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SECOND COMMITTEE
41st meeting
held on
Wednesday, 14 November 1984
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 82: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

- (a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/39/14, A/39/148)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY: REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (continued) (A/39/3 (Part II), A/39/31)

1. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research), referring to the comments made during the discussion on the Institute, said that his main concern was to spare no effort to ensure that UNITAR fulfilled its mandate with the maximum effectiveness, but that it could not do so if it did not receive sufficient funds. Thanking the delegation of Pakistan in particular for its intention to propose a resolution on the long-term financing of UNITAR, he expressed the hope that the decision taken on the matter, whatever it might be, would make its implementation viable.

2. With regard to the comments by the representatives of China and Poland on possible duplication of the work of other bodies, especially the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), perhaps the best way to dispel any remaining doubts would be to include in the next annual report of the Institute a comparative table of UNITAR's research programmes and those of the two other institutions mentioned, although delegations could rest assured that there was no duplication. On the other hand, UNITAR was carrying out a joint research programme with UNU on development strategies for Africa and was considering the possibility of other joint projects with the University and with UNIDIR.

3. He agreed with the representatives of Poland and the Soviet Union that UNITAR's research programme should reflect the many points of view of Member States and should foster co-operation among countries with different economic and social systems. In fact, the Institute had recently organized, in co-operation with UNCTAD, a seminar on trade and economic relations among countries with different economic and social systems. In response to the comment of the Soviet representative on the appointment of a Soviet national to the post of Assistant Director for Research, that had not been done for lack of funds; but recruitment would begin as soon as it was again possible to reconstitute the Division of Research.

4. Although many delegations had spoken in favour of continuing the activities of UNITAR, it should be reiterated that the Institute would not be able to function in 1985 unless it had a minimum of \$US 3 million in its General Fund. At the recent Pledging Conference, the contributions made by 38 countries had amounted to only \$1.2 million. Only one of the major donors, Finland, had increased its contribution significantly, while nine other donors had not been able to announce their contributions and even if they maintained their 1984 level of contributions for 1985, the resources of the General Fund would not amount to \$2 million.

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(Mr. Doo Kingué)

5. Consequently, there were three options before the General Assembly. The first was to close down the Institute because the system of voluntary contributions on which it depended did not guarantee the minimum budgetary level, which was \$3 million for 1985. The second would be to amend article VIII of the UNITAR Statute to enable it to be totally or partially funded from the regular United Nations budget, the disadvantage of which would probably be a reduction in voluntary contributions. The third possibility would be to maintain the current system of funding and at the same time set up a reserve fund which, obviously, would have to come from the regular United Nations budget. Although the Board of Trustees had recommended that it should be a \$15 million reserve fund, \$10 million allocated immediately would put UNITAR on safe ground, provided that the voluntary contributions in the 1985 Pledging Conference increased considerably, obviating the need to draw on the reserve fund.

6. Regarding the recommendation, made by the representative of Iceland on behalf of the Nordic countries, that the Board of Trustees should submit a realistic programme for consideration by the General Assembly at its next session, he pointed out that that was precisely what he, together with the Board of Trustees, had been doing since joining the Institute in January 1983. After a series of discussions on the Institute's programme and activities, the Board had decided to give priority to training, because the training programme had been the responsibility of a well-established Division, which had also been carrying out other training activities financed by the General Assembly and through special purpose grants. In addition, the Board had singled out certain important research projects on questions relevant to the United Nations that were of great interest to Member States and could be financed only from the General Fund. It had also estimated that, for UNITAR to survive, the minimum level of resources for the General Fund should be \$3 million annually for 1984 and 1985. Although the final decision rested with the Board, he believed that UNITAR would find it impossible to implement a resolution requesting it to continue operating within its current budget. Such a request would mean closing down the Institute, which would in turn have inevitable financial implications.

7. The representative of the Netherlands had suggested that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly an independent study on UNITAR's training and research programmes and that, in the meantime and by way of exception, the Assembly should allocate to the Institute funds from the regular United Nations budget to balance its 1985 budget. It would thus be possible to avoid closing down UNITAR, which most delegations had considered unacceptable. Should that proposal be adopted, he suggested that the Board should be given the opportunity to comment on the study in question before it was submitted to the General Assembly.

