



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.32
20 October 1989

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 17 October 1989, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Scale of assessments of the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [129] (continued)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization [10] (continued)
- Programme of work
- Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System [24]
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Draft resolution
- Credentials of representatives to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly [3] (continued)
 - (a) Report of the Credentials Committee
 - (b) Amendment

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 129 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS OF THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/44/535/Add.3, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General informing me that, since the issuance of his communications dated 19, 26 September and 2 October 1989, Equatorial Guinea has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 10

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION (A/44/1)

Mr. BELONOGOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, has heretofore merely consisted in taking note of the reports; that was all. Quite clearly that was a consequence of the inertia inherited from the days when propagandistic rhetoric dominated and when, in the words of the Secretary-General, "Collective security became a hostage of the cold war" (A/44/1, p. 2). Today, however, we are all not only witnessing but also directly participating in a turn by the Organization towards co-operation and civilized interaction and communication and co-operative work among States in a joint search for responses to the most difficult problems of our time.

Although the international situation is still not giving cause for euphoria, we are now seeing positive signs of a lessening of international tensions, a settling of regional conflicts, a development of political dialogue, and joint action to solve ecological and other global problems, as well as increasing trust

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

and understanding among peoples. In this context we feel that it is difficult not to support one of the basic conclusions in the Secretary-General's report: the conclusion that the era of useless confrontation has ended and that the need to base lasting solutions to international problems on generally accepted principles of the Charter is being universally recognized.

The qualitative change in the activities of the United Nations has been fully reflected in the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization. This report not only gives a basic assessment of last year's work but also contains a broad well-considered programme of activity for the United Nations in the near future. We can say without fear of exaggeration that given the nature of its content, which include many specific proposals and ideas, this is one of the basic documents of this session of the General Assembly.

The Soviet delegation is pleased to note the fact that in the Secretary-General's report great attention is being given both to the Organization's efforts to defuse regional conflicts and crises and to its peace-keeping operations - that unique mechanism for establishing peace. In this regard we share the Secretary-General's view on the need for a study, particularly by the members of the Security Council, of the question of enhancing the credibility and authority of peace-keeping operations.

These ideas are in keeping with the Soviet Union's approach to the entire range of questions with regard to settling regional conflicts and crises with the use of the United Nations machinery and the strengthening of the preventive functions of the United Nations. The United Nations has a mission to become a type of political preventive mechanism the aim of which is to ensure comprehensive security in all areas of international relations: the military, political, economic, ecological and humanitarian sectors.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

The Congress of the People's Deputies of the Soviet Union put forward, as one of the main principles of Soviet foreign policy for the forthcoming years, the task of ensuring universal and equal security in the process of demilitarization, democratization and humanization of international relations, using as a bulwark of this process the authority and the potential of the United Nations.

Hence the Soviet delegation sees as its main task at this session to help stimulate a stable and dynamic process to achieve progress towards a restructuring of international relations with the most active participation of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's report on the work of our Organization is, we feel, aimed at promoting innovative processes in the United Nations and increasing its influence and authority in the world.

In this regard the Soviet delegation expresses its support for the regular institutionalization of a process of carrying out at each session of the General Assembly a fundamental examination of the Secretary-General's reports on the work of the Organization, with the adoption, as the need arises, of decisions on the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

The PRESIDENT: In previous years the Assembly has taken note of the annual report of the Secretary-General. If I hear no objection, may I consider that the Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Secretary-General?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 10.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: At the request of the Chairman of the Group of African States, consideration of agenda item 27, entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity", will be postponed to a later date to be announced.

AGENDA ITEM 24

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/550)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/44/L.8)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Peru to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. ARROSPIDE (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): I am pleased to introduce draft resolution A/44/L.8, entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System". The Latin American Economic System (SELA) is an intergovernmental body established in 1975 and comprised of 26 Latin American and Caribbean States. Its function is to provide the region with multilateral assistance exclusively to Latin American and Caribbean countries. It is the only forum for co-ordination and co-operation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries and its annual dialogue of Foreign Ministers is the highest regional consultative body.

Draft resolution A/44/L.8 is sponsored by all the members of SELA, and its purpose is to promote the broadening and strengthening of co-operation between the United Nations system and SELA. Since its establishment many organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have supported SELA, participating in the execution of numerous projects of interest to the Governments of the region.

Let me recall that at its forty-third session the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/5, in which the Secretary-General was requested to inform the General

(Mr. Arrospe, Peru)

Assembly at this session of the implementation of that resolution and give an assessment of the co-operation between the United Nations system and SELA.

With the adoption of the draft resolution I am introducing today, we are seeking to renew the commitment to broaden such co-operation which, although it has existed in the past, we feel can and should be expanded and enriched.

