at the national level, the principle calling for the regulation of the interplay of factors of production and for the allocation of resources was generally conceded, it seemed logical also to introduce minimum rules of conduct at the international level.

2. The circumstances justifying such regulation of the conduct of major economic agents were even more compelling today than they had been at the time the Charter was adopted. The economic crisis that some believed to be cyclical was in fact a profound structural crisis. The energy problem could no longer be cited as the main factor responsible. Moreover, the economic recovery under way in some parts of the world had had no carry-over effect on most developing countries. The growth rates of those countries had remained only stationary or had been in decline. The falling-off in commodity prices and the rise in interest rates had brought on a deterioration in the terms of trade and a crushing indebtedness. At the same time,

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(Mr. Gayama, Congo)

protectionism was on the rise, official development assistance was shrinking and the flow of capital to the poorest countries was drying up. Africa was suffering most since it also had to confront drought and desertification.

3. The goal assigned to the Charter could not have been other than the better management of the earth's common heritage through the establishment of a new international economic order. That goal required, above all, that the effort should be made to go beyond selfish interests and the thirst for power. However, the arms race continued to swallow up enormous resources which could have been devoted to development, and to undermine international peace and security. The new international economic order should, nevertheless, contribute to the promotion of human rights by dismantling the structures of exploitation and domination in Namibia, for example, where the people still languished under the colonial yoke, and in South Africa, where the régime served the interests of a minority in disregard of the dignity and aspirations of the population.

4. In order to make interdependence the basis of multilateral co-operation, remedy the most flagrant iniquities and ensure development for all, consensus had been reached on an international development strategy within the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade. In that regard, agencies and bodies such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, and the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had shown what measures should be taken, but had done so to almost no avail. The General Assembly, for its part, had been no more successful in ensuring the launching of the global negotiations.

5. That could be explained, in particular, by the fact that certain developed countries which had joined the consensus at the height of the crisis had had a tendency to renege on their commitments once the danger had passed and to seek to preserve the advantages acquired. Such States resorted to protectionism, which could in no way help the achievement of the goals set by the Strategy for the developing countries in the fields of trade, industrial production and agriculture and they had, on the whole, a tendency to abandon the multilateral approach in favour of bilateralism.

6. The same explanation must be given for the negative attitude of certain States with regard to accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the deadlock in the work of formulating the code of conduct on transnational corporations and for the delays in the adoption of generalized preference mechanisms in favour of the developing countries and in the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities. With regard to official development assistance, moreover, a number of industrialized countries were still far from reaching the goal of 0.7 per cent of GNP. The seventh replenishment of the resources of IDA showed a troubling deficit and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNDP and the United Nations Industrial Development Fund were also having financial difficulties.

7. It was maintained that the crisis in multilateralism could be overcome by a revival of bilateralism. The limits of bilateralism were, however, obvious since aid granted in that form was most often tied as could, moreover, be seen from the

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(Mr. Gayama, Congo)

report of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (A/39/48) where certain suggestions were made with a view to facilitating private investment. Such private investment would be directed towards immediately profitable sectors, regardless of the priorities laid down by the host countries. Furthermore, among those factors helping to aggravate the indebtedness of developing countries must be mentioned the rigidity of a particular system of granting loans and credits at high rates and for very short terms which is typical of profit-oriented institutions. The overwhelming importance accorded to financial profit also explained why so little attention was paid to the transfer of technology or to the recommendations of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, particularly those dealing with its financing system. The Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries was experiencing the same bottleneck since few of the States members of the Development Assistance Committee had reached the goal of 0.15 per cent established for assistance to those countries.

8. In such circumstances, however significant the external multilateral or bilateral contribution, it was the specific effort made by the developing countries themselves which was the determining factor. In that regard, two prospects for action were available; that of South-South co-operation and that of national and regional integration. On the one hand, South-South co-operation in the economic, scientific and technical fields represented a basic element in the establishment of the new international economic order and a recent assessment had showed it to be promising. The Group of 77 had played a major role in that regard by suggesting numerous changes, particularly within UNCTAD. Moreover, in order to lay the foundation for self-reliant development, the developing countries must promote their national or regional integration, particularly, in the case of Africa, within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action. The idea of self-sufficiency, both individual and collective, was of decisive importance.

9. In its development plan for 1982-1986, his country undertook to attain the priority goals of food security and self-sufficiency in agricultural production, since the country was becoming increasingly dependent on imports of foodstuffs and wished to reduce that dependence. It also attached prime importance to the rational use of national and regional resources. In that context, the Economic Community of Central African States, established in October 1983, represented a long-awaited stage in the process of achieving the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

10. Mr. HUERTA-FLORES (Mexico) pointed out that the questions considered under the second part of agenda item 80 were related and all concerned a fundamental objective set forth in the Charter, which was "the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations" and the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development". In order to achieve that objective, it was important to determine and apply multilateral norms for the establishment of more equitable economic relations that would be of significantly greater benefit for all. The new international economic order would promote peace and security and make it possible to transfer resources from arms

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(Mr. Huerta-Flores, Mexico)

spending to more just and durable development. It was necessary, therefore, to give international organizations more scope and to place greater emphasis on multilateral diplomacy. The competence of the United Nations with regard to development and international economic co-operation, which was sometimes challenged, was clearly defined in Chapters IX and X of the Charter and especially in Articles 58 and 60. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, whose tenth anniversary would be celebrated in the near future, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy were cornerstones for building fair economic relations between the developing and developed countries.

11. The failure of the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy raised the question as to whether States Members of the United Nations were able to undertake commitments through agreements which had real meaning and could be given effect in concrete measures by the signatory countries. His delegation continued to feel that the Committee's mandate should remain, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 38/152, "to identify and appraise the real causes for shortfalls encountered in the implementation of the International Development Strategy and to carry out ... the adjustment, intensification or reformulation of the policy measures foreseen in the Strategy ... in order for the instrument to contribute effectively to the development of developing countries, with a view to the establishment of a new international economic order". The failure encountered by the Committee was due neither to procedural difficulties nor to the fact that one document rather than another would serve as the basis of negotiation. The developing countries had reaffirmed their commitment to the document, in which they set forth their position, while at the same time recognizing that other countries or groups of countries might have different points of view. For his delegation the essential task was to finally adopt specific measures and not to become bogged down in procedure, which meant that there was a need to identify the best means of realizing the goals of the Strategy.

12. With regard to the negotiations concerning the code of conduct on transnational corporations, the developing countries had made important concessions to achieve consensus and a compromise solution representing the most favourable outcome in the current circumstances. Nevertheless, they could not accept a watering-down of the fundamental objectives of the code of conduct. His delegation therefore continued to think that the compromise solution put forward in the Chairman's proposal, which had permitted some progress to be made during the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, could serve as the basis for an agreement between all countries. A dual solution would have to be used; on the one hand, the Bureau of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations should seek to resolve the outstanding political issues through consultations with countries or groups of countries; on the other hand, the Commission could endeavour to clarify those problems by appointing experts who supported the various existing doctrines to undertake a comparative study on the matter. That dual effort might lead to the reconvening of the special session of the Commission in mid-1985 and make it possible to determine the best methods of finalizing and adopting the code of conduct.

(Mr. Huerta-Flores, Mexico)

13. Concerning the question of the monetary, financing and trading system, there was a greater need than ever for the United Nations to generate the necessary political impetus for the international community to take measures and initiatives with a view to helping the developing countries to overcome their serious economic problems, which could not be checked adequately by supposed liberalization of international trade and the effects of the recovery observed in some developed countries. The necessary political dialogue should be resumed and the United Nations was the most appropriate forum. For that purpose, it was necessary to initiate consultations as soon as possible to find the formulas which were best adapted to the situation, and which would highlight the interdependence of monetary and development-financing problems on the one hand, and international trade on the other. In addition, his delegation endorsed the proposal that the Secretary-General should produce a report, for the benefit of Governments, outlining the social consequences of the crisis before the meeting of the Interim Committee of IMF and the Development Committee of the World Bank.

14. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had been working for 20 years to promote development and to elaborate multilateral rules in international economic relations which favoured development. Its action was vital and must be reinforced. Before contemplating new initiatives for the ostensible liberalization of trade, of which the developing countries already knew the limits, it was important to give effect to the agreements which had already been concluded.

15. Moreover, his delegation believed that there was a need to re-establish the order of priorities, which had been seriously upset. In the field of science and technology, it had not been possible to find the minimum resources necessary for long-term financing of the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, an essential aspect of international economic co-operation to which Mexico was deeply committed.

