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Chairman: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT EARTHQUAKES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the members of the Committee, expressed sympathy to the Governments of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China in connection with the recent earthquakes in their countries.
2. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) and Mr. CAHILL (United States of America) thanked the Chairman for the expression of sympathy.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

- (c) **CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (continued)** (A/44/266 and Add.1 and 2, A/44/379)
- (d) **EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued)** (A/44/290; ST/CSDHA/6)

Draft resolution on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States
(A/C.2/44/L.9)

3. Mr. HUSSEIN (Malaysia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.9 on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of 77, explained that despite the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the economic situation of developing countries had worsened steadily. All States were requested to take tangible measures in order to ensure that the Charter was fully implemented, and the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the progress achieved in that respect.

Draft resolution on the integration of women in development (A/C.2/44/L.10)

4. Ms. WESTPHALEN (Finland), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.10 on behalf of its sponsors, noted that social and economic development in the 1980s had not benefited women, even though they made a major contribution to economic activity. Their potential must be taken into account in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. It would also be necessary to continue elaborating gender-specific data and indicators on the role of women in development and, above all, to monitor statistics taking into account the remunerated and non-remunerated contribution of women to development. Lastly, the 1991 report on operational activities for development should include a chapter on efforts undertaken by the United Nations in order to integrate women in development.
5. Ms. WILDE (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of both New Zealand and Australia, said it was already clear that the impetus given by the Nairobi Conference had flagged in all three priority areas. That was particularly true in the area of

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(Ms. Wilde, New Zealand)

development. It was well known that Africa and Latin America had experienced nearly a decade of economic decline. For many women the balance sheet for the 1980s reflected impoverishment, and a time when economic progress had stopped, social progress had slowed and social well-being had deteriorated. Poor women and children were often those most seriously affected by decreases in public expenditure in such vital areas as health, education or the social support services. Adjustment policies must be handled with care, because of the vulnerability, inequalities and discrimination which already existed.

6. It was known that women performed two thirds of the work in the world and that they were heads of one third of the world's households. However, in many cases, their work was not included anywhere in the statements of the gross national product of either the developing or the developed countries. And yet, as indicated in the 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, there was a direct link between women's daily lives and national and international economic conditions. The effective mobilization and integration of women in the development process would be crucial. Women were a major force for change. It was time to encourage them to use their talents and to recognize them as genuine partners in the development of their communities and nations. Neglecting the role of women would entail economic and social costs for all, because of the inextricable link between the development of a country and the work which women performed. So-called development projects often added to the burden on women. The fuel crisis was one example. Deforestation meant that women had to walk further in order to gather firewood, but using animal dung as fuel instead of wood aggravated the smoke problem, which mainly affected women. Thus, the fuel shortage threatened their health, their basic customs of life and a whole range of income-generating activities. In the developed countries, where the standard of living was higher, women's work was often marginalized by decision makers themselves.

7. Australia and New Zealand attached great importance to gender-specific research and data, which helped to reveal the often hidden role of women. Through the dissemination of such information, pre-conceptions could be changed and appropriate areas for specific action could be identified. Both countries supported the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). The statistics compiled by the Institute effectively highlighted the role of women in their countries' economies. That role must be taken into account from the very earliest stages of project design and economic planning. While women must be brought into the mainstream of the economy, such integration must not take place only at the macro-economic level, but also in day-to-day life - in other words, at the micro-economic level. Development projects must be attuned to women's specific needs, particularly in the areas of literacy, training, health and, more generally, with respect to their productive roles. In that connection, mention must be made of the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

8. Development education was an integral part of the development assistance programmes of Australia and New Zealand. Such education helped to generate an understanding of the causes and structures of underdevelopment and of poverty. The two countries were also implementing various projects for the participation of

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(Ms. Wilde, New Zealand)

women in development in Indonesia, in Fiji, in the Solomon Islands, in Papua New Guinea and, more generally, in the Pacific region. Australia and New Zealand were convinced that they must attempt to tap the underutilized potential of women in order to find solutions to the problems of environment and sustainable development.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/44/3, A/44/139, A/44/206 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/44/217, A/44/229, A/44/235, A/44/255, A/44/264, A/44/273, A/44/274 and Add.1, A/44/276, A/44/277, A/44/278, A/44/284, A/44/315, A/44/338, A/44/340, A/44/355, A/44/361, A/44/376, A/44/379, A/44/401, A/44/486, A/44/598; A/C.2/44/L.3).