The draft resolution that has been submitted to the plenary Assembly for its consideration makes reference, in its preambular part, to decision 289 of the Latin American Council - the supreme body of SELA - adopted recently, in which it expresses its satisfaction at the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 43/5.

With regard to the operative paragraphs of draft resolution A/44/L.8, the General Assembly takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General; expresses satisfaction with decision 289 of the Latin American Council; urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to broaden and deepen its co-ordination and mutual support activities with SELA; urges the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the SELA Permanent Secretariat is carrying out; urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for and co-operation with the activities of SELA; requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote, in close collaboration with the SELA Permanent Secretary, the holding of a meeting in 1990 between their respective secretariats, with the aim of identifying those areas in which it will be possible to broaden co-operation between the United Nations system and SELA; requests both the Secretary-General and the SELA Permanent Secretary to initiate consultations for the purpose of drafting an agreement of co-operation between the United Nations and SELA.

Since the draft resolution does not contain any controversial elements and will have no financial implications for the Organization, but rather embodies the

(Mr. Arrospide, Peru)

aspirations of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the broadening and intensifying of co-operation between the United Nations and SELA, the delegation of Peru, on behalf of the entire region, hopes that the draft resolution, sponsored by all the countries members of SELA, will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. PAOLILLO (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): The Latin American Economic System (SELA) is in more ways than one a unique institution within the family of international organizations.

It is unique because of its purposes, since its main objective is to promote consultations and co-ordination on economic and social matters allowing the region to adopt common positions and strategies and act together and with authority in regard to third countries, groups of countries or international organizations. It is unique because of its Constitution, for it is composed exclusively of Latin American and Caribbean nations and, accordingly, is an institution with a truly regional mission. Lastly, it is unique because of its organic structure, which includes a plenary body - the Latin American Council, which is the highest-level forum at which the countries of the region can analyse common economic and social problems - the Permanent Secretariat, which functions with a very small staff, and the Action Committees, flexible bodies which are formed and function on the basis of practicality, efficiency and economy.

Hence, SELA is the only body capable of a truly regional approach to the problem of the acute economic crisis affecting the Latin American and the Caribbean countries and its attendant social and political problems. The existence and functioning of SELA is based on certain undeniable assumptions, namely, the existence of interests and problems common to all its members, the need to find immediate solutions to these problems and the belief that by acting together the countries of the region can maximize their negotiating power.

(Mr. Paolillo, Uruguay)

Accordingly, SELA constitutes an institutional reflection of the social and political fact that has characterized the Latin American and Caribbean region ever since the era of independence: the profound solidarity between its members, despite their ethnic and cultural diversity and their different political organization and economic development. This regional solidarity is evident in all areas of international life, but is much more intense in the economic and social fields where the Latin American and Caribbean countries are confronting the most difficult challenges and where common interests are most striking.

In the few years since its establishment in 1975, SELA has become an extremely useful instrument for the region in identifying these common problems, formulating strategies and strengthening the negotiating positions of its members.

Obviously, SELA's efficiency will depend largely on how its activities are co-ordinated with those of other organizations, in particular with the United Nations, and on the degree of co-operation with these organizations. We are happy to see from the report of the Secretary-General that co-operation between the United Nations and SELA has been further strengthened and broadened, both with regard to the topics and with regard to the institutions.

(Mr. Paolillo, Uruguay)

The report describes a long list of activities in which the agencies mentioned have worked together, including some of the issues which are at present of the greatest concern to the countries of the region, for example, multilateral trade negotiations, services, the environment and food security.

Co-operation between the United Nations and SELA has therefore become stronger in the past year and everything seems to indicate that it will be developed in depth and extended to other programmes, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. In the context of this broad co-operation attention should be drawn to the many aspects on which SELA is acting in conjunction with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the technical and financial support given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The main objective of the draft resolution now submitted to the General Assembly for adoption is to propose measures for the continuance and deepening of the co-operation and reciprocal support between the two institutions. Accordingly, the respective secretariats are requested to proceed together to identify areas in which co-operation between the two institutions can be extended and consultations can begin with a view to drafting an agreement on co-operation between them.

Assured of the co-operation of all the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations and programmes, SELA will undoubtedly become stronger and at the same time continue to be able to use its resources in the most efficient way. Therefore, we trust that, as has happened in the case of similar draft resolutions at previous sessions of the General Assembly, this session will adopt by consensus draft resolution A/44/L.8, which is before it today.

Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a paradox that, at a time when the democratic scene in Latin America and the Caribbean has become more encouraging, the region should be immersed in the most serious economic crisis in its history. The 1980s have been for all our countries a lost

(Mr. Montafio, Mexico)

decade of development, as is shown by the increasing gap between the levels and quality of life of the developing countries and those of the industrialized countries.