16. The shortfalls in international economic co-operation related to substantive problems and could not be explained by methodological difficulties. It was because of the seriousness of the substantive problems that the question of restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system had arisen. The proliferation of resolutions, meetings and reports from which the system suffered was for the most part due to the stagnation of international economic co-operation and to the fact that, for commitments to be respected and goals to be realized, interminable futile negotiations and circuitous methods were needed to analyse the key issues. Efforts and studies on the restructuring could and should be continued; however, the stages of that process required very careful evaluation and there should be no modification of the fundamental aspects of the General Assembly's role in decision-making.

17. Mexico attached special importance to the mid-term review of implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. In that regard, too, it could be observed that the international community had not met its commitments. The situation in the least developed countries was well known; proposals had been submitted with a view to improving that situation, but it remained for the proposed measures to be implemented effectively. While it was necessary to seek appropriate means for reducing those countries' problems, there was no justification for attempting, under the guise of

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international aid, to modify from outside the attitudes, positions and policies of those countries with regard to their own development strategies or with regard to the major world problems. In that area, as elsewhere, genuine and disinterested international co-operation would best serve the interests of the least developed countries and of the international community as a whole.

18. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that, since the Irish delegation had already set out the views of the member countries of the European Economic Community on the second group of questions to be considered under agenda item 80, he would confine himself to the question of the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, on which the Secretary-General had presented a progress report (A/39/566). The report considered the "World survey on the role of women in development", which would constitute one of the basic documents for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in Nairobi in 1985.

19. Over the last 10 years, the integration of women in development had become a generally accepted notion. However, it seemed to his delegation that the Second Committee had never fully incorporated that question into development issues as a whole and had not given it the prominence which it deserved. In his view, the critical role which women played in development called for more substantial consideration by the Committee.

20. Integration of women in development had frequently been conceived in terms of strategies to integrate women in their national development process. However, there were policy intentions and policy objectives, concrete measures as well as solid analytical foundations for such policies were lacking. That was why, in recent years, women, particularly in developing countries, considered that their integration in national development was insufficient, since it did not necessarily lead to a situation in which women and men became equal partners. As a general rule, women were even more isolated from the discussion on development needs and modalities. It no longer sufficed to work exclusively towards integration; there was a need for radical transformations in the decision-making process and in the power relations between men and women. Although legal rights for women were certainly indispensable, they could only be meaningful when women acquired the economic and social power as well as the education and training to use those rights for their own benefit and that of their society.

21. The report of the Secretary-General (A/39/566) was useful in the way it described the formidable obstacles which still prevented women from playing an independent role in development; in particular, the economic aspects of that role required strengthening. Recently, the Government of the Netherlands had decided to convene a group of experts as a contribution to UNIDO's efforts to integrate women in industrialization. In his Government's development co-operation policies relating to the integration of women in development, specific attention would be given to the effects of development activities on the economic position of women; the benefits for women in creating employment opportunities; support for specific women-oriented training; the need for increased opportunities for women to start small-scale industries or to market their products; access to means of agricultural production; employment in the industrial and administrative sector close to the living place; the avoidance of segregation of women in industrial sectors or at

(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

certain levels of the hierarchy; improvement of working conditions; the alleviation of traditional tasks through the introduction of appropriate technology; and increased exchanges of experience among women from different regions and countries.

22. There was a need to improve the formulation and planning of development projects for women, in particular income-generating projects. Those projects had too often been developed within a welfare-oriented approach. If women were to become an autonomous factor in development, more attention should be given to management, marketing, feasibility studies and administration.

23. Mr. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka) said that agenda item 80 continued to be important because of the persisting economic crisis. The economic recovery that had taken place in the United States had not yet spread significantly to other industrialized countries, and the developing countries continued to face serious difficulties. The prospects for growth had been severely hampered by the world-wide recession, declining commodity prices, rising interest rates, volatile exchange rates, increasing protectionism, high debt-servicing payments and continuing unemployment. Many developing countries had responded by adopting courageous adjustment programmes which, however, were not capable of promoting global economic recovery.

24. The developing countries had therefore sought support from the multilateral institutions which had been established after the Second World War. Unfortunately, those institutions had not been responsive to their needs. The difficulties encountered in launching global negotiations, reviewing the International Development Strategy, financing science and technology for development, reaching a consensus in UNCTAD and UNIDO, and adopting measures for providing aid to millions of Africans, demonstrated the need for renewed multilateralism.

25. In his 1984 report on the work of the Organization (A/39/1), the Secretary-General had observed that the "achievements" of the Organization could not be measured in terms of the number of treaties and agreements negotiated and signed. Its contributions were perhaps less tangible, and often consisted in raising consciousness on key issues. Thus, it was in some measure due to the discussions on the International Development Strategy that the world community now gave high priority to the cause of development.

26. It was sometimes said that the major share of resources needed for development must come from within developing countries' own economies, and should be coupled with sound economic measures. But it was wrong to believe that, in seeking the establishment of international economic co-operation on a just basis, the developing countries were trying to evade their responsibilities. For its part, Sri Lanka had followed a programme of development and adjustment for the past several years. But, in an interdependent world, international inequities could wipe out all gains on the domestic level, and could destabilize many developing countries. Indeed, in terms of security and prosperity, multilateral co-operation was an extremely valuable investment.

27. In that context, the link between disarmament and development became increasingly clearer. As the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had observed, if the current arms race was not slowed down, world military expenditure would soon exceed \$1,000 billion a year.

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(Mr. de Silva, Sri Lanka)

28. The time was, therefore, opportune to create an environment of confidence and commitment conducive to growth and development in all countries. Concerted efforts in that direction would have to be on a scale comparable to the consensus that had led to the establishment of the Bretton-Woods institutions. In a world recovery programme, high priority would have to be given to greater convergence and complementarity of policy measures adopted by industrialized countries, which could bring down real interest rates and, at the same time, expand economic activity; to eliminating structural rigidities related to protectionism; to the adoption of an integrated approach to the debt problem, with special attention to the situation of the poorest countries; and, finally, ensuring the adequate transfer of resources to developing countries, which could play a catalytic role in the development of their capabilities. IMF and the World Bank had decided to hold special meetings in 1985 to focus on certain issues of immediate concern to both developed and developing countries. During the constructive discussion which had taken place recently in the Trade and Development Board, the possibility of convening a ministerial meeting of the Board in 1985 had been raised. Those initiatives could offer an opportunity for an exchange of views and the evolution of a consensus on a strategy for addressing current problems, and it was to be hoped that the States, on that occasion, would move away from sterile confrontation dialogue.

29. Sri Lanka had long recognized the role of women in development: they took an active part in agriculture and in co-operative production enterprises, and participated in significant numbers in the educational and administrative fields and other disciplines. Women in Sri Lanka had, for over four decades, formed themselves into non-governmental organizations. The Government had established a ministry to promote women's participation in the socio-economic life of the country through a number of high priority programmes, since experience had shown that the integration of women in political, social and economic life contributed to a stable society. His delegation noted that the final report on the world survey on the role of women in development would be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at a later date. It would make its comments on that report when it became available, but wished to note that it had serious reservations on some of the conclusions contained in document A/39/566.

30. Sri Lanka reiterated its support for the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, which those countries had made commendable efforts to implement. His delegation noted with regret, however, that there had been no substantial improvement in the level of concessional financial flows to least developed countries, although some donor countries had reached the targets of official development assistance indicated in the Programme. Sri Lanka attached great importance to the country review meetings in the implementation of the Programme, and had participated at UNDP-sponsored round-table conferences for some of them. It looked forward to the results of the mid-term review of the Programme, which was to take place in 1985.

31. Mr. RAY (United States of America) said that he would limit his remarks on the issues coming under agenda item 80 principally to "Trade and development", because trade played a primary role in the growth and development not only of the United States but of the entire world. To illustrate the point it would suffice to note that in 1983, the non-oil developing countries had earned twice as much foreign exchange from their exports to the United States alone as they had received in

(Mr. Ray, United States)

total official development assistance from all bilateral and multilateral sources combined. The dynamic growth of the United States economy during the past year had proven a powerful engine of growth for the international trading system, with the result that at the end of the first half of 1984 the exports of the non-oil developing countries had been 12 per cent higher than in 1983, while their combined trade deficit had been cut by more than half. No doubt those successes had been obtained at the cost of some painful but necessary domestic adjustments, coupled with growing demand in the industrialized countries, and principally the United States, where the trade deficit with developing countries was roughly double that of 1983.