8. Later in the day a conference room paper would be distributed to the members of the Committee, showing the UNITAR budget for 1984 and the budget estimates for 1985 which, he hoped, would facilitate the adoption of a clear decision on the situation of UNITAR.

9. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan) said that he wished to request that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions on agenda item 82 should be extended to 6 p.m. on Thursday, 15 November so that the sessional paper referred to by the Executive Director of UNITAR could be considered.
10. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections he would take it that the Committee endorsed the suggestion that the deadline in question should be extended, as requested.
11. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/39/3 (Part II); A/C.2/39/6, A/C.2/39/L.28, L.30 and L.37)

12. Mr. OJEDA PAULLADA (Chairman of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development) said that the Conference had been convened as the first organized international effort to manage fisheries development within the framework of the régime laid down by the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, at a time when the levelling-off of catches over the past decade, the growing imbalance between the supply and demand for fish for human consumption, higher costs and increasingly onerous investment meant that an overall review was urgently required.

13. The Rome Conference, which had brought together a great number of delegates, had been a response to the need for a concerted effort to exploit fish resources fully and to increase their contribution to the food self-sufficiency of individual countries, to achieve world food security, to promote the self-sufficiency of countries in the management and the development of their fish resources and to foster international co-operation, regardless of the level of development of the countries concerned. It could be seen from the Conference documentation that fish accounted for approximately 25 per cent of the animal proteins consumed in the world and for an even greater proportion in the developing countries, in some of which it was the most important and virtually sole source of such proteins. It was estimated that current production amounted to 78 million tons, 55 million tons of which were directly destined for human consumption. Just to maintain annual consumption, the level of 110 million tons would have to be attained by the year 2000, which amounted to doubling current production. The volume of the catch could be expanded through a reduction in wastage, which was currently extremely high, and, in general, through improved management and administration of resources.

14. A draft Strategy and five Programmes of Action, which, following their adoption by consensus, constituted what the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had referred to as a world fisheries charter, had been prepared on the basis of the proposals submitted by States members and experts at the preparatory meetings for the Conference. The Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development indicated that implementation of the new law of the sea had led to general acceptance of the right of coastal States to manage the fisheries under their jurisdiction. Consequently, in full exercise of their sovereignty, Governments would draw up both individual and collective policies designed to ensure that fisheries played a key role in the world food supply. The Strategy did not take up issues that had already been settled in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and it would be implemented without prejudice to that Convention.

(Mr. Ojeda Paullada)

15. The Strategy was made up of eight interrelated components, which chiefly concerned the contribution of fisheries to national goals, improved self-reliance in the field in question, principles and practices for the rational management and optimum use of fish resources, the special role and needs of small-scale fisheries and international trade, investment and economic and technical co-operation in relation to fisheries and their products. The goals of the Programmes of Action that had been adopted in order to implement the Strategy were, inter alia, the development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, international trade in fish and fishery products and promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition. The programmes focused on solving a wide range of problems, such as stock assessment, infrastructure, transport and communications, measures to avoid overfishing, pollution control, manpower training, the need to move on to farming new resources and, in particular, the elimination of sanctions of any type that formed an obstacle to countries in the exercise of their rights. The Conference had also adopted resolutions concerning, inter alia, the financing of investment projects in the field of fisheries, the role of the fisherman and the development of special fisheries programmes for land-locked States. Other resolutions dealt specifically with issues of particular concern to the developing countries, such as greater use of fishery products in international food-aid programmes, pollution control in the developing countries' exclusive economic zones and the promotion of economic and technical co-operation with the developing countries and among the developing countries.

16. FAO, which was to be commended for the energy it had devoted to holding the Conference, would also be responsible for the promotion and dissemination of the resolutions adopted, whose implementation, however, was basically the responsibility of the individual countries themselves and the relevant international organizations, particularly those in the United Nations system, depending on their area of competence and their capabilities.

17. The Conference had consistently borne in mind the welfare of fishermen and that of their families and communities, as well as their arduous working conditions and the need for special assistance with a view to raising the standards of living of over 10 million people working in the fisheries sector throughout the world. It had therefore been requested that an international year of the fisherman should be proclaimed and that each year 27 June should be set aside as world fisheries day.

18. The participants in the Conference had joined in a concerted effort to achieve the shared goals of all the nations represented and to promote international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian co-operation, thus reflecting the determination to bring about peace and reconciliation in the world, without which any endeavours, whether in the field of fisheries or in other economic and social fields, were in vain.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.28

19. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.28, entitled "FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development", said that the draft's importance lay in its endorsement of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the associated Programmes of Action of the FAO World Conference on the matter in question, which, by facilitating improved utilization

(Mr. Gajentaan, Netherlands)

of marine resources, could help to a great extent to solve world food problems. It was to be hoped that, since it was the first time that fisheries issues had been dealt with in all their aspects by a conference attended by policy-makers at the highest level from all around the world, the draft resolution would meet with a favourable response from the international community and the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.30

20. Mr. JURASZ (Poland) said that the title of the draft resolution he was submitting, "Confidence-building in international economic relations", was the same as that of General Assembly resolution 38/196, in which the Secretary-General was requested to conduct consultations on possible measures that would lead to the promotion and acceleration of international economic co-operation.

21. The enhancement of international economic relations should concern not only developing and middle-income countries but also the richest and strongest because, to a greater or lesser extent, all would have to face up to the reality of interdependence. International economic co-operation could be mutually beneficial if economic security was successfully prevented, through the growing international division of labour, from diminishing as a result of non-economic factors. Only by shielding economic relations from the adverse effects of those non-economic factors would it be possible to build confidence among countries. The expansion of trade had won general support at various international forums, where it had been decided to intensify co-operation between developed and developing countries with a view to promoting the recovery and liberalization of world trade, but it was not possible to achieve those objectives without mutual trust in international economic relations, because it could hardly be expected that countries would forge lasting economic links that might involve structural remodelling of their economies if they had any doubts about the reliability of those links, feared being harmed by non-economic factors or suspected that their economic relations might be transformed into a tool of political coercion. The economic dimension of international security had dramatically increased over recent years. The restructuring of the world economic order was impossible without confidence in the long-term intentions of the partners concerned.

22. The report submitted by the Secretary-General in implementation of resolution 38/196 (A/39/312-E/1984/106 and Add.1 and 2) reflected a desire to establish a better climate for the development of international economic relations. It would obviously help if the developed countries also expressed their views on possible measures leading to that end. In view of the complexity of the proposed endeavour, however, it would be better not to adopt hasty measures but to continue consultations and exchanges of views, as suggested in the draft resolution, because it was essential to look patiently for common ground and gradually reduce the level of uncertainty in economic relations. Since implementation of the modest operative part of the draft resolution could harm nobody and could, on the contrary, be beneficial to all, he was advocating a consensus.

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Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.37

23. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan) said that draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.37 entitled "Consumer protection", was the outcome of two and a half years of negotiations within the United Nations and included proposals by all the countries concerned. The guidelines accompanying the draft resolution were not mandatory and there would be no monitoring of or reporting on its implementation. The guidelines were not a standard-setting device but a set of recommendations for helping countries that lacked consumer protection standards or wished to strengthen existing ones. Consultations were being held with countries which had raised objections to the draft resolution and it was to be hoped that favourable results would be achieved because the resolution, if adopted, would benefit consumers in both developing and developed countries. In conclusion, he announced that the delegation of Singapore had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/39/3 (Parts I and II); A/39/56, 71, 88, 95, 110, 118, 126, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 187, 226, 236, 269, 302, 303, 304, 314, 323, 331, 448, 495, 536, 554, 560, 581; A/C.2/39/3, 4, 10)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued) (A/39/48, 115 and Corr.1 and 2, 171, 228, 273)
- (b) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/332)
- (c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/15, 192, 397, 415, 462, 463, 558; A/C.2/39/L.3 and L.4)
- (e) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/39/37; A/C.2/39/11; A/C.2/39/CRP.2)
- (h) RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/172 and Add.1, A/38/334 and Add.1; A/39/94 and Add.1, 97, 281 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.2 and Corr.1, 476; A/C.2/39/CRP.1; A/C.2/39/L.5)
- (k) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/566)
- (n) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/578)

24. Mr. FERRARI (Executive Director of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development) said that special mention should be made of resolution 6 (VI) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/39/37, annex), through which some changes had been introduced in the organization and methods of work of that Committee, the most important being the selection, two years in advance, of one or two specific themes for in-depth analysis at each