It is not logical that in a situation in which the industrialized world has achieved the longest period of growth in post-war years the multilateral provision for international co-operation should be constantly decreasing.

The claim that the Latin American and Caribbean countries should bear the burden of the artificial scarcity of resources is unacceptable. Justice means giving the highest priority to the improvement of the conditions of those who, in a world of inequality, have received the most unjust treatment; it also means that the developing countries should not have to bear the greatest part of the burden of the least advantaged among them. It is essential that, through international economic co-operation in trade, finance and technology, the resources of the nations with the greatest economic power be transferred to those who have had less access to the benefits of the modern economy.

Given this world situation, which is not favourable to the development objectives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, international and regional economic and technical co-operation is ever more necessary. The specific demands and priorities of the countries of the region should be the point of departure for the allocation of resources through international co-operation.

Co-operation between the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the United Nations is particularly relevant now because for 15 years SELA has been the main forum for agreement and co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since its establishment SELA has played a central role in the process of Latin American integration and a very important role in harmonization of the economic policies of the countries of the region.

(Mr. Montañó, Mexico)

The Latin American Economic System plays a fundamental part in the task of defining and seeking means of resolving the crisis in the region. We feel that this body should be the liaison body for bringing Latin American arguments on extraregional responsibility with regard to the foreign debt to the attention of international bodies. For this purpose we have stepped up contacts and meetings with international institutions, particularly in the financial area, to ensure that the countries of the region have the necessary technical and operational bases to produce viable, effective solutions to the debt problem.

For this purpose SELA has stepped up its co-operation with the United Nations in order to co-ordinate efforts towards common ends. The co-operation between SELA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has proved to be a key element in the diagnosis of the Latin American economic situation and in the analysis of specific projects in priority sectors.

The joint activities of SELA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its Fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, are particularly important in this regard. There are important ties and points of convergence between SELA, as a regional focal point for the promotion and strengthening of technical co-operation among developing countries, and the UNDP's Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. The holding of annual meetings of the directors of technical co-operation such as the one in Mexico in June, and the implementation of programmes of action and projects for technical co-operation among developing countries in specific matters are examples of the specific co-operation taking place between SELA and the United Nations in the field of technical co-operation among developing countries.

This co-operation is also reflected in the work of the SELA Action Committees. Here the support of the United Nations has been particularly significant in the working out of the Immediate Plan of Action for Central America

(Mr. Montafio, Mexico)

by the Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA), which was established in 1983 with the objective of stimulating the development of the countries of the area.

In Latin America we understand that harmonization and co-operation in this area are key elements in the solution of these problems. We appreciate the work of SELA but are aware of the need to strengthen plans for co-operation among the developing countries and the role of the United Nations in this task.

We are directing our efforts towards the search for just, lasting solutions to the economic problems of Latin America and the Caribbean. For this purpose we must use the established bodies and give multilateral harmonization and co-operation a new impetus based on an up-to-date, realistic and objective view of the changes now going on in the world and our region's need to benefit from those changes.

Mexico expresses its unswerving support of the draft resolution presented by the delegation of Peru and we hope that the Assembly will adopt it by consensus.

Mr. HERNANDEZ (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of the Dominican Republic is aware that in an ever more interdependent world it is impossible to disregard the internationalization of the problems facing our peoples in their struggle for liberation and the right to development.

When, exactly 14 years ago today, in Panama City, 25 Latin American and Caribbean delegations - and today there are 26 - signed the agreement establishing the Latin American Economic System (SELA), their most fervent desire was to avoid more frustration. We Latin Americans and Caribbeans had learned from our experience in the area of institutional plans and schemes for international relations.

Thus SELA was established to fill a vacuum in the structure of international relations in Latin America and the Caribbean caused by the lack of a genuine regional forum in which to discuss positions and take joint decisions to defend the interests of the countries there. The coming into existence of SELA as the first genuinely Latin American body of its kind simply met the need of an entire region anxious to ensure the success of its search for its own identity.

Never has it been clearer than it is today that Latin America and the Caribbean have made progress along the path of development and in so doing discovered how great the gap is between their legitimate hopes and the real possibilities that have not come to fruition.

From that perspective, the establishment of SELA tangibly reflected the region's will to build new realities and give new content to Latin American relations; at the same time, the conception of this initiative has enabled us to maintain as a constant element of our multilateral actions the principles of equality, sovereignty, solidarity and independence as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, on the basis of full respect for the economic, social and

(Mr. Hernandez, Dominican
Republic)

political systems freely chosen by the peoples and States themselves - principles that are SELA's very raison d'être.

If the responsiveness and efficiency of an international organization can be defined, inter alia, by the swiftness and agility with which a problem, a subject or a point of special interest is included in its agenda or programme of activities, it can indeed be said that SELA is an efficient body. Topics such as food security or the broader question of economic security; cases such as economic aggression against its member States; problems such as the abominable foreign debt, or new practices that are of interest, such as questions relating to the international transfer of data or international trade in services: all these can be quickly analysed in special meetings, or at least considered and discussed at high-level meetings of governmental experts and included in some biennial programmes - as has indeed been the case repeatedly - when they are the most timely and urgent.

During the forty-third session of the General Assembly, because of our Government's confidence in SELA and SELA's need for close co-operation with the United Nations, our delegation not only supported but also became a sponsor of resolution 43/5, in which the General Assembly urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to broaden and deepen its co-ordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System, as well as its participation in common efforts to harmonize action among the various regional and subregional entities in the economic field; and urged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen and broaden its support to the programme that the Permanent Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America is carrying out within the framework of the 1989-1991 work programme approved by the Latin American Council.

(Mr. Hernandez, Dominican Republic)

Today, at this forty-fourth session, the Dominican delegation has taken note with satisfaction of the Secretary-General's report (A/44/550) on co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, which states that co-operation has been further strengthened and the areas of co-operation have been expanded. My delegation reiterates its support for decision 299, approved by the Latin American Council at its fifteenth regular meeting, on co-operation between the two organizations. We are confident that this necessary co-operation between UNDP and SELA will be broadened and strengthened.

Taking all that into consideration, our delegation has again become a sponsor of a draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and SELA. We support all the provisions of the present draft resolution.

Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): One of the most appropriate means of promoting economic and social development is, without any doubt, the establishment of common objectives and policies among countries and groups of countries. Accordingly, the Latin American and Caribbean countries established the Latin American Economic System (SELA), in the context of which a process of co-ordination and consultation has been carried out and has produced good results.

My Government believes that SELA is called upon to play an even more important role than it plays at present in its two-fold capacity as the appropriate forum for internal concerted action and as the body best suited to represent the interests of member countries in their contacts with third countries or organizations of States.

For those reasons the Government of Ecuador will continue to extend its entire support and most enthusiastic co-operation to SELA.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

In addition, Ecuador believes that it is essential for general progress and development that the existing agencies dealing with similar matters establish among themselves co-operation and assistance machinery. That is why Ecuador is sponsoring, as it has done in previous years, a draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

The reports submitted each year by the Secretary-General on this item have enabled to realize not only the good effects or results of such interinstitutional co-operation, but also the great possibilities of broadening such co-operation between the United Nations and SELA. That is why the draft resolution on this item, which Ecuador has joined in sponsoring, while it follows the parameters of resolution 43/5, adopted in 1988, on this occasion requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to initiate consultations for the purpose of drafting an agreement of mutual co-operation. Indeed, the time has come for the two bodies to formalize and institutionalize their co-operation for the benefit of their member States.

For that reason my delegation fully supports the draft resolution before us and hopes that it will be adopted without vote.

Mr. BLACKBURN (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): Colombia, in its capacity as current President of the Latin American Council, expresses resolute support for the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and all the efforts to strengthen the co-operation between the System and international organizations at the world, regional and subregional levels, and in particular co-operation with the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

During its 14 years of existence SELA has built an institutional infrastructure directed towards regional co-operation which members countries have used and strengthened in spite of the difficulties of all kinds they have faced in the past decade.

In accordance with resolution 43/5, adopted by the forty-third session of the General Assembly, SELA has undertaken a number of activities in co-operation with various organizations and bodies within the United Nations, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT. These activities are described in the Secretary-General's report, in accordance with the resolution to which I have just referred. In addition, the report points out that in many cases co-operation has become more permanent through various agreements and conventions.

In the context of its new philosophy, SELA seeks to serve as a centre for supporting the economic co-ordination activities of the countries of the region. For that reason, it is particularly important to broaden and strengthen the co-operation between the United Nations system and SELA, with a view to carrying

(Mr. Blackburn, Colombia)

out initiatives of particular importance to the countries members of the system, such as the implementation of the Latin American Programme for Technical Assistance and exchanges of information on external debt, as well as other projects related to industrial development and the application of scientific and technological progress to the region.

An essential aspect of the strengthening of such co-operation would be co-operation between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and SELA, which have in common a number of fields of work and the regional dimension of their action and which, at the same time, have complementary activities.

I think it is relevant that the Latin American Council, at its 15th Meeting, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 25 July to 1 August 1989, adopted decision 299, entitled "Co-operation between the Latin American Economic System and the United Nations". In that decision it was agreed to request

"the Permanent Secretariat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/5 and in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to promote the holding of a meeting in 1989 between their respective Secretariats, with the aim of identifying those areas in which it will be possible to broaden co-operation between the Latin American Economic System and the United Nations system".

For all those reasons Colombia supports the draft resolution now before the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/44/L.8.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/44/L.8 was adopted (resolution 44/4).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 24.

AGENDA ITEM 3 (continued)

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- (a) REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (A/44/639)
- (b) AMENDMENT (A/44/L.9)

The PRESIDENT: I invite members to turn their attention to the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 20 of its report (A/44/639). It reads:

"The General Assembly

"Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee."

The Assembly also has before it an amendment to that draft resolution. The amendment has been submitted by a number of States and is contained in document A/44/L.9.

I call on the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to introduce the amendment.

Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Arab Group, of which I have the honour to be Chairman for the month of October, I wish to introduce the amendment contained in document A/44/L.9.

Before doing so, however, I would refer to document A/44/644, a letter addressed to the Secretary-General by the Chairman of the Arab Group in which the members of the Group state their objections to the credentials of the delegation of Israel. I would refer also to document A/44/638, containing the reservations of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group and on behalf of the Member States that have sponsored the amendment challenging the credentials of the Israeli

(Mr. Treiki, Libyan
Arab Jamahiriya)

delegation to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly - Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen - and on behalf of Palestine and two States that have joined in sponsoring the amendment, Cuba and the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish at the outset to review the legal and political considerations in this case.

The Israeli delegation's credentials have no legal validity. More than 41 years have passed since Israel was admitted to the United Nations. Since then it has decisively proved that it is not a peace-loving State. It continuously violates the principles of the Charter, in particular Article 4. Israel has not carried out its obligations. Furthermore, it has disregarded and undermined all the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. I have in mind in particular resolution ES-9/1, of 5 February 1982, which notes that

"... Israel's record and actions establish conclusively that it is not a peace-loving Member State and that it has not carried out its obligations under the Charter". (resolution ES-9/1, para. 11)

That resolution in itself proves that Israel has not carried out its obligations under the Charter. It proves also that Israel does not meet the Charter requirement of being able and willing to carry out those obligations. Thus, Israel is not a peace-loving State and is not entitled to membership of the United Nations.

In the light of all that, we object to the acceptance of the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. We base our objections on the following points.

(Mr. Treiki, Libyan
Arab Jamahiriya)

First, Israel continues to refuse to implement Security Council resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, in all their aspects. In so doing, it violates Article 25 of the Charter, which states that

"The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter".

Secondly, Israel refuses to implement the General Assembly resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, resolutions that call for the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including the right of return, the right to self-determination, and the right to establish an independent State in Palestine; and which also call for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, in accordance with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Consequently, the resolutions call for the immediate withdrawal by Israel from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Furthermore, Israel has refused to implement the General Assembly resolutions on other aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, in violation of its obligations under international conventions, treaties and other instruments of international law, and in spite of the fact that the second paragraph of the preamble to the Charter requires that it carry out those obligations.

(Mr. Treiki, Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya)

Thirdly, there is the violation by Israel of human rights in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the violation of the rules of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. We refer here to the escalation of brutal, daily repression of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories and the populations in the other occupied Arab lands, where more than 800 people have been martyred and the number of detainees exceeds 35,000. This is in addition to the deportation of Arab citizens from those territories, which has continued since the beginning of the Palestinian intifadah against the Israeli occupation, and the mass destruction of the houses and homes of the Palestinians.

Fourthly, Israel has continued its annexation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan, in violation of the principles of the Charter and of international law, and has persisted in its aggression against Arab States. It has enlarged the area of its aggression to include Lebanon, Iraq and Tunisia in contravention of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states that all States have the duty to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

v. Israel continues to co-operate with the racist régime in South Africa, especially in the nuclear field and in the development of conventional weapons and medium- and long-range missiles, thus posing a threat to the peace and security of the entire African continent.

Sixthly, the fact that the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly were issued in the occupied City of

(Mr. Treiki, Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya)

Jerusalem constitutes a violation of Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 478 (1980), and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 35/169 E, of 15 December 1980.

In conclusion, it is incumbent on me to refer to a session some years ago when our Assembly rejected the credentials of the Government of South Africa. That was a precedent that had two fundamental implications: first, it refuted the view of those who call for rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the submission of credentials, to be applied literally; secondly, the credentials were contested for reasons related to the Government of South Africa's violation of the principles of the Charter and of international law, and this applies categorically to Israel. This precedent, of which you, Mr. President, are fully cognizant, is a principle that should be followed in rejecting the credentials of the Israeli delegation.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Denmark who has asked to speak on a point of order.

Mr. MORTENSEN (Denmark): I would like to raise a point of order on behalf of the five Nordic countries - Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark - in connection with the amendment in document A/44/L.9, which has just been introduced by my colleague from Libya. The amendment proposes rejection of the credentials of the representatives of Israel.

On behalf of the Nordic countries, I formally move that no action be taken on the amendment and I ask you, Mr. President, to put this motion immediately to a vote. The motion is made within the terms of rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

The five Nordic countries wish to emphasize that our motion is motivated by our dedication to upholding the capacity and the authority of the United Nations to

(Mr. Mortensen, Denmark)

act in fulfilment of its primary purpose, the maintenance of international peace and security.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of Denmark has moved, within the terms of rule 74 of the rules of procedure, that no action be taken on the amendment circulated in document A/44/L.9. Rule 74 reads, in part, as follows:

"During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote."

I shall now put to the vote the motion submitted by the representative of Denmark that no action be taken on the amendment in document A/44/L.9. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Haiti, India, Madagascar, Poland, Rwanda, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

The motion was adopted by 95 votes to 37, with 15 abstentions.*

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Egypt, who wishes to explain his vote. I remind him that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

* Subsequently the delegations of Bangladesh, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegations of Afghanistan and Oman had intended to vote against; the delegation of Ghana had intended to abstain.

Mr. BADANI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): The delegation of my country would like to place on record the following points: First, support for the procedural motion by Denmark is consistent with Egypt's position in the context of efforts made to find a settlement of the Middle East question and to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian problem, since we encourage negotiations between all the parties and their participation, on an equal footing, in the International Conference.

Secondly, Egypt's position with respect to a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem confirms the imperative need for Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967 and for the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people to be met. Foremost, among those demands is the achievement of that people's right to self-determination.

Thirdly, in working energetically to find such a settlement, Egypt believes that the circumstances which would encourage the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to work for such a settlement should be established in the region.

Hence, Egypt once again condemns all the occupation authority's activities in the occupied territories - the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan - since they are contrary to international norms and law.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those delegations that wish to speak in explanation of vote on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee.

Mr. KHAMSY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the State of Cambodia, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and my own country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

We regret to note that this year the Credentials Committee has again validated

(Mr. Khamsy, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

the presence in our Assembly of the representatives of the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. That so-called Coalition Government, whose main component is represented by the clique of the genocidal Pol Pot régime, which has been rejected by all the Kampuchean people and which is universally condemned, does not deserve to be represented in our Organization. Moreover, it has no headquarters or capital and controls practically no viable territory in the country.

On the other hand, the Government of the State of Cambodia, with its headquarters in Phnom Penh, the capital, was formed as the result of regular legislative elections and exercises the full prerogatives of power over all Cambodian territory. Hence, we feel that the place reserved for the country in the United Nations should rightfully be taken by that Government.

However, in a spirit of greater accommodation and in view of the recent positive developments in the situation in our region, and in particular in the expectation that the Paris International Conference on Cambodia will be reconvened, it would be wiser for our Organization to opt for the vacant-seat policy with respect to the representation of Kampuchea. In so doing, our Organization would be making a significant contribution to the praiseworthy efforts now under way to find a political solution acceptable to all the Cambodian parties concerned.

For those reasons I ask the Assembly, on behalf of the delegations and Governments of the countries that I have mentioned, to record our strictest reservations on the report of the Credentials Committee, particularly with respect to the representation of Kampuchea, or Cambodia, at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly of our Organization.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan): In pursuit of the positions taken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference and keeping in view the realities of the situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan continues to adhere to its policy of withholding recognition of the régime in Kabul, which does not enjoy the support of the people of Afghanistan.

In the light of what I have just said, in respect of the report of the Credentials Committee contained in document A/44/639, dated 13 October 1989, now before the General Assembly, my delegation wishes to record its formal reservations on the credentials of the delegation representing Afghanistan at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): On behalf of the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and on behalf of my own delegation, I should like to state that the aforementioned countries oppose the acceptance of the credentials of the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly and at the Assembly's special session on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, and support the restoration of the legitimate rights of the State of Cambodia in the United Nations.

At the same time, given the changes now taking place in the Cambodian situation, we feel that the General Assembly could leave Cambodia's place in the United Nations vacant pending the completion of the inter-Khmer dialogue and the formation of a new Government in Cambodia. Such a step would doubtless contribute to progress in the search for a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem.

Mr. HOQIUQ (Afghanistan): The representative of Pakistan has made baseless and slanderous allegations with regard to the credentials of my delegation. We categorically reject these allegations, which are obviously unfounded and devoid of any substance.

The State of the Republic of Afghanistan, as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations and an active member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, draws its legitimacy from the sovereign will of the Afghan people, who have expressed that will through their traditional Loya Jirgah - that is, the Grand Assembly - which adopted the Constitution of the country and elected the President of the Republic.

These assertions can in no way contribute to the peace process in Afghanistan and in the region.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now take action on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee set forth in paragraph 20 of its first report (A/44/639).

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/5).

The PRESIDENT: I call now on representatives who wish to explain their position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. SON SANN (Democratic Kampuchea) (interpretation from French): Our Assembly has just adopted unanimously without a vote the first report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of the representatives of the States Members of the United Nations to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. In so doing, it has solemnly confirmed once again the validity of the credentials of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea to the present session and its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Cambodian people and of Democratic Kampuchea, a State Member of the United Nations.

I therefore wish, on behalf of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Head of the Cambodian National Resistance and President of Democratic Kampuchea, of our Coalition Government and of our people, to reiterate to the Assembly our profound and heartfelt gratitude for this act of justice and exemplary solidarity, which does it great honour and justifies in every respect the prestige and the growing audience which the world Organization enjoys at the present time and its irreplaceable role in the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

For my country, Cambodia, the victim of Vietnamese invasion and occupation for 11 years, the United Nations is and will remain the moral guardian of international order based on respect for the sacred principles in the Charter, the last resort against the law of the strongest, namely, those who use force or the threat of

(Mr. Son Sann, Democratic
Kampuchea)

force in international relations, in particular against smaller and weaker neighbouring States.

In the case of Democratic Kampuchea, since 1979 the General Assembly has continued admirably to defend the principles of the Charter, firmly opposing every attempt by Viet Nam to usurp Democratic Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations for the benefit of the régime that it installed by force in Phnom-Penh. This year in particular our Assembly has categorically declared inadmissible another even more insidious manoeuvre aimed at leaving the seat of Democratic Kampuchea in our Organization vacant. If by chance such machinations were successful not only would the fundamental principles of our Organization be called into question but also and in particular the valiant and tireless, efforts of countries that cherish peace and justice to settle the entire so-called problem of Kampuchea on the basis of the two principles in the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the situation in Kampuchea. Those principles are, first, the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, under international supervision and control, and, secondly, the exercise of the inalienable right of the Cambodian people to self-determination without foreign interference.

All countries committed to peace and justice, which support our just cause, cannot but rejoice, with our people and its Coalition Government, at this new decision by our Assembly. The Cambodian people and its Coalition Government, find in this immense encouragement yet another reason to believe that, with the powerful support of our Assembly, the Cambodian National Resistance, under the leadership of His Royal Highness Samedch Norodom Sihanouk, will in the end recover for Cambodia its status as an independent, neutral and non-aligned State, with territorial integrity.

(Mr. Son Sann, Democratic
Kampuchea)

In conclusion, our country, like all countries committed to peace and justice, sincerely hopes that Viet Nam will finally realize that no matter how it persists in pursuing its colonialist and expansionist policy in Kampuchea and in our region it will never be able to undermine the determination of our Assembly to support to the utmost the people of Cambodia and its Coalition Government in their sacred struggle to restore independence and freedom to Cambodia. Consequently, to spare our people, as well as the Vietnamese people, further suffering and misfortune, it is time for the authorities in Hanoi to put an end without further delay to the tragic situation in Cambodia so that in peace and independence the good-neighbourly relations between our two peoples and countries may be restored in the interest of the peace and stability of South-East Asia.

Mr. EUM (United Kingdom): The fact that my delegation has raised no challenge to the credentials of the delegation of Afghanistan should not be taken to imply that the British Government will deal with the present régime in Kabul on a Government-to-Government basis.

I should also make it clear that our acceptance of the recommendation of the Credentials Committee in respect of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea certainly does not signify any intention on the part of the British Government to contribute to the re-establishment of the Pol Pot régime, from which we withdrew recognition in December 1979.

I should like to reaffirm that my Government has no wish to see the return to power of the abhorrent Pol Pot and his close associates; nor does our policy in any way imply support for the Khmer Rouge.

Mrs. GARCIA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Cuba regrets that once again the credentials of so-called Democratic Kampuchea have been accepted, in an attempt to deny the existence of the State of Cambodia. Our

(Mrs. Garcia, Cuba)

delegation would like to reiterate once again our belief that only the legitimate representatives of the Government of the State of Cambodia should have the sovereign right to represent the interests of their people here at the United Nations.

Mr. BRAUTIGAM (Federal Republic of Germany): I should like to put on record our position on the credentials of the delegation of Afghanistan. Our vote in favour of the report of the Credentials Committee does not imply that we recognize the legitimacy of the régime in Kabul.

I should also like to explain that in accepting the Credentials Committee's recommendation in respect of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea we did not intend to support in any way the return to power of the horrifying Pol Pot régime.

Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Belgium joined in the consensus on the report presented by the Credentials Committee. My delegation would nevertheless like, to clarify in two respects, the exact import of its position.

First, that position should not be interpreted as implicit recognition of the present régime in Kabul. Secondly, with regard to the credentials of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, Belgium joined in the consensus because it refuses to agree to a Government's being put in place as the result of a violation by a State of the territorial integrity of another State.

(Mr. Noterdaeme, Belgium)

None the less, Belgium categorically condemns the odious Khmer Rouge régime and the countless atrocities of which it is guilty.

Moreover, Belgium would not wish its position today to be interpreted as support - even implicit support - for a return to power by the Khmer Rouge régime.

Mr. ERDENECHULJUN (Mongolia): The Mongolian delegation went along with the draft resolution just adopted by the General Assembly approving the report of the Credentials Committee, but we should like to place it on record that this in no way implies recognition of the credentials of the representatives of so-called Democratic Kampuchea. It is unfair that this entity is allowed to occupy Cambodia's seat in this world body, thus hampering resolution of the tension in a part of the South-East Asian region. My delegation's position stems from the consistent policy of the Mongolian Government in regard to the Cambodian issue.

Mr. OSMAN (Somalia): Somalia joined in the consensus for the adoption of this report, on the understanding that Somalia's name would be listed in the report among the names of the members that have submitted credentials in accordance with rule 27 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure. Somalia has indeed submitted credentials in accordance with that rule. We hope that this will be reflected in a supplement submitted to the General Assembly at a later stage.

Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation continues to take the position it has taken during previous sessions of the General Assembly regarding the credentials of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea.

Ms. CHAN (Singapore): At this meeting we have heard some representatives put forward the fallacious argument that Cambodia's United Nations seat should be left vacant. The delegations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations are of the view that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea

(Ms. Chan, Singapore)

is the legitimate Government of Cambodia. It was overthrown by a foreign military invasion, in clear contravention of the United Nations Charter. Until the effects of that invasion can be reversed, Democratic Kampuchea should retain its seat at the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea is waging a struggle to liberate the country. To reverse the effects of the invasion, two conditions must be fulfilled. First, there must be an internationally supervised and verified total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. Secondly, the Cambodian people must be allowed to express their political choice through an act of self-determination by means of internationally supervised, free elections. Although Viet Nam has announced its withdrawal, this withdrawal has yet to be verified by any credible international agency. Moreover, the Cambodian people have yet to be given an opportunity to exercise freely their right to self-determination.

Until a political settlement is reached in Cambodia, Democratic Kampuchea should maintain its United Nations seat, for several reasons. First, retention of the seat is coterminous with the defence of certain fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. If Democratic Kampuchea is denied its seat, that will be tantamount to saying that it is permissible for a militarily powerful State to invade a weaker neighbour and to install a government that will do its bidding. If Democratic Kampuchea is denied its seat, the policy of might will have prevailed. There will be no incentive for Viet Nam to negotiate seriously to achieve a durable and peaceful settlement, and the various peace negotiations that are currently under way will be undercut. Finally, if Democratic Kampuchea is denied its seat, that will be tantamount to punishing the victim and rewarding the aggressor, thus making a mockery of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. YU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation supports the proposal of the Credentials Committee on acceptance of the credentials of the countries referred to in the Committee's report, including Democratic Kampuchea. The Chinese delegation reiterates that the coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea is the sole legal Government of Kampuchea and the genuine representative of the Kampuchean people. The Heng Samrin régime, which is propped up by the forces of foreign aggression, can in no way represent the people of that country. The Chinese delegation recommends that the General Assembly accept the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea. That is the position of the Chinese Government.

Mr. DORANI (Djibouti) (interpretation from French): Although Djibouti submitted its credentials to the Secretary-General, it is not included in the list in paragraph 4 of the Credentials Committee's report. We hope that this fact will be reflected in the verbatim record.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation wishes to state that it endorsed the report of the Credentials Committee in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure.

With regard to the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea, my delegation maintains the position it has adopted in previous years: we do not accept having a régime imposed from outside through military occupation - in violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea - established and maintained for so many years by Viet Nam.

My delegation shares the hopes expressed here by many delegations that Democratic Kampuchea will be able to exercise its right to self-determination.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote. We have thus concluded our consideration of the first report of the Credentials Committee.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.