9. Mr. LEMERLE (France), speaking on behalf of the European Community, stressed the need for continued consultations in order to decide on the agenda for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation. Similarly, the vital question of the 1992 conference on environment and development must be considered in greater depth.

10. He referred briefly to the question of the co-ordination of emergency disaster relief, dealt with in Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/99, and to the question of controlling acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), dealt with in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/108.

11. Unfortunately, the triennial policy review of operational activities for development had not been completed, and it was to be hoped that during the current session of the General Assembly, all Member States would carefully study the reports of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the question.

12. The Economic and Social Council had adopted resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 on the revitalization of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Efforts must be continued in order to ensure the full implementation of such resolutions, drawing to that end, on the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning various adjustments to be made. Moreover, practical measures relating to documentation and the organization of work must not be overlooked. It was particularly regrettable that the report of the Economic and Social Council had not been distributed on time.

13. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said that he regretted not having had time to give full consideration to the report of the Economic and Social Council, but that, on the whole, he was satisfied with the work accomplished by the Council. The Council's second regular session of 1989 had been productive, and its main theme had been aptly chosen. In addition to its usual agenda, the Council had also considered the new international development strategy. Some questions, however, had been left pending.

14. Regional co-operation was attracting more and more attention. It was to be hoped that regional integration would not have a harmful impact on interregional co-operation and would not create a fortress of protectionism. Moreover, the trends in the world economy which might have a serious impact on regional co-operation should be followed closely. The resolution on the African Alternative

(Mr. Wang Baoliu, China)

Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation was particularly important.

15. It was regrettable that, at its second regular session, the Council had not been able to discuss some of the questions related to the environment in depth, or undertake the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, because the documents had not been ready in time. The discussion of those items would have to be continued at the current session of the General Assembly.

16. Since the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77, there had been some improvement in the working methods and efficiency of the Council, but further measures should be taken to implement the resolution fully, and in particular, to ensure the timely distribution of sessional documents, as stipulated in resolution 1989/114, adopted by the Council at its second regular session.

17. Mrs. PERKOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the discussion at the Council's second regular session of 1989 of structural changes and imbalances in the world economy and their impact on international economic co-operation had been very useful since it had emphasized the need to strengthen such co-operation in order to solve world economic problems. The debate had emphasized that the convening of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation and the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade offered important opportunities to achieve that goal.

18. The Council had adopted several very useful resolutions and decisions, but she regretted that it had not been possible to reach a consensus on resolution 1989/112 on the net transfer of resources from developing countries and its impact on their economic growth and development.

19. Much attention had been devoted to the environment and the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development. The adoption by consensus of Economic and Social Council decision 1989/101 was an important achievement, as was the adoption of resolution 1989/88 on food and agriculture.

20. The adoption by consensus of resolution 1989/114 reflected the interest and resolve of Member States in their continuing efforts to rationalize the work of the Council and enhance its effectiveness. The improvement of the Council's working methods must be a continuous process so as to enable the Council to carry out the responsibilities assigned to it by the Charter of the United Nations.

21. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that for four years the United Nations had been making efforts to adapt its working methods to the new developments in international relations, particularly in the economic, scientific and technological, social and humanitarian fields. It should now play a more active role in ensuring more stable and predictable international economic relations by focusing on fundamental problems, such as the interrelationship between disarmament and development, the guarantee of international economic security, the assurance of equality and the eradication of discrimination in

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(Mr. Zachmann, German Democratic Republic)

international economic relations, the elimination of economic and social underdevelopment, the settlement of the debt crisis and the protection of the environment, in the spirit of the aide-memoire on the strengthening of the preventive functions of the United Nations (A/44/602) submitted by the Soviet Union.

22. International economic relations had been at the centre of the debate at the Council's second regular session of 1989. The consideration of that issue on the basis of the World Economic Survey, 1989, the report of the Secretary-General on international economic security and the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, and the outlining of a general framework for the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, the international development strategy and a 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development should strengthen the role of the Council as the chief organization of the United Nations system for international economic and social co-operation.

23. The resolutions on the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and monitoring of world economic developments and on strengthening multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs (Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/85 and 1989/111) helped to define the concept of international economic security. It was now necessary to work out the practical steps for the effective organization of international economic security.

24. The issue of human resources development was central to the Organization's activities in the economic and social field and was also crucial to the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. Council resolution 1989/120 on the development of human resources laid the necessary groundwork for the continuation of United Nations activities in that area, to be co-ordinated by the Council. The request made to the Secretary-General to speed up the drafting in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of a usable definition of human resources development and, in particular, to strengthen the operational activities of the United Nations had been aimed at increasing the effectiveness of human resources development programmes within all organizations of the United Nations system under the responsibility of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development. It was to be hoped that the Director-General and the Secretary-General would use their regular reports to the Council and the General Assembly on operational activities and the world social situation as an opportunity to submit recommendations for the continuation and intensification of those activities.

25. Urgent efforts were needed to increase the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Council's co-ordinating function if it was to be revitalized. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had been called upon to submit proposals for a concrete approach to the task of revitalization at the next organizational session of the Council, in February 1990. Those proposals should, preferably, be put forward sufficiently in advance to enable Member States and specialized agencies to prepare properly for the ensuing discussion. In particular, it was necessary to examine ways of

(Mr. Zachmann, German Democratic Republic)

enhancing the effectiveness of the Council's Third Committee. That required, above all, the setting of a limit to the range of issues submitted to it for consideration. It had not been possible to give in-depth consideration to the substantive documents on the World Decade for Cultural Development, on marine affairs, on Marine research and the work of the World Tourism Organization. The situation could be remedied by reducing the agenda of the Third Committee and by taking account of co-ordination problems when discussing sectoral questions in the First Committee.

26. The operational activities of the United Nations were gaining in importance since they showed how the socio-economic infrastructures of the developing countries could be improved. It was therefore more important than ever to ensure the efficient co-ordination of those activities. It was to be hoped that the 1989 session of the General Assembly would make possible the completion of work undertaken in that area by the Council.

27. Programme planning and budgeting remained at the core of co-ordination efforts, and it was therefore necessary to organize the work of ACC and the joint ACC/CPC meetings in such a way that they complied with the provisions of resolution 1989/114 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council.

28. Mr. CAKPO-TOZO (Benin) expressed the hope that the document entitled "African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation" would be given particularly close attention by all delegations.

29. Efforts to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system required the rationalization of co-operation methods and simplification of co-operation mechanisms, provided, however, that financial considerations did not take precedence over attention to development of problems and needs.

30. There were grounds to question the efficiency of the procedure and methods adopted by the United Nations system in general and the Economic and Social Council in particular to heighten the international community's awareness of the fragility of the economies of the developing countries and to stimulate the international economic environment. The developing countries remained in a state of worsening crisis while the industrialized countries had entered a phase of long-term growth.

31. Equipped with substantial financial, economic and technological resources, the industrialized countries had made a concerted effort to improve the climate of economic relations obtaining between them to their own advantage by endeavouring to ensure that those relations would not be affected by normal commercial competition. They were in a position to grant developing countries the necessary assistance for the recovery programmes mounted in those countries to eliminate famine and poverty and to lay the foundations for lasting development. No strategy could ensure the smooth transition to the year 2000 unless it incorporated the will of mankind to steer that course in the spirit of solidarity, and that would imply major changes both in the way people thought and behaved and at the level of material resources.

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(Mr. Cakpo-Tozo, Benin)

32. International co-operation was the common concern of all. The industrialized countries were well aware that the development of the third world would not necessarily entail the loss of their markets. On the contrary, technological advances would enable them to explore new possibilities for the good of the entire human race. It was to be hoped that the special session devoted to international economic co-operation would provide an opportunity for Member States to undertake an in-depth examination of co-operation mechanisms, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness. The session would make it possible to define policies and financing possibilities which would enable the developing countries to eliminate poverty and suffering and to embark on a true process of economic development and growth.

33. The States Members of the United Nations should endeavor to ensure that resolutions were followed by effective implementation measures, failing which they would have no merit other than to recall the lasting nature of the problems. Thus, the international community had repeatedly been invited to provide special economic assistance to the least developed countries, including Benin, but unfortunately, the organization of round-table meetings of contributors had not been followed by the flow of funds. Benin was undergoing an unprecedented social and economic depression, which was affecting sectors essential to development. Its severe financial difficulties had led specifically to the total paralysis of the educational system. Benin had embarked on a structural adjustment process recommended by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and was restructuring its banking and financial system and implementing staff cutbacks in public and semi-public enterprises which were generating acute social tensions. The situation could become untenable if Benin did not receive additional financial resources.

34. He hoped that the report on assistance to Benin which the Secretary-General was to submit to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/211 would take his country's economic and social difficulties into account and would contain proposals conducive to the mobilization of the necessary financial resources for its economic and social recovery.

35. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the realities of the interdependence of all countries dictated the necessity for concerted efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the Economic and Social Council and to give its activities in the field of international economic relations a more specific direction. In that regard it was necessary for the States Members of the United Nations and the Secretariat to follow up the recommendations contained in resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. In particular it was necessary to provide a secretariat support for the Council, as referred to in paragraph 26 of the resolution, without putting additional financial strain on the Organization's regular budget.

36. If the role of the Economic and Social Council was to be enhanced and its working method - especially those of its subsidiary bodies - were to be improved, it was also necessary to make an effective division of responsibilities between the

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(Mr. Pashkevich, Byelorussian SSR)

Council and the General Assembly. One of the important functions of the Economic and Social Council concerned the co-ordination of the activity of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields. That co-ordination could be strengthened in close connection with the improvement of the activity of ACC and CPC.

37. His delegation attached great importance to Council resolutions 1989/85, 1989/111 and 1989/110. Resolution 1989/85 specified four basic measures which should enable the United Nations to improve its analytical and forecasting activities on a co-ordinated basis. That would make it possible to keep the international economic community better informed about disturbing new developments observed in the world economy and to prepare recommendations aimed at remedying the unfavourable consequences of the negative trends identified. It would thus be possible to strengthen the preventive functions of the United Nations in the economic field, to make international economic relations stable and predictable and to ensure the economic security of States in the context of the interdependence by co-ordinating their long-term interests.

38. In his report on international economic security (A/44/217) the Secretary-General mentioned in particular the need to strengthen and adapt existing monetary, financial and trade régimes to benefit all participants in international economic exchanges. The adoption of concrete measures for international economic security assumed rejection of a confrontational approach in favour of one promoting international economic relations. States must also refrain from using coercion in economic relations.

39. Regarding the development of human resources, addressed in resolution 1989/120, a country's successful development depended on the efforts made with respect to vocational training, and on the creation of political and socio-economic conditions encouraging the spirit of initiative of all members of society. The success of the restructuring policy in his country could be attributed to the fact that in all segments of society it had highly qualified personnel who could perform all kinds of technical and economic tasks. The restructuring would make it possible to establish a viable economic mechanism which would free creative energy previously fettered by the centralized management system.

40. There was an increasingly urgent need to devise international legal rules to govern the activities of transnational corporations. In that connection, his delegation deplored the considerable delay in formulating a code of conduct for transnational corporations. Moreover, it attached great importance to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/10 on permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

41. Ms. HJELT (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that AIDS would long continue to be an immense world-wide public health problem, especially in many developing countries. During the next decade, several million AIDS cases could no doubt be expected world-wide as 6 million or more people had been infected during the 1980s. Sub-Saharan Africa alone could account for 1 to 2 million cases. HIV transmission must be reduced, and at the same time, those

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(Ms. Hjelt, Sweden)

suffering from various AIDS-related diseases must receive care. The need for resources should also increase dramatically due to the growing number of people infected and increasing treatment possibilities, including not only new anti-retroviral therapies but also more established therapies for the fatal complications of the syndrome such as cancer, tuberculosis or pneumonia. The gap between rich and poor was likely to widen, and the prevalence of HIV infection in impoverished groups called for the establishment of a public health system and a social insurance system providing those groups with care and preventive techniques. The need for health education, particularly for the young, could not be overemphasized.

42. The economic crisis, especially in the least developed countries, had caused a deterioration in public health and education. Those countries should nevertheless introduce programmes to combat the spread of AIDS. The number of AIDS deaths could equal or exceed the number of deaths from all other causes in the most affected urban areas by the early 1990s. The fact that the disease struck mainly young and middle-aged adults would have extremely grave economic and social consequences. It was essential that the international community should support the establishment of social and educational infrastructure and programmes to combat AIDS through additional concessional flows of resources. New and probably expensive drugs must be made available in developing countries as they were developed, and the search for a vaccine should be strongly encouraged.

43. The pandemic highlighted the urgent need to promote social development, long advocated by the Nordic countries, especially with regard to education and the status of women. In many areas of the world, the infection affected women and men equally. Prostitution, an unavoidable consequence of poverty, was an evil contributing directly to the worsening of the problem. The high rate of seroprevalence among pregnant women could bring about a disastrous increase in child mortality rates. All patients, HIV carriers, and members of generally high-risk groups, should be protected against any form of discrimination, in the spirit of United Nations declarations on human, social and economic rights. No strategy to combat AIDS could be effective if it allowed for measures leading to discrimination. In some areas, more than half of the intravenous drug addicts were already infected. And yet, drug trafficking and illicit drug use were gaining ground. It was evident that international and national efforts were needed to halt the spread of drug addiction.

44. The fight against AIDS should include both national and international intersectoral measures. The response of the United Nations agencies, of which WHO was the recognized leader, and of the NGOs was certainly praiseworthy, but more was needed. The grim prognosis for the 1990s called for continued and strengthened efforts.

45. Mr. ZAPOTOV (Czechoslovakia) said that the adoption of resolution 1989/114 concerning the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council could help to strengthen its effectiveness and increase its capacity to solve global problems in its areas of competence.

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(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

46. At the 1989 sessions of the Council, the negative developments in the world economy, particularly its instability and imbalances, had been clearly evident. Hence, the adoption of resolution 1989/85 on the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and monitoring of world economic developments was extremely welcome.
47. Furthermore, the strengthening of all forms of international economic co-operation was essential, given the growing interdependence of countries and the global nature of current problems. Resolution 1989/111 was a positive step in that direction from the viewpoint of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation.
48. The summer session of the Economic and Social Council had provided an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views concerning the preparation of the International Development Strategy and the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation. The socio-economic development problems of developing countries, and particularly the net transfer of resources from those countries, had been described in all their gravity. Czechoslovakia welcomed the adoption of resolution 1989/112 on that question, as well as the adoption of resolution 1989/120 drawing needed attention to the development of human resources, a prerequisite for lasting development.
49. The Second Committee had been asked to examine some aspects of the UNEP Governing Council decision concerning the conveying of a United Nations conference on environment and development. The appropriate steps must be taken to begin the preparations for that conference, one important aspect of those preparations should be the search for effective ways of ensuring in the developing countries economic development which was compatible with environmental protection.
50. In that regard, the draft resolution on international co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats (A/C.2/44/L.6) submitted by Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian SSR could make a useful contribution to the preparation of the conference. Bilateral consultations had already taken place on the text of the draft resolution, and its wording could be put into final form in the Second Committee.
51. Mr. CAHILL (United States of America) said that his country regarded the World Health Organization (WHO) as the central co-ordinating agency in the struggle against AIDS. Discussions on that subject in the General Assembly were useful, focusing public attention on AIDS and encