



# General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
13 December 2013

Original: English

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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 39th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 3 December 2013, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Diallo ..... (Senegal)

## Contents

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)(i) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*)Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*)(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)(b) Women in development (*continued*)

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

**Agenda item 19: Sustainable development** (*continued*)  
(A/C.2/68/L.23, A/C.2/68/L.30, A/C.2/68/L.31/Rev.1,  
A/C.2/68/L.38/Rev.1 and A/C.2/68/L.48)

**(i) Sustainable mountain development** (*continued*)

*Draft resolution on sustainable mountain development* (A/C.2/68/L.31/Rev.1)

1. **Mr. Muñoz** (Peru) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.31/Rev.1, which showed the importance of mountains as reservoirs of ecosystems, natural resources, indigenous communities and traditional knowledge. It was important to continue reflection on sustainable mountain development in the aftermath of Rio+20 and as part of the elaboration of a post-2015 development agenda contributing to the cause of sustainable development.

2. The following countries had joined as sponsors: Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Slovenia and Spain.

3. **The Chair** said that the following countries also wished to join the list of sponsors: Afghanistan, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Ukraine.

4. He invited the Committee to consider draft resolutions submitted under the main agenda item.

*Draft resolutions on World Wildlife Day* (A/C.2/68/L.23 and A/C.2/68/L.48)

5. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.48 had no programme budget implications. He added that the United States of America had joined the sponsors.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.48 was adopted.*

7. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the attention that World Wildlife Day would attract worldwide. The United States looked forward to celebrating that Day at home and at its embassies throughout the world.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.23 was withdrawn.*

*Draft resolution on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America* (A/C.2/68/L.30)

9. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. **Mr. Ruiz Hernández** (Panama) said that the draft resolution was the fruit not only of his delegation's efforts but of a truly regional collaboration.

11. He announced revisions to the draft resolution. In the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "achieving" should be replaced by the words "three dimensions of". In paragraph 2, the words "work done by" should be replaced by the words "ongoing efforts of". In paragraph 6, the words "places emphasis on" should be replaced by the word "emphasizes".

12. He announced that Australia, Barbados, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia and Sri Lanka had joined the sponsors.

13. **The Chair** said that Ukraine had also joined the sponsors.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.30 was adopted as orally revised.*

*Draft resolution on agricultural technology for development* (A/C.2/68/L.38/Rev.1)

15. **The Chair** said that he took it that the Committee wished to waive the 24-hour requirement in rule 120 of the rules of procedure in order to consider the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **Ms. Levavi** (Israel) announced minor drafting changes to the draft resolution and said that the sponsors had been joined by Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Serbia and South Sudan.

18. **Mr. Aldrees** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that there was no substantive need for the draft resolution, as its subject matter was already covered by draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.28 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, which had been submitted by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution did not preserve a balance between the interests of developed

and developing countries; it failed to mention technology transfer, financing for development or the obstacles to developing countries' access to world markets.

19. Moreover, the Group was concerned that Israel was exploiting the topic for political purposes. The report of the Secretary-General on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/68/77-E/2013/13), which the Committee had discussed at its twenty-sixth meeting (A/C.2/68/SR.26), had detailed Israel's repeated violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions. Israel, the occupying Power, was undermining agricultural development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan. Its illegal activities included uprooting olive trees, building settlements, preventing the movement of people and goods, building an illegal wall that separated farmers from their land, selectively denying access to water resources and maintaining a blockade on the Gaza Strip.

20. Israel therefore had no genuine interest in agricultural development; it was blatantly exploiting and politicizing that important topic. To vote in favour of the draft resolution would merely encourage Israel to persist in undermining agricultural development. The Group of Arab States had therefore requested a vote and would abstain.

21. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.28 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition had garnered consensus in informal consultations and reflected the concerns of developing and developed countries alike. It was unfortunate that, instead of supporting that draft resolution, the delegation of the Israeli occupation had submitted a different text that would dissipate the focus of the Committee and, moreover, ignored the technology transfer commitments of developed countries.

22. Despite numerous international resolutions, Israel had maintained its brutal occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the occupied Syrian Golan and parts of south Lebanon. In so doing, it systematically undermined agriculture, which was the main source of

livelihood in the occupied territories. In the occupied Syrian Golan, it had confiscated land, withheld access to water, depleted natural resources, destroyed farmland, uprooted olive trees, expelled Syrian farmers and imposed an economic blockade. Syrian farmers were prevented from selling their apple harvest, which was regularly bought by the Syrian Government in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross. At the same time, the Israeli occupation authorities marketed crops from the occupied Syrian Golan as Israeli produce, contravening the relevant international instruments, particularly the Geneva Conventions. Similar racist and inhumane policies were applied in the other occupied Arab territories.

23. In submitting the draft resolution, the Israeli occupation sought to affect concern for developing countries and to promote the role of Israeli companies in technology transfer. His delegation would therefore abstain.

24. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra

Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia.

*Against:*

Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.38/Rev.1 was adopted with minor drafting changes by 138 votes to 1, with 34 abstentions.*

26. **Mr. Prozor** (Israel) said that agriculture was also one of the most profitable commercial sectors and the second largest global source of employment. Investors around the world had their eyes on the stock exchange, but their ears to the ground. However, over 1.4 billion farmers were trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty; given the right conditions, they could break free and unleash a sustainable development revolution. In view of the need to feed a growing population, the draft resolution would foster ingenuity, imagination and innovation.

27. Women comprised the majority of the agricultural workforce in many developing countries, but their productivity was 30 per cent lower than that of men. While men received extensive training on how to care for their crops, women were cropped out of the picture. The developing world was seeking to cultivate its natural resources but wasting its human resources. No business could make healthy margins by marginalizing half of the population. The draft resolution also focused on the struggle of rural youth, who were increasingly leaving their fields for the bright lights of

the big city, thereby contributing to over-urbanization and unemployment.

28. Technology was making it easier for farmers to share vital information. Smart phones could be used to receive payments and weekly updates on market prices.

29. The Group of Arab States alone had stood in the way of consensus on the draft resolution; yet few regions could benefit more from agricultural technology. People across the Arab world were hungry for change and thirsty for progress, but their Governments were stubbornly determined to put politics before people. Rather than seeking to steer the conversation off course, the Government of Saudi Arabia would be better advised to allow women to drive.

30. Developing countries held in their hands the seeds of the future. The time had come to plant those seeds and reap the rewards. When the State of Israel had been established, its young pioneers had taken control of their own destiny and made the desert bloom. Their message of commitment and cooperation continued to resonate as Israel reached out to the developing nations of the world.

31. **Mr. Alhantouli** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that, while the draft resolution had no programme budget implications, it had moral implications for the Committee. The Israeli occupation impeded Palestinian farmers' access to land and water, so the seeds to which the representative of Israel had referred were tainted with the blood of the Palestinian people. The delegation of Israel had made opportunistic use of the Committee's time. Hypocrisy could afford to be magnificent in its promises; for, never intending to go beyond promise, it cost nothing.

32. **Mr. Aldrees** (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, while the creative rhetoric of the representative of Israel might impress a feeble-minded listener, anyone endowed with reason could see that it was hollow and futile. The representative of Israel had referred to a ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia. The country was characterized by political stability above all else, and it was flourishing and developing in every area. It had its own Muslim scientists, and had no need of Israel's technology to develop its agriculture. It was committed to sustainable agricultural development, notwithstanding the spurious claims that had been made.

33. Speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, he reiterated that the purpose underlying the draft resolution was clear. The text submitted by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China was more comprehensive and worthy of consensus than a few words thrown together by Israel to describe its idea of progress.

34. **Mr. Golan** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that taking cheap shots at Israel appeared to be the favourite sport of the Palestinian delegate. The time had come for that delegate to end the blame game and focus on his own side. He had conveniently failed to mention the numerous human rights abuses committed by the security apparatus in the West Bank, not to mention the appalling record of the Hamas terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian delegation insisted on raising baseless accusations and politicizing the agenda item in order to inflame hostilities. That approach was unfortunate, but unsurprising; under the Palestinian Authority, incitement and intolerance had become a hallmark of Palestinian society. The time had come to speak truthfully about the problems facing the region, but the Palestinian delegation was heavy on criticism and light on facts.

35. **Mr. Alhantouli** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Palestinian people would not surrender to the lies of the occupying Power; the practices of the occupation were too egregious to be covered up by such fabrications. Sooner or later, the occupying Power would pay the legal price for its exploitation of Palestinian resources and its violations of international law, international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions.

#### **Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence**

(continued) (A/C.2/68/L.11, A/C.2/68/L.13/Rev.1, A/C.2/68/L.17, A/C.2/68/L.49 and A/C.2/68/L.50)

##### **(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence* (A/C.2/68/L.50 and A/C.2/68/L.17)

36. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.50 had no programme budget implications.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.50 was adopted.*

38. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.17 was withdrawn.*

##### **(b) Science and technology for development** (continued)

*Draft resolutions on science, technology and innovation for development* (A/C.2/68/L.11 and A/C.2/68/L.49)

39. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.49 had no programme budget implications.

40. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.49 was adopted.*

41. **Mr. Tuiloma** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the resolution addressed important issues both for the international community and for the developing world. The growth of science and technology offered immense possibilities for sustainable development. Access to and adoption of scientific and technological advances for sustainable development remained a priority issue for developing countries. The Group recognized the importance of the conversion of new scientific and technical knowledge into commercialized technologies, products and processes and their marketing.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.11 was withdrawn.*

*Draft resolution on the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2015* (A/C.2/68/L.13/Rev.1)

43. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

44. **Ms. Luna** (Mexico) said that Colombia, Mauritius, Nepal and Palau had joined the sponsors.

45. The resolution's main objective was to galvanize efforts to better understand the importance of light and light-based technologies and their relevance for sustainable development. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would create long-standing alliances with governments, industry, academia and other relevant actors for the benefit of all. It encouraged the promotion of better access to information and the benefits of science, technology and optics, with direct applications for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Some drafting changes would be submitted directly to the Secretary of the Committee.

46. **The Chair** said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guinea, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia had joined the sponsors.

47. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.13/Rev.1 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues** (*continued*) (A/C.2/68/L.7 and A/C.2/68/L.51)

(b) **Women in development** (*continued*)

*Draft resolutions on women in development* (A/C.2/68/L.7 and A/C.2/68/L.51)

48. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.51 had no programme budget implications.

49. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.51 was adopted.*

50. **Mr. Aldrees** (Saudi Arabia), speaking also on behalf of Kuwait, said that their two delegations had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution in recognition of the important role of women in development. They wished, however, to express a reservation regarding provisions of the draft resolution that were inconsistent with the Islamic sharia and, in particular, the reference in paragraph 34 to women's equal right to inheritance.

51. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that the United States was committed to advancing the status of women as agents of change and considered women in all its policy initiatives, including global health, climate change, food security, human rights and peace and security. Her delegation was pleased with the thrust of the resolution but had long-standing concerns regarding the right to development, a term which lacked any agreed international definition. Any related discussion needed to focus on aspects of development that related to universal human rights.

52. While paragraph 22 of the resolution laudably encouraged States to recognize unremunerated work and provide certain related support, the United States did not currently have the mechanisms in place to provide that support. The United States also supported paragraph 33 in principle, but noted the difference between the use of the phrase "equal pay for equal work" in that paragraph and the reference to "equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value" in paragraph 17.

53. Her delegation regretted that the resolution made no reference to sexual and reproductive health rights. Considering the numerous challenges women faced with regard to discrimination and gender-based violence, States should ensure that all women could

control matters concerning their sexuality and reproductive health.

54. *Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.7 was withdrawn.*

*The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.*