32. Three basic principles guided United States trade policy: open access to the United States market for fairly traded imports, preferential access for products of countries in need of such treatment, and lastly, interdependence. First, with regard to open markets, it must be acknowledged that the United States notwithstanding criticisms on that point, remained the largest and most open market in the world - a situation which also benefited the export trade of developing countries. None of the statistics supported the allegations of United States protectionism made in recent years. Those accusations failed to make the distinction, made by the United States, between fairly and unfairly traded goods. The United States would continue aggressively to enforce trade laws in those instances where unfair trade practices, such as dumping, subsidies or other discriminatory practices gave foreign exporters an unfair competitive advantage. The United States would not depart from that policy, either for developing or developed countries. The policy was, moreover, not so easy to apply because, faced with unfair competition, certain circles in trade and industry had the normal reaction of calling for protectionist measures, and it was not surprising that during a presidential election year such demands took the form of political pressure. It was particularly remarkable that under those conditions the United States Government had refused to yield to pressure and, in the copper and steel sectors for example, had not taken any protectionist measures. The results of that policy were clear, since in 1984 the United States would buy over one half of developing countries' manufactured exports to the industrialized countries.

33. With regard to the second basic principle of United States trade policy, preferential access for the products of developing countries, the United States was also continuing to apply it systematically since its generalized system of preferences had just been extended until 1993, while in 1983 \$US 10.8 billion in goods from developing countries had entered the United States duty free. That amount was almost 50 per cent more than official development assistance from all multilateral sources during the same period. The United States was, however, of the opinion that once a country became competitive in a given product, it should no longer need preferential market access. While no GSP beneficiary had reached that stage yet, several were rapidly approaching that point.

34. The third principle in United States policy was that of interdependence or, put differently, mutual responsibility. The United States believed it should not be the only country truly committed to free trade and the market economy. For the United States to open its markets further, other major international trading countries would also have to liberalize their trade laws, a condition which applied not just to industrialized countries, but also to the more advanced developing

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(Mr. Ray, United States)

countries. That principle of mutual responsibility had been incorporated in the new United States GSP legislation: henceforth, when a developing country faced denial of GSP preferences because it had become sufficiently competitive in a product, it would nevertheless be eligible for waivers of such denial if the country concerned reduced barriers to trade in its own territory. The United States had been working hard for further trade liberalization and urged all countries to join in its call for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, because it would be useful to see if such liberalization would be practicable in the matter of safeguards, counterfeiting, agriculture, services trade, and trade in high technology.

35. He wished to state that he fully supported the idea of restructuring the economic sector of the United Nations through the adoption of a biennial programme of work. It would be useful for the Committee to discuss fewer items each year, so that it could discuss them in greater detail.

36. A good deal had been heard lately, from certain delegations in the Committee, about confidence-building measures. He wished to know whether those measures included the brutal suppression in 1981 of the Solidarity trade union in Poland, under the threat of Soviet tanks - the tanks that had rolled into Czechoslovakia in 1968 - or the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in 1979, or the dispatch of assassins by Libya to murder political opponents. The United States believed that, on the contrary, confidence-building measures were measures that were employed to discourage such actions and to demonstrate that it was impossible to practice aggression with impunity.

37. Mr. LEE (Canada), referring to the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Development Strategy, said that it would have been better to concentrate on areas in which progress was possible rather than to force issues on which no consensus yet existed. Since no agreement had been reached on the procedure for the mid-term review, it would be best to give the parties concerned time for reflection, so that they could reassess their positions before resuming negotiations on the matter.

38. The plight of the least developed countries continued to be a matter of priority for Canada, which supported the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the least developed countries. His delegation noted that, in his report on the implementation of the SNPA (A/39/578), the Secretary-General documented the correlation between population growth on the one hand and a decline in per capita gross domestic product on the other. His delegation also welcomed the recognition by the Secretary-General, in the same report, of the fact that during the 1980s, 78 per cent of the ODA disbursements had been provided by member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and multilateral organizations financed mainly by them. Since the least developed countries depended to a much larger extent than other developing countries on concessional aid flows, Canada appealed to the international community to support multilateral efforts in that field, particularly with respect to funding for the International Development Association, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the United Nations Development Programme. UNDP was to be commended in particular for the important role it played in implementing the SNPA by mobilizing additional resources through the round-table process, and increasingly close collaboration between it and the

(Mr. Lee, Canada)

World Bank should be encouraged. The forthcoming review of the implementation of the SNPA in September 1985 required careful preparation. Canada therefore welcomed the decision taken by the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-eighth session to convene, in May 1985, a third governmental experts' meeting between donors and recipients in order to discuss a number of substantive and organizational issues relating to the SNPA review. Discussions were also needed on measures to improve aid co-ordination, and ways in which aid programmes could be better adapted to the needs of the least developed countries. Canada maintained the commitment it had undertaken at the 1981 Paris Conference to provide 0.15 per cent of its GNP in official development assistance to least developed countries by 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter.

39. With regard to science and technology for development, Canada fully recognized the importance for the development process of the transfer of scientific knowledge and the use of appropriate technology, and it would continue to play an active role in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Intergovernmental Committee had made the timely decision to focus on particular issues at its sessional meeting and the inclusion in its agenda of the topic of science and technology in agriculture was particularly welcome.

40. As for the topic "reverse transfer of technology" or "the brain drain", certain parts of the Secretary-General's note on that subject (A/39/397) were unbalanced and incomplete, and there were other parts with which Canada did not agree. Canada's position on that subject was premised on two facts: first, the absence of a basis for evaluating the effects and costs of transfers resulting from emigration, and of statistics to measure their effects in both sending and receiving countries. Secondly, the problem was a complex one and difficult to resolve. Canada was willing to participate in discussions on ways to analyse the situation, but it did not believe that conclusions could be drawn or recommendations made in advance of the analysis.

41. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, his delegation regretted that the Secretary-General's report on that topic (A/39/476) had been issued late, but was pleased that it contained positive elements, such as the expressed intention to continue to review various questions, including co-ordination among agencies, implementation of evaluation mechanisms and rationalization of mandates. Much remained to be done, however, since the existing structure, for example in the Secretariat at Headquarters, had not yet reached the stage envisaged in resolution 32/197. It was disappointing that no specific suggestion or recommendation had been put forward and it was to be hoped that significant proposals, flowing from the Secretary-General's review, would be formulated soon.

42. Canada was a strong supporter of the full participation of women in the development process, both as agents in designing and implementing programmes and as beneficiaries of national economic development, and the inter-agency review of that question to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council in 1985 would certainly be useful. Since the Council wished to consider the matter from both the social and the economic angle, the Secretariat and delegations must be prepared to discuss both sides of the issue, on the basis of the best possible documentation. The world survey on the role of women in development must be available early enough

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for discussion at that session of the Economic and Social Council. Since the survey, with the comments of the Council, would be used as a basic document for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, the survey, the Council's report, and the comments of participants in the World Conference, should be submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

43. With regard to international trade, his delegation was aware of the damage done to all countries, including developing countries, by the increase in protectionism brought on by the recent recession. Efforts must be made not only to put a stop to those measures and even to roll back some of them as quickly as possible in individual circumstances, but also to liberalize and expand international trade further. Accelerated implementation of the GATT work programme was necessary both because of its intrinsic value, and also to facilitate the launching, as early as possible, of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, for which preparations and consultations should proceed forthwith. Canada urged developing countries to participate in that process in a positive manner. The commitment to special and differential treatment for developing countries must remain intact and developing and developed countries must move forward together in that area.

44. Since commodity trade was a keystone in the economies of most developing countries and was also of major importance to many developed countries, Canada had ratified the Common Fund agreement and was an active participant in a number of discussions on international commodity arrangements. However, the experience gained should lead to the conclusion that each commodity market was unique. Rather than attempting to treat all commodities in the same way, markets must be considered on a case-by-case basis in order to determine first whether an international agreement, or a price support arrangement, was desirable and feasible. Canada, moreover, had been disappointed that the Trade and Development Board had been unable to agree on a work programme regarding trade in services, and had thus been unable to fulfil the mandate given to it by UNCTAD at its sixth session. That was regrettable since the analytical work of UNCTAD in the area of trade in services would have been of benefit to all member States, especially by providing better basic information to developing countries.

45. His delegation recognized the link between the expansion of trade and its financing, and was pleased that the international community had agreed to discuss financial aspects of trade at meetings of the Interim Committee of the IMF and the Development Committee of the World Bank. All countries must reconfirm their commitment to freer trade and agree as soon as possible to remove protectionist barriers.

46. Mr. de la Torre (Argentina) took the Chair.

47. Mrs. MBETTE (Cameroon) noted that 10 years had already elapsed since the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Those texts complemented the Charter of the United Nations, since they established the notion of the right to development and sought to complete the process of decolonization, which had both economic and political

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connotations. Those texts also complemented the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since they were designed to modify institutional and structural relations between developed and developing countries.

48. The standard-setting value of the texts had been widely recognized and appreciated; in practice, however, during periods of widespread economic crisis, their implementation was, to say the least, difficult. The North-South dialogue established in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade (1970-1980) had been particularly frustrating as the crisis had resulted in the failure of various meetings, such as the sixth session of UNCTAD, held to deal with it. The adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was therefore a salutary reaffirmation of the need to take collective action to create an international climate that would truly promote equitable economic and social development.

49. However, despite sporadic rescue measures, a study of the results achieved and the prospects for the implementation of the Strategy and the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States showed that there was even more cause for concern: no decisive breakthrough was expected in the growth of the developed countries before 1985. Moreover, according to IMF estimates, for example, the annual growth rate in those countries would not exceed 3 per cent, which barely represented the threshold from which economic recovery was considered viable. In the developing countries, the situation was characterized by growing indebtedness, continued deterioration in the terms of trade and a decline in export earnings due to the protectionist measures adopted by developed countries. As for official development assistance, the target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product had still not been met, while the resources for development assistance available to multilateral institutions were constantly diminishing. In short, in the developing countries, none of the quantitative objectives of the Strategy appeared to have been achieved. There was no doubt, that the depression in those countries was largely attributable to the recession from which the developed countries had suffered, but that depression would have been less pronounced if the many recommendations in the Strategy or the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had been implemented.

50. The enthusiasm with which General Assembly resolution 34/138 on the opening of global negotiations relating to international economic co-operation for development had been adopted in 1979 had given reason to hope that those global negotiations would be launched in the first quarter of 1981, or immediately after the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Third Decade. Those negotiations were intended to translate the recommendations of the Strategy into specific programmes of action, and should have focused simultaneously and interdependently on all major problems arising in international economic relations, with a view to the conclusion of binding international agreements ratifying the solutions adopted in problem areas such as energy, raw materials, trade, development and the international monetary system.

51. Unfortunately, from the outset deep differences had separated countries not only with respect to the solutions to the principal problems, but also with respect to the approach to the global negotiations. The differences related primarily to the agenda and procedural questions. Precisely in the matter of procedure, the

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developed countries would at least have succeeded in winning the respect they so desired for the jurisdiction, competence, functions and powers of the specialized agencies, since negotiations would have been conducted in some of those agencies. However, those sectoral conferences, particularly at UNCTAD and UNIDO, had not yielded any concrete results because the rich countries had then adopted the tactic of denying the competence of the body concerned as soon as there was an attempt to tackle a substantive question in it. It had to be admitted that, in the circumstances, the concomitant failures of the Strategy, the global negotiations and the sectoral meetings, and the failure to implement the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, testified to a dangerous erosion of the spirit of co-operation. With current international relations characterized by resurgence of the cold war, intensification of political tension between the great Powers and increased military budgets, concern about East-West relations seemed to overshadow the potential North-South conflict which might erupt if nothing was done to improve North-South relations. So far as those relations were concerned, multilateral action was often paralysed to the advantage of unilateral or bilateral action.

52. The victim of that hostile international environment was unquestionably Africa, where the depression assumed catastrophic proportions as a result of drought and desertification, which jeopardized even further the measures taken by the African States to increase their agricultural production, on which their economic development was necessarily based. Realizing that they themselves were primarily responsible for their development, the African States had adopted the Lagos Plan of Action, which set out measures to overcome the economic and social difficulties peculiar to Africa; at their Addis Ababa meeting a few days earlier, the heads of State and Government of the African States had reaffirmed their commitment to the Plan and called for its reactivation. But the action of the African countries could not succeed without the support of the international community. It was absolutely essential that the international community should take the necessary short-term and long-term measures. In the short term, what the African countries really needed was emergency assistance; in the long term, they needed concerted action aimed at restructuring the world economic system and remedying the crisis, because only action of that type could create a favourable climate for recovery and accelerated development.

53. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that, as an island developing country, Jamaica pursued a strategy of export-led growth. Faced with a difficult international economic environment, it was naturally very interested in issues pertaining to trade and development. Small island developing countries were among those most affected by fluctuations in the world economy. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/463), there was an interrelationship between the size of an economy and levels of international trade. The fact was that although for developing countries as a whole imports represented 22.7 per cent of GNP on average, the value of visible imports of small island developing countries often exceeded GNP, reflecting those countries' open economies.

54. It was obviously vital that those countries should be able to participate dynamically in international trade because they were relatively more affected than other countries by any contraction attributable to recession or the restrictive trade policies of developed countries. Moreover, the countries most affected by decisions taken within international institutions or by trends in the world economy

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were also those which wielded the least influence over that economy. That was the plight of island developing countries, which had suffered greatly in recent years as a direct result of their heavy dependence on external trade in a period of prolonged international recession, since, in order to export, those countries were obliged to export, to borrow, or, more often, to do both. Simply to maintain their economic growth at 5 to 6 per cent a year, they had to expand their exports by at least 6 to 7 per cent in real terms and probably by 12 per cent in the case of manufactured exports in order to offset fluctuations in commodity prices.

55. Jamaica, like other developing countries, had embarked on a structural adjustment programme the main objective of which was export maximization. But in order to be able to resume the growth patterns of the past, there must be a roll-back of protectionist measures, particularly non-tariff barriers, and the industrialized countries must make structural adjustments in such a way that the comparative advantage could yield benefits to all. In that context, his delegation supported the resolutions adopted by UNCTAD and the Trade and Development Board, and urged all countries to co-operate in implementing the work programme adopted by consensus by the Board. Jamaica noted with regret that neither UNCTAD at its sixth session nor the Board at subsequent meetings had been able to make sufficient progress on many of the issues pertaining to the trading system. At its twenty-ninth session, the Board had been unable to break out of the impasse on the question of an in-depth review and study by the Board of developments in the international trading system. It was clear that, contrary to the mercantilist theory prevailing in some industrialized countries, increased exports by developing countries were vital not only for the economies of those countries but also for the developed countries, which already sold more than 30 per cent of their exports to the third world.

56. The greatest obstacle to the economic growth of smaller countries was that the expansion of their manufacturing sector was largely dependent on export markets. That obstacle was particularly difficult to overcome at a time when prospects for increased commodity prices were poor and when the economic survival of many countries depended on export earnings. It had been said, in that connection, that a country might be over-populated in relation to its agricultural resources while being under-populated in relation to its capacities for industrial development. Given the small size of the domestic market and the importance of economies of scale in manufacturing production, the industrialization of island developing countries depended almost entirely on export markets. All necessary assistance should be provided to those countries to enable them to pursue structural adjustment programmes aimed at increasing their export capacity, their competitiveness and the range of products they could sell abroad. They should also be assisted in areas such as export promotion, marketing and export credits. Research should be done into means which would enable small developing countries to adapt, where possible, technology to the requirements of small markets and to a sub-optimal scale in productive processes. In that context, his delegation noted with appreciation that the Lomé Convention concluded between the European Economic Community and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and the Caribbean Basin Recovery Act adopted by the United States were measures which would promote the exports of many island and other developing countries.

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57. The international community should act with greater vigour to implement General Assembly and UNCTAD resolutions on the needs of island developing countries, by paying particular attention to export promotion, development of the marine and submarine resources of those countries, disaster mitigation and prevention, management of the ecosystem and environment, and development of appropriate communication and transport services. The current session of the General Assembly should result in the adoption of an action-oriented resolution on that question.

58. Turning to the question of science and technology, he said it was regrettable that no progress had been made in the establishment of a long-term financing system in that field, even though science and technology could give a decisive impetus to the development process. The qualitative gap between the developed and developing countries was widening, particularly in advanced technologies. The consequences of those new technologies for the comparative advantage which developing countries enjoyed in some areas were still not clear. In the more traditional areas of technology, a highly skewed distribution of skills, resources and expenditure persisted between developed and developing countries. In 1983, only 18 per cent of the world's research and development personnel had been working in developing countries. Against that background, the long-term financing system, which had an extremely valuable role to play, had already produced results in developing countries. It was absolutely essential that, at the current session, agreement should be reached on modalities through which the international community could continue to pursue the goal of establishing the financing system on a long-term and viable basis.

59. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General had noted in his report (A/39/94 and Add.1) that the aim of the exercise was to make the United Nations system more fully capable of dealing with international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner. The Second Committee should therefore adopt decisions concerning the rationalization of its programme of work. His delegation supported the proposal that the Committee should have a biennial programme of work, and hoped that the relevant text could be finalized at the thirty-ninth session. Since many aspects of the restructuring exercise were interrelated, the strengthening of the role of the Economic and Social Council was the corollary of efforts to prepare a biennial programme of work for the Second Committee. As many Member States as possible should participate in the Council's proceedings and decision-making. Subsidiary intergovernmental organs should also develop a biennial programme for their meetings.

60. While procedural and organizational streamlining was conducive to progress on substantive issues, it was not a panacea. Member States must show that they were truly prepared to make such progress and to enable the Second Committee and the United Nations to fulfil their roles in international economic co-operation. That had not been the case so far in respect of raw materials, energy, trade, industrialization, and money and finance. The General Assembly must cease to be an assembly of generalists and must adopt more specific decisions.

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61. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade must be brought to a successful conclusion; in the view of many developing and developed countries, the targets of the Strategy were still far out of reach. It was to be hoped that the fragile economic recovery which was noticeable in some parts of the developed world would become stronger and spread, making it possible to establish more dynamic international economic co-operation.

62. The international community must make more energetic and co-ordinated efforts to deal with the specific problems of island developing countries, and not limit itself to providing assistance. On the whole, economists had done very little research on the specific problems of small countries, and statistical information on their development experience was lacking. It was disturbing that some Member States and certain international organizations still refused to recognize that the small size and geographical situation of island developing countries imposed more severe constraints on their economic viability than were experienced by other developing countries. The Secretary-General had stated in his report (A/39/463) that poverty was not a distinguishing characteristic of island developing countries and had suggested that, as a group, they were better off than other developing countries and did not need special attention; however, the application of traditional economic indicators to island developing countries tended to distort rather than to explain their situation. Instead of calculating per capita GNP, it would be more informative to examine levels of capital formation, the effects of "openness" on the policy options available to planners and decision-makers and the relationship of imports to exports and production capacity.

63. The Secretary-General's report, which had been prepared without inputs from the island developing countries, could have been better structured. The preparation of the biennial report should furnish an opportunity for island developing countries to compare and share their development experiences, and that process must be reflected in the report. Future reports should focus more on the problems of transportation; the marine environment, particularly the exclusive economic zones of those States; and the development of human and technical resources - areas which were crucial to the economic viability and overall well-being of island developing countries.

64. Island developing countries had worked within the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to reduce the constraints imposed by their small size, lack of natural resources, low level of capital formation and weak institutional base. Functional co-operation had benefited all States in the subregion, for it had enabled them to husband resources in such areas as higher education, shipping, meteorology and veterinary science. The States and international institutions which had assisted the island developing countries should continue to do so.

65. In the light of the role that science and technology could play in the development process, the initiatives taken by the Administrator of UNDP and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to make the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development operational would be useful. It was to be hoped that the open-ended working group, whose establishment had been proposed in October 1984, could finally launch the system or find alternatives that were acceptable to all interested Member States.

66. Mr. AL-GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) said that with almost half of the Third United Nations Development Decade already elapsed, it must be acknowledged that far from improving, the economic situation, particularly of the developing countries, was constantly deteriorating; it was unlikely that even half of the targets set in the International Development Strategy for the Decade would be met. The report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (A/39/115) noted that the rise in protectionism had been most detrimental to the economies of developing countries, which had been forced significantly to reduce their exports to the industrialized countries, but that the noticeable recovery in some industrialized countries could reverse that trend. It was therefore necessary to strengthen international economic co-operation in order to establish a climate of trust which would help improve economic relations. In order to facilitate greater market penetration for the products of developing countries, it was necessary, inter alia, to strive to liberalize trade, expand the existing generalized system of preferences and put an end to current discriminatory practices.

67. His delegation regretted that the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had ended in failure and that the Committee had been unable to formulate recommendations which could assist the developing countries in overcoming their economic problems. The Committee should propose a resolution on measures to facilitate the appraisal and thus ensure that the targets contained in the Strategy were met.

68. In his report on island developing countries (A/39/463), the Secretary-General had reviewed their specific problems and made recommendations on how to solve them. Saudi Arabia urged the international community to work to implement the proposed measures, but disagreed with the remark in paragraph 18 of the report that a "true island" was one which was linked by neither a bridge nor a road to a neighbouring country; that was not a logical distinction, and the definition of island developing countries should be further refined.

69. The adoption in 1981 of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries had offered hope that the situation of those countries could be improved. Unfortunately, as the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report on the subject (A/39/578), per capita income in many of the least developed countries was now lower than it had been when the Programme had been adopted. In addition to calling on those countries to develop their own strategies and set global priorities as well as sectoral priorities, the Programme had requested the international community to increase its financial and technical assistance to them in order to help them implement the Programme. Saudi Arabia had given the least developed countries all the assistance it could and urged the international community to meet its commitments as well.

70. Mr. RESHETNYAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the States that had taken part in the session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had been almost unanimous on the problems faced by the international community as a whole, and by the group of developing countries in particular, on the reasons that the objectives of the Strategy had not been achieved and on the measures to be taken for the second part of the Decade. The

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Committee had not, however, been able to complete the task entrusted to it at the two sessions it had held since certain Western countries had not had the political will to give concrete effect to the provisions of the Strategy, had refused to consider the reasons that it had not been implemented in a constructive manner and had refused, moreover, to participate in formulating recommendations for the end of the Decade. Indeed, those countries sought to preserve the present international economic order based on inequality and capitalism and persisted in ignoring the legitimate claims of the developing countries. It should, in that regard, be pointed out that the transnational corporations and the private Western banks played a particularly negative role in the unprecedented deterioration in the economic and financial situation of the developing countries, which were the victims of a veritable haemorrhage of resources to the West. The West sought, in fact, to compel the developing countries to abandon their national development plans and to impose on them the strategy that suited it.

71. Only a global approach to issues linked with the restructuring of international economic relations and the establishment of the new international economic order would make it possible to achieve the objectives established by the Strategy. As the Economic Summit Conference of the countries members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance held at Moscow in June 1984 had already noted, the achievement of the objectives of the Third United Nations Development Decade was linked with the maintenance of peace, a halt to the arms race, the achievement of trust and co-operation based on the principles of equal rights and mutual benefit, and the restructuring of international economic relations on an egalitarian and democratic basis.

72. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had the precise aim of helping to establish truly equal and mutually advantageous economic relations among States regardless of their economic and social systems and their level of development. It must, unfortunately, be noted that the States Members of the United Nations had not all, by far, put the Charter into practice. The leading circles of certain capitalist countries had even sought to place every possible obstacle in the way of the socio-economic development of the developing countries and the Socialist States and to impose their own concept of development on the rest of the world. Such manoeuvres openly infringed upon the right, recognized by the Charter, of each State freely to choose its economic, political, social and cultural system. On the basis of the policy devised by the Soviet Union to strengthen peace and improve international relations, the Ukrainian SSR was determined to continue to support all efforts to create conditions favourable to the establishment of normal, equal and just relations among States on the basis of a scrupulous respect for their sovereignty and non-interference in their internal affairs.

73. In his report on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/39/332 and Add.1), the Secretary-General underestimated the role played by the public sector in economic and social development and did not analyse objectively the critical situation in which the developing countries were placed by their indebtedness. The report, in short, did not, in its present state, accord with provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/204. Moreover, it gave no indication of the economic assistance provided to the developing countries by the socialist States. It must also be said that those who had drawn up the report had

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not summarized the replies received from Governments on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter in a balanced manner.

74. In the view of his country, the Trade and Development Board paid very little attention to considering the economic and trade aspects of disarmament. Whatever the enemies of détente might say, the arms race in which the imperialist circles were involved was one of the main causes of the increasing political and economic instability in the world. It increased the risk of nuclear war, imposed a crushing burden on the peoples of the world and absorbed enormous material and financial resources. UNCTAD had indeed taken certain measures to implement its resolutions 146 (VI) and 147 (VI) on assistance to the Palestinian people and to the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, and it had also taken positive steps on a number of questions considered at the sessions of the Trade and Development Board (particularly those concerning shipping and the transfer of technology). UNCTAD had still, however, not given effect to some resolutions it had adopted at its sixth session on a whole series of important questions, namely the normalization of international economic co-operation and the creation of conditions to allow all countries of the world to make use of international economic relations to expedite their economic development. UNCTAD must endeavour to consider the measures that could be taken to re-establish and strengthen confidence in international economic relations, remove protectionist barriers and abolish other restrictive practices, solve the problems relating to the monetary system and to finance, and see to it that the standards of conduct generally accepted by countries with regard to international trade, particularly between countries with different social systems, were respected.

75. The delegation of the United States had, once again, been unable to resist slandering the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which were, in fact, the true allies of the developing countries. The United States must put an end to its shameless plundering of those countries, on which it wished to impose its political concepts and its model of development. The United States must abandon its policy of force and must, in particular, desist from using the food weapon. It must also cease its support for counter-revolutionaries throughout the world. The developing countries were determined to oppose the policy of repression and of diktat through which the United States meant to impose an economic order favourable to itself, and they were determined to struggle in order to be able to ensure, in complete independence, the development of their economies.

76. Mr. HOLMES TRUJILLO (Colombia), after giving an historical survey of the United Nations system, said that many shared his discouragement that the innumerable resolutions adopted by all those bodies, whose creation had given rise to so much hope, should constitute a vain repetition of good intentions and that the founder Members of the United Nations no longer had the political will necessary to assume the commitments they had undertaken.

77. Peace had not, indeed, been maintained and, in the economic sphere, the distance separating a small group of privileged countries from the 75 per cent of the world population which lived in the developing countries was growing inexorably. In a world so unfairly divided, economic co-operation could only be conceived as an undertaking aimed at reducing the distance separating the two groups and which therefore made possible a progressive redistribution of wealth at the international

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level. Nothing of the kind had, however, happened. On the contrary, the rich were becoming richer and, far from promoting a redistribution of wealth, they sought to protect it, particularly through an increasing protectionism that prevented the third world countries from exporting and deprived them of the foreign exchange necessary for their growth.

78. The fall in the price of commodities on world markets and the lack of compensatory mechanisms to re-establish equilibrium in the very difficult current economic situation would force the third world countries to go dangerously into debt. The total external debt of those countries had already reached \$800 billion. Interest rates had reached usurious levels and interest payments in some cases absorbed external trade revenue in its entirety and obliged debtor countries to sacrifice their investment and their economic and social development plans, thereby placing their political and social stability in jeopardy. For 133 years, his country had been able to maintain its democratic tradition. Nevertheless, if hundreds of millions of Latin Americans were to continue believing in the benefits of the political institutions of liberal democracy, those institutions must demonstrate in practice that they were capable of solving their vital problems. The security of the developed Western countries, particularly that of the United States, depended on the future response of the vast Latin American continent in that regard and that response was, for the moment, uncertain. Only a courageous and firm will for economic co-operation could channel it in the right direction.

79. The great Powers, however, continued to be obsessed with the arms race, which prevented them from helping to improve the conditions of human life. The resources necessary to solve the economic and social problems of the entire world did exist but were squandered, in quantities that were enormous and more than enough to meet the needs of the third world countries for their development, in the manufacture and purchase of arms. The interdependence of all the nations of the world no longer needed to be demonstrated, and his country had welcomed with satisfaction the statement of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany who, accepting economic interdependence as a fact, had affirmed that his country intended to step up its trade with the developing countries.

80. His country had proposed an emergency plan which entailed a change in the United States position on funding the Inter-American Development Bank and strengthening the International Monetary Fund. It had accepted Mr. Volcker's proposal to establish a system of limited interest rates so that debtor countries would not have to finance, to the detriment of their economies, the United States public deficit. At Cartagena, it had suggested that the creditor countries should provide the financial institutions with the necessary compensatory resources when their economic or financial policies had serious negative consequences for the economies of the poor countries. Along with the other participants at the Cartagena Conference, it had expressed its desire to promote direct foreign investment, which would not only create jobs and increase exports but also compensate for the paradoxical situation that had transformed Latin America into an exporter of capital to service its foreign debt. Finally, it had proposed the convening of a conference of heads of State to consider the basis for restructuring the international economic order.

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81. His country was proud of its peace-keeping role in such explosive regions as Central America, whose future depended to a large extent on the successful outcome of the Contadora Group's negotiations. It endorsed the statement made in 1984 by the Group of 77, which attributed to the developed countries political responsibility for the impasse reached in global negotiations on the world's major problems and it continued to believe in the uniqueness of the United Nations as a special forum to discuss and solve those problems.

82. Mr. Harland (New Zealand) resumed the Chair.

83. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that, although the work on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy had not been concluded, the relevant discussions had nevertheless been useful, since they had made it possible to determine the results that had been achieved and to analyse the factors obstructing the implementation of the Strategy. Those results were rather discouraging in almost all areas and it was therefore important to recognize the validity of the goals and objectives of the Strategy and to fulfil the commitments made therein. With regard to problems encountered in attaining the objectives, the developing countries had consistently expressed their concern at the negative tendencies and policies followed in some developed countries, the adverse effects of the world economic crisis and the inability of the commercial, monetary and financial system to meet development needs. Those considerations should therefore encourage the international community to adopt a responsible joint position and to confirm the need to strengthen the general policy measures required to attain the Strategy's objectives. A series of specific proposals in that regard had been made within the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Strategy. His delegation fully adhered to and supported the proposals made by the Group of 77. It reiterated the appeal to the developed countries to demonstrate the political will needed to overcome difficulties. It was important to mobilize financial resources for the developing countries, in particular official development assistance and loans on concessionary terms. His delegation also attached great importance to increases in the export earnings of the third world countries. Appropriate solutions must urgently be found to the debt problem.

84. With regard to trade and development, it was impossible to ignore the crucial role played by international trade in the economic development of the developing countries. The decline in prices of raw materials was therefore a matter of great concern. His delegation expressed the hope that the provisions of the Common Fund for Commodities would be rapidly implemented and also attached special importance to the establishment of systems of compensatory financing. Without vigorous and sustained growth in export earnings, many developing countries would continue to experience serious difficulties because of their external debt, which would prevent them from acquiring the imports needed to ensure their growth. He would not dwell on the negative impact of the deterioration of terms of trade, which he had already referred to in previous statements. The persistence of protectionist policies was another subject of concern for the developing countries, which considered that the need for an open trading system based on equitable relations was becoming increasingly urgent. However, preferential treatment should be given to the developing countries because of the great vulnerability of their economies to external phenomena.

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85. The specific problems of the island developing countries had already been raised during the discussion. He shared the concerns expressed in that connection and fully supported the constructive proposals made by some delegations, in particular by the representative of Malta.

86. The overall demands of the developing countries were based on equity, justice, equality and mutual benefit in international economic relations, which shed light on the importance which they attached to the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. It was necessary to recognize that the absence of political will on the part of some developed countries had thus far prevented the initiation of a genuine process of international negotiations. However, the problems of development were universally recognized, if one believed the statements made to express feelings of active solidarity and the desire to become involved in the process of genuine co-operation. Some industrialized countries even seemed to recognize the undeniable validity and logic of the required changes. However, in the final analysis, none of that was reflected in anything concrete. Change required an "international consensus", as underscored by Mr. Corea, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and that consensus represented a renewed commitment to multilateralism, a strengthening of international co-operation for development and finally a true recognition of the interdependence of all countries.

87. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the slanderous comments made during the meeting against the Soviet Union bore witness once again to the fact that, in view of the international community's mounting dislike of United States interference in the internal affairs of States, the United States Government needed, as part of its policy of aggression, to launch a new propaganda campaign. Recently in Washington, the United States had most emphatically proclaimed a programme of democracy and public diplomacy, whereby it would endeavour, openly, as part of its official Government policy, to impose the order which in its view was necessary and compulsory. The United States leaders had characterized that programme as one of the most important of its foreign policy and its implementation would require close to \$US 80 million.

88. Based on that selfish and narrow-minded approach, the United States obliged their allies to adopt economic "sanctions" which merely did them economic damage. Clearly, it was easier to take decisions in the Capitol on the development or trade programmes best suited to the developing countries. It would be better for the former Governor of Iowa, who was currently a member of the Committee, to calculate the costs to United States farmers of the embargo imposed on grain exports to the Soviet Union.

89. As far as interference in the internal affairs of States was concerned, the United States had never restricted itself to patterns or models of development or, in other words, to peaceful means. Since 1946, it had resorted more than 200 times, directly or indirectly, to armed force or the threat of military intervention. Some examples were the CIA-planned invasion of Guatemala in 1954, the United States army landing in Lebanon in 1958, the attempted Cuban invasion in 1961, the outbreak of aggression, which was to last several years, in Indo-China in 1962, intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965 and participation in the preparations to overthrow the legitimate Government of Chile in 1973. More

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

recently still, United States military forces had "defended", "in the American fashion", peace and security in Lebanon and, as a result of that defence which no one had requested, thousands of persons had been killed. The Marines had also been sent to Grenada and, as a result, democracy had been trampled upon in that island.

90. The crude interference of the United States in the affairs of sovereign States was still being actively pursued today. Based in Honduras and with the support of mercenaries, the United States CIA had for more than a year been waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua. The CIA had even published a manual on various secret methods of operations and shared its experience with the mercenaries that it recruited. In brief, on the pretext of protecting democracy, the United States was attempting to interfere on a massive scale in the affairs of other States through various methods, including military intervention. That policy called for vigorous condemnation by the international community.

91. The United States must finally realize that, like it or not, socialism was a contemporary reality that had to be taken into account; not only did socialism exist, but it was able to defend itself.

92. There was no alternative to peaceful coexistence if the thermonuclear disaster of which so much had been said recently in official American circles and in certain films, was to be avoided. That was why the Soviet Union was launching an appeal for the renunciation of policies of force and confrontation and an end to the arms race. It was also why it was in favour of peace, co-operation and disarmament and in that respect, peace, confidence and, co-operation in the economic field would be a step in the right direction. However, anti-Sovietism was blinding certain American leaders and preventing them from seeing that reality.

93. That being the case, his delegation appealed once again to all participants at the current session to adhere strictly to the agenda as adopted and to avoid touching on questions which did not fall within the competence of the Committee.

94. Mr. AL-AUJLI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he was obliged to exercise his right of reply in view of the defamation, allegations and diatribe directed at his country by the representative of the United States who, moreover, had strayed away from the topic under consideration in the Committee, which was supposed to deal only with economic and financial questions. His delegation was therefore obliged to remind the United States of the monstrous crimes that it and its secret information services had committed against small countries such as Palestine, Viet Nam, Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya itself. The mining of Nicaraguan ports, the invasion of Grenada, assistance to the racist régime and military manoeuvres off the Libyan coast, the obstacles put in the way of the Palestinian people's enjoyment of its inalienable rights, the Sabra and Shatila massacres perpetrated with the knowledge of the United States, were all vivid examples of United States terrorism. He also recalled the assassination throughout the world of patriotic leaders like Patrice Lumumba and Martin Luther King, which the American secret services had organized. All those acts were well known and deserved international condemnation.

95. Mr. PAGAC (Czechoslovakia), exercising his right of reply, said that he was profoundly surprised and disappointed at the United States statement because, on the one hand, the American delegation was calling for a constructive approach and

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(Mr. Pagac, Czechoslovakia)

the pooling of creative efforts in the context of international co-operation and, on the other, in practice the United States was doing everything it could to spoil the atmosphere for constructive talks. His delegation deplored the way in which the United States had arrogantly tried to introduce unofficially into the debate of the Second Committee questions that had no bearing on the subject and, even more regrettably, had made statements that were offensive to a certain number of sovereign countries, among them Czechoslovakia. That attitude was all the more strange coming from a delegation which frequently protested against the politicization of the debates of international organizations. It could only be seen as an attempt to use the Committee for purposes that were incompatible with the noble principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

96. Mr. JURASZ (Poland), exercising his right of reply, said that the brutal attacks witnessed in the Second Committee against Poland and other socialist countries were unprecedented. The United States had made unfounded allegations and even told sheer lies, that were plainly an interference in the internal affairs of Poland. His delegation totally rejected all those allegations and called the Committee's attention to the fact that the American Government had imposed economic sanctions and attempted to justify them, had launched a violent propaganda campaign against Poland, especially since 1981, and had used every means at its disposal to intervene in the internal affairs of that country, fortunately without success.

97. It should be stressed that in the case of Poland the United States had violated not only every bilateral agreement in force between the two countries, but also multilateral agreements, in particular those relating to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Sanctions, restrictions, the use of food exports as an economic weapon, economic war, boycotts, the embargo imposed by the United States, were all instruments of State terrorism in international economic relations. Discriminatory restrictions applying to Poland were in direct contravention of the principle of freedom of trade which the United States defended so energetically. It was to be hoped that it would apply the same principles to Poland.

98. The Eastern European countries had made it clear in a joint declaration that peaceful co-operation in the economic field was not charity towards socialist States and developing countries but was just as important and profitable for other countries, including Western countries.

99. He also wished to emphasize that the concept of confidence-building measures in international economic relations had nothing to do with the allegations of the United States delegation. Perhaps, before taking its seat in the Second Committee, that delegation should have become acquainted with the provisions of the Charter and of the basic economic documents of the United Nations in order to find out what was meant by the term "confidence-building measures". The American diplomats' lack of preparation had, what was more, been the subject of an article in The New York Times on 20 November 1984.

100. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America), exercising his right of reply, said that it always amused him to hear delegations from the socialist countries quoting articles in the free press of Western countries. Obviously, in a free press the most varied points of view were to be found, which was not the case in Poland or the other socialist countries.

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(Mr. Orlando, United States)

101. Replying first to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, he made it clear that he had not launched a diatribe against that country but had simply asked him if, in his opinion, confidence-building measures included sending terrorists to assassinate political adversaries. He was referring to the men sent by Libya to assassinate a former Libyan Prime Minister, an attempt that had been foiled by the Egyptian security forces.

102. In reply to the representative of the Soviet Union, he stressed first of all that there were no foreign occupation forces in any of the countries listed by the representative of the Soviet Union, whereas that was unfortunately not the case in Afghanistan and in certain Eastern European countries. He also wished to draw attention to the fact that, as Mr. Smirnov had said, socialism was a reality, like it or not: that statement illustrated Soviet policy much better than anything he himself could say on the subject.

103. As for the debate on confidence-building measures, it was positively Orwellian. The members of the Committee were being asked to believe that countries which chose repression, aggression and terrorism as their political tools should be authorized to do so, while at the same time an attempt was being made to persuade members that it was reprehensible for other countries to take measures against the use of such weapons. The attitude of the Soviet Union on confidence-building measures - and it was not alone in the matter - was the height of hypocrisy. While paying lip-service to confidence-building measures, the Soviet Union had placed an embargo on fuel consignments to the United Kingdom and had expressed its sympathy for the miners' strike in that country. If confidence was to be built up, acts contrary to that end must be thwarted. In his opinion, confidence would be considerably undermined if the potential victims of measures of repression, aggression and terrorism knew that the international community would remain indifferent in the face of such acts. Confidence would suffer even more if the countries which engaged in such acts could do so more or less with impunity. He could not insist too much on the fact that, if acts of terrorism were undermining confidence, the measures that had to be taken were exactly those to which the Soviet Union, Poland and other countries of the same tendency were objecting so energetically. What was required was for the members of the international community to undertake not to use repression, aggression and terrorism as political tools or, failing that, to make sure that the use of such tools was not passed over in silence. There was certainly no need for resolutions which tended to encourage States to engage in acts of aggression while discouraging other States from responding to such acts.

104. Mr. AL-AUJLI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed that the United States campaign of slander against his country was not confined to the United Nations, but extended to all the mass media of the United States and its satellites. It had been launched because the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had not succumbed to pressure and had rejected dependence. It was paying the price for its policy of independence, and knew that that campaign would not stop as long as it opposed United States practices with respect to small countries.

105. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said he wished to repeat that socialism was a reality, that there

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

really was a socialist camp and that that was one of the most important facts of international affairs, and had to be taken into account, whether one liked it or not.

106. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries quoted the United States press and other Western newspapers because the United States had a habit of rejecting immediately whatever was said by the scientists, philosophers, correspondents and newspapers of the socialist countries, and that it was therefore necessary to quote the United States' own sources. There were to be found in the Western newspapers in question various views that were shared by many Americans who did not accept the views or judgements of their Government, who did not support its policy and who did not have such a good opinion of the society and way of life of which the United States delegation seemed so proud. Among those Western sources, he wished to mention a great American political figure, ex-Senator Fulbright, who, assessing his country's recent history, had stated that the United States had created a society whose major occupation was violence, adding that for a number of years the United States had been either fighting or preparing to start a war in one area of the world or another. It was important to take that kind of assessment into account, and that was what the Soviet Union had done.

107. Mr. JURASZ (Poland), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the United States representative had again tried to justify sanctions taken against other countries, including Poland; but, to quote the most recent report of the sub-committee on East-West economic relations of the North Atlantic Assembly, trade restrictions and embargoes were no substitute for a policy. He therefore strongly rejected the statement made by the United States representative.

108. He also found it strange to find the question of confidence-building measures appearing in a right of reply. That was certainly a peculiar way of conducting a dialogue. Faced with such confusion, he could only quote again from The New York Times, which said that the deterioration of language in a given system was the symptom of serious trouble in that system.

109. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said he agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that much of the American public did not share his own views or those of the United States Government, and that that was an important point; but what was even more important was that the representative of the Soviet Union could read those views in the press, that all those people were free to express themselves and that their views were also taken into consideration. It was also interesting to note that Mr. Fulbright, after making such statements, was still a respected political figure and had not been sent into exile.

110. As for the text, again from a Western source, quoted by the representative of Poland, he observed that while trade restrictions and embargoes were not a policy, they could still be the instruments of a policy.

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AGENDA ITEM 82: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

- (a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/C.2/39/L.66 and L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.66

111. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution concerning UNITAR on behalf of his own delegation and those of Bangladesh and Canada, recalled that at the thirty-seventh session and thirty-eighth session sessions of the General Assembly the Committee had agreed that a decision would have to be taken on the long-term financing of UNITAR. Unfortunately that decision had not been taken, so that the Institute continued to operate on the basis of temporary arrangements and the Executive Director had to devote an increasing amount of time to raising funds instead of organizing the Institute's programme so that it could play the role for which it had been established. The draft resolution referred to certain proposals made by the Board of Trustees of the Institute and expressed regret that they had not been found acceptable. It also requested the Secretary-General to undertake an independent study, which was extremely important because that study would enable the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, to take what he hoped would be a definitive decision regarding UNITAR. Since the decision concerning the future financing of the Institute was thus postponed, it was decided in paragraph 4 to supplement the funds raised from voluntary contributions in order to enable the Institute to carry out its minimum training and research programme in 1985. He realized that some countries were opposed to the idea of charging funds for UNITAR to the regular budget. He therefore suggested that they should increase their voluntary contributions to the General Fund, on a one-time basis, in order to raise the necessary amount for the 1985 programme. If they agreed, the sponsors of the draft resolution would delete operative paragraph 4.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.67

112. Miss MBETTE (Cameroon), introducing the draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on behalf of the sponsors - which Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Niger, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago had joined - said that the draft resolution followed the model of General Assembly resolution 38/177 and that paragraph 3, the only really new element, was not controversial. It should therefore be possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 83: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

- (a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/39/L.70)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.70

113. Mr. NANJIRA (Kenya), said that his delegation had already had occasion at previous sessions to introduce draft resolutions dealing specifically with special economic and disaster relief assistance. Alarmed by the increase in the number, scope and seriousness of disasters, and eager to help strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to deal with them, his delegation had been closely involved in the negotiations which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 36/225.

(Mr. Nanjira, Kenya)

114. The complexity of the recent disasters described in documents A/38/202, E/1984/109, E/1984/110, E/1984/68 and Add.1, A/39/267 and Add.1 and 2, A/39/627, A/39/270 and A/39/594, required the adoption of concerted measures. The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the focal point of United Nations disaster relief system (established under General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI)), had come to the aid of the following Asian countries in 1983: India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the ASEAN countries, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan and Viet Nam; the following Latin American countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, Nicaragua, and 28 Caribbean countries and territories in connection with the execution of a project relating to disaster prevention. It had also given aid to the following European countries: Poland, Portugal and Turkey.

115. As for Africa, the disasters and emergencies which that continent was experiencing were certainly the most tragic. Of the some 28 countries receiving aid under a special economic assistance programme, at least 20 were African. In 1983, the Office of the Co-ordinator had responded to requests for assistance from the following countries: Egypt, Benin, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Madagascar, Mauritania, Swaziland, Somalia, Chad and Ethiopia. The exceptional seriousness of the situation in the latter country was a typical example of the kind of disaster referred to in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 36/225. Millions of Africans were experiencing an appalling tragedy, and that was one of the greatest challenges the international community had to take up. The drought which had prevailed for several years currently affected 27 African countries, as against 24 in 1983. The number of countries on the continent affected by a food shortage and the results of various emergencies was 36. As the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had stated before the Committee on 5 November 1984, the relief provided so far, however praiseworthy, had not succeeded in staving off the spectre of hunger and sickness in those countries for very long.

116. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.70, entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator", whose sponsors had just been joined by Burundi, Cameroon, Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe and Zambia, was aimed at providing the Office with the necessary means to discharge its role more efficiently, in particular by giving it a better financial basis through more intense fund-raising campaigns. The text of the draft was based on Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/60 of 26 July 1984, except for a few amendments to preambular paragraph 2 and operative paragraphs 1, 13, 14 and 15 (the last two paragraphs originating from previously adopted General Assembly resolutions), and he recalled the provisions of those paragraphs. The sponsors of the draft hoped that, like Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/60, the text would be adopted by consensus.

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(continued) (A/C.2/39/L.64, L.65, L.69, L.71 and L.73)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.64

117. Mr. NGAIZA (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to Mozambique" on behalf of its sponsors, which had been joined by Bangladesh, cited the principal provisions of the draft. As the

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(Mr. Ngaiza, United Republic of Tanzania)

Secretary-General had noted in his report on assistance to Mozambique (A/39/382), the economic situation in Mozambique had deteriorated, and starvation and malnutrition, aggravated by a prolonged drought, continued to threaten the existence of its population. His delegation hoped therefore that the Second Committee would favourably receive the draft resolution and adopt it by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.65

118. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to Djibouti" on behalf of its sponsors, recalled that Djibouti, one of the least developed countries, had been particularly affected by the world economic recession and by natural disasters. Lack of any natural resources and dependence of its economy on external factors made the situation more serious. The draft resolution was similar to resolutions adopted in previous years. In particular, it contained an appeal to the international community to provide emergency financial, material and technical assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the population. The sponsors hoped that the General Assembly, as in previous years, would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.69

119. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Economic and financial assistance to Guinea" on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Argentina, recalled that, taking account of the letter of the head of the State of Guinea addressed to the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council had adopted at its second regular session of 1984, resolution 1984/59, in which it confirmed the urgent need for international action to assist the Government of Guinea in its national reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. The report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Guinea (A/39/572) had served as a basis for formulating the draft resolution. He recalled that Guinea was one of the least developed countries, and drew attention to the provisions contained in operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the draft, which addressed the Secretary-General, Member States, specialized institutions and other United Nations bodies, as well as international economic and financial institutions and other aid donors. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.71

120. Mr. SECKA (Gambia), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to the Gambia", announced that the following countries had joined the Gambia and the other original sponsors of the draft: Bangladesh, Guinea, Lesotho, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

121. Following the events of July 1981, which further compounded the already considerable difficulties, caused by drought and desertification in the Gambia, one of the least developed countries of the Sahelian region, a special assistance programme to the Gambia had been launched through the implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/220. Currently, the Gambia continued to suffer serious food shortages and its situation was further exacerbated by external factors, such as the global recession, deteriorating terms of trade and acute balance of payments

(Mr. Secka, Gambia)

problems. The disturbances of 1981 had obliged the Gambia to increase its expenditure on national security, reconstruction and development, but it continued to place emphasis on rural development. The Government of the Gambia was grateful to the Secretary-General for his unrelenting efforts, and hoped that donors would be generous during the round-table donors' conference which was to be held in the Gambia in November 1984.

122. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.71 did not differ from previous resolutions and should therefore be adopted, as in previous years, by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.73

123. Mr. DIRIR (Djibouti), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda" on behalf of its sponsors, said that, although the draft differed little from previously adopted resolutions on the subject, it was particularly timely, since the countries of East Africa were currently experiencing natural disasters of unprecedented proportions.

124. Aside from international co-operation, medium- and long-term measures - namely, the establishment of appropriate and sound national development programmes and the strengthening of regional co-operation - would be especially important in enabling those countries to respond effectively to the difficulties to which they were regularly confronted. The establishment - recommended on several occasions by the General Assembly - of an intergovernmental body with the responsibility of co-ordinating and supporting national efforts to combat the effects of drought and other natural disasters, was of prime importance, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the six countries concerned had decided to meet on 15 January 1985 at Djibouti to finalize the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the intergovernmental body.

125. After having given a brief summary of the grave situation currently prevailing in the countries stricken by drought, the sponsors of the draft resolution invited the international community, including all the appropriate international bodies, to take concerted measures to meet the emergency needs of their populations, whose survival was threatened, and to provide them with the means to deal with the problems of medium- and long-term recovery and rehabilitation. In that regard, they welcomed the forthcoming meeting at Djibouti of the six concerned Governments.

126. He hoped that the international community would show understanding and solidarity, and that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.39, L.41, L.44, L.62, L.66, L.67, L.70 and L.71

127. The CHAIRMAN announced that France had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.39; the Gambia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.41; Japan had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.44; Oman had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.62 and Guinea-Bissau had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.66, L.67, L.70 and L.71.

The meeting rose at 8.30 p.m.