(Mr. Ferrari)

session. The changes would require a greater effort by Member States and the Secretariat, not only during the preparatory work but also in debates and on the measures adopted. Under the new system the Intergovernmental Committee would consider information systems for science and technology for development at its seventh session and, despite the short time available, preparatory work on the theme was advancing satisfactorily. At its eighth session in 1986, the Intergovernmental Committee would consider two themes: the mobilization of resources for science and technology for development for developing countries and technology applied to agricultural development and related development areas. The two themes would be examined, in a preliminary fashion, by the Task Force of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and by the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, and account would be taken of the inputs of all States, and of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

25. The Centre was engaged in preparing the documentation that would serve as a basis for the mid-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Committee at its seventh session in 1985. The evaluation exercises already carried out by the regional economic commissions or still pending were an essential element in that endeavour. The Centre had also consulted all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and would discuss the subject further during the sixth session of the ACC Task Force.

26. Among the Centre's continuing activities, reference should be made to the Advance Technology Alert System for alerting developing countries to the potential implications of technological advances in such areas as micro-electronics, biotechnology, materials science and remote sensing. The first issue of the system's semi-annual bulletin should be published before the end of the current year; the second and third issues were in preparation. The system had received considerable assistance from various experts, organs and agencies of the United Nations system and Governments, and in particular from the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

27. Turning to the co-ordination activities of the United Nations system, he referred to the 24 joint activities formulated by the ACC Task Force designed to achieve closer co-operation and co-ordination in science and technology among the organs, organizations and bodies of the system. Draft project documents had been prepared and consultations held with interested Governments. Greater resources from the regular budget would be needed in order to continue those efforts, since extrabudgetary resources had not reached the desired level. In that context it should be noted that the secretariat of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, which the Intergovernmental Committee had made responsible for supporting joint activities, was considering the possibility of submitting some of the projects to potential donors. The formulation and implementation of the joint activities stood at a critical juncture, given that their successful and speedy implementation could impart momentum to the overall process of co-ordinating science and technology within the United Nations system. It was thus desirable for all Governments to support that important undertaking. He drew the Committee's attention to the report on the Preparatory Meeting on the System, convened on 30 and 31 October 1984 (A/C.2/39/CRP.2).

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(Mr. Ferrari)

28. The Centre had supported other activities, including the round table on long-term perspectives for science and technology for development, held in August 1984 at Laxenburg, Austria under the auspices of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, with the support of the International Development Research Centre of Canada, and an interregional seminar on the planning and management of science and technology, held at Moscow from 8 to 27 October 1984.

29. Finally, he said that the Centre stood ready to respond to new demands, as it had previously. Modest but encouraging results had been obtained so far, largely owing to the interest and support of the Governments of developing and developed countries. Although science and technology could not provide solutions to all mankind's problems, it could reduce and eventually eliminate many of the hardships which developing countries still endured.

30. Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) said that despite the initial recovery in the economies of the United States and Japan, there were still widespread economic difficulties. The recession in the developed countries, which had spilled over to the developing countries, had caused massive declines in the latter's growth rates, and particularly in those of countries exporting primary and manufactured goods. The height of the recession had been marked by a considerable decline in world trade and by distortions in financial markets. The global recession, which had so harmed the developing countries, had highlighted the interdependence of States, had also behaved asymmetrically, to the detriment of the developing countries. Interdependence would remain a utopia until such time as the inadequacies of the current institutional structure of world trade were either overcome or removed. In that connection, the Philippines welcomed initiatives to bring about a broadly-based economic recovery, particularly through lowering international interest rates, expanding official development assistance, encouraging capital inflows from commercial and other sources and liberalizing trade with respect to exports from developing countries.

31. Various trade policy issues continued to affect the developing countries, including the rapid proliferation of protectionist measures adopted by developed countries; discrimination against the products of developing countries in the application of tariff cuts under the most-favoured-nation rule; increases in tariffs according to the degree of processing of products; the paring of preference margins under the generalized system of preferences, which was still not binding; procedures to circumvent the generalized system of preferences and GATT; the application of quantitative restrictions such as voluntary export restraints and orderly marketing arrangements; and the application of various non-tariff barriers which seriously affected developing countries. The effect of such barriers to trade and market access had been aggravated by the collapse of markets for primary commodities and the corresponding decline in commodity prices. All those issues had to be resolved on the basis of equity and mutuality of interests. Trade, not aid, would have a more lasting, genuinely beneficial effect on the situation of developing countries.

32. Her delegation took note of the important work of UNCTAD. The Philippines attached particular importance to the work of the UNCTAD secretariat on the elaboration of a plan of action that would promote the principles of comparative advantage, industrial complementarity and economies of scale for all countries, and

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

to its work on a set of measures aimed at increasing participation by developing countries in the production of and trade in agro-industrial products. Further, her Government shared the view that the developed countries should vigorously pursue the process of restructuring the labour-intensive industries in which they had a disadvantage; those industries should be redeployed as far as possible to developing countries.

33. The Philippines, which, like other developing countries, had to acquire appropriate technology, supported work on the transfer of technology to bring about a more equitable distribution of the benefits of advances in technology and scientific knowledge, thus helping the developing countries to expand their technological capacity to contribute to their economic and social transformation. Her Government recognized that science and technology was invaluable in achieving high productivity and greater competitiveness. Accordingly, the Philippine national science and technology programme stressed research aimed at meeting specific needs and problems of industry through the promotion of local technology. In addition, technical services were being provided to strengthen various industries and specialized research was being undertaken in other sectors of industry. But, of course, in that as in other fields international co-operation was essential to scientific and technological advancement.

34. The Philippines was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (A/C.2/39/L.22), since it expected to make a major contribution to the Year. The human settlements programme of the Philippines was considered one of the most forward-looking and innovative in the world. Its inputs included models for land acquisition, shelter construction systems, demonstration human settlements, systems of financing for housing and the provision of expert services to other countries to undertake demonstration projects under the technical co-operation programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. The Ministry of Human Settlements of the Philippines, headed by the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, had begun an integrated task of environmental management, town planning, land-use regulation and shelter-system development, with four complementary components: regulation, production, finance and marketing. The Philippines would continue to initiate and support activities and projects to promote international co-operation in human settlements. Its immediate concern, however, was the establishment of a financial and advisory institution for human settlements in Asia and the Pacific, similar to those already existing in Latin America and Africa.

35. The recession and current incipient recovery in the world economy had highlighted the important role played by women in restoring economic self-sufficiency and promoting development in general. The specific contribution of women in economic and social crises deserved international recognition, and hence, any deliberation of international economic issues would be incomplete if it did not include participation by women. Accordingly, it was important to continuously strengthen women's rights and their role in development. The International Development Strategy contained several recommendations relating to various aspects of social development. Nevertheless, to enable women to maximize their contributions to economic and social development, those issues should be examined carefully, paying particular regard to the need to improve the status of women.

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(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

36. Given the importance of self-reliance to development, the Government of the Philippines was currently engaged in various programmes throughout the country in agriculture, aquaculture, the development of forest products, livestock and cottage industries. Further, economic activity was being accelerated through the deregulation of domestic trade, the maintenance of rural infrastructure, the supplying of fertilizer at reasonable prices and the extension of credit for critical food programmes in rural areas.

37. The Philippines recognized the important role of international co-operation through the United Nations system in improving the capacities of different countries. It was to be hoped that through the interaction of national systems and international institutions, the common task could be carried out for the common good. If the divisions existing between North and South were eliminated and the ideal of interdependence finally became a reality, a better world could be built for mankind.

38. Mr. BORG (Malta) said that, as an island developing country, Malta attached great importance to the consideration in international forums of those countries' problems, which frequently did not receive sufficient attention. On more than one occasion his delegation had expressed its dissatisfaction with the way such problems were being tackled in the work programmes of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. While the General Assembly and UNCTAD had adopted a number of resolutions on the subject by consensus, no concrete action had been taken to implement the mandates contained in those resolutions.

39. Document A/39/463 (to which UNCTAD document TD/B/1006 was annexed) raised some questions that were sources of concern to his delegation. Unfortunately, it appeared that the UNCTAD secretariat paid attention only to certain regions, since some studies published on island developing countries referred to a limited group of countries, even though other countries from other regions would benefit immensely from such studies. A case in point was the study currently being carried out by UNCTAD on the potential benefits of participation in the Global System of Trade Preferences for island developing countries of the Pacific.

40. While his delegation took note with satisfaction of the results of the meeting held at Alofi in 1982 and the meeting of experts of the movement of non-aligned countries held in Grenada in 1983, it was surprised to learn that an interregional workshop had been held in November 1983 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to which, as on previous occasions, Malta and other island developing countries had not been invited. In the particular case of Malta, which was a member of the Economic Commission for Europe, it appeared that that Commission was unaware of the activities of the United Nations system or else maintained inadequate communication with other agencies. His delegation was also concerned at the statement that the ability of the UNCTAD secretariat to fulfil the mandate contained in resolutions adopted in that connection was constrained by the very limited resources available (A/39/463, para. 69). That observation had been made countless times, and his delegation wished to protest the lack of progress in that area which was caused by such attitudes and statements. In so far as other programmes received appropriate financial support, it was high time that support for programmes for island developing countries was strengthened, too; such support could easily be financed

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(Mr. Borg, Malta)

under the regular budget. His delegation also wished to see in the future more detailed information about the replies given with regard to specific action related to the particular needs and problems of island developing countries (A/39/463, annex, chap. II). While noting the analysis made by the UNCTAD secretariat, he expressed the belief that island developing countries should be given the opportunity to analyse and assess for themselves the replies received.

41. It seemed odd to his delegation that members of the European Economic Community, which maintained relations with island developing countries under various agreements, said that they did not favour the proliferation of special categories of developing countries or that they did not believe that location alone justified special treatment (A/39/463, para. 47). That was even more difficult to understand in that many island countries formed part of the British Commonwealth, whose Secretariat attributed particular importance to the problems of island States.

42. With regard to the responses submitted by GATT, IMF and the World Bank, his delegation also wished to see a more positive attitude, given that those bodies had immense potential to assist the economies of island developing countries. GATT could intensify its efforts to help them combat protectionism, increase their exports and attract investment projects. As for IMF, his delegation was aware that it had recently completed a study on small island countries; however, it felt that proper solutions to their problems had not been identified. The position taken thus far by the World Bank was cause for great concern, since the application of the criterion of per capita income as the sole factor in deciding whether or not a country met the conditions for receiving Bank financing greatly threatened continued access to Bank loans by countries which still had a great need for external resources to promote balanced and more stable development. The reply of ICAO also required a number of clarifications.

43. His delegation paid tribute to those States and United Nations bodies which recognized that island developing countries faced certain specific problems not generally shared with other developing countries. Australia and New Zealand were in the forefront of those States, and it was to be hoped that others would follow their example in improving the conditions of all island developing countries. With regard to United Nations organizations and agencies, it was unfortunate that the replies from ILO, UNIDO and UNDP had been so briefly summarized in the Secretary-General's report. His delegation also wished to draw attention to the measure undertaken by UNDP to maintain a programming level of 80 per cent for countries with small indicative planning figures. In fact, most of the 23 countries which had benefited from that measure were island developing countries. The UNDP Administrator should therefore intensify his efforts with a view to extending that measure to cover other small island countries like Malta.

44. His delegation could not accept all the conclusions and recommendations contained in chapter III of the report; he reiterated that the countries directly involved should be the first to analyse such reports and studies so that any conclusions and recommendations might emanate from those countries following an exchange of views. Among the conclusions and recommendations with which his delegation concurred were those relating to an intensification of efforts by the United Nations system to adopt specific measures in favour of island developing

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(Mr. Borg, Malta)

countries. Such measures should be directed towards, inter alia, assisting those countries in the development of their infrastructure and their sea and air transport; the development of national communication structures; the acquisition and transfer of modern technology needed to derive benefits from the marine resources of their exclusive economic zones; providing market access for their manufactured goods and raw materials; and establishing mechanisms to ensure the adequate participation of island developing countries in international discussions of special concern to them.

45. To achieve those objectives, his delegation urged the international community to search urgently for appropriate solutions for the island developing countries, whose characteristics placed them at a disadvantage which restricted their economic viability.

46. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt), Mr. DUN (United Kingdom) and Ms. SMITHEY and Mr. KEYES (United States of America) participated, the CHAIRMAN suggested that, at its next meeting, the Committee should hear the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General on procedures relating to the programme budget implications of draft resolutions.

47. It was so decided.

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)
- (b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

48. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to extend the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on item 83 to 6 p.m. on Friday, 16 November 1984, as requested.

49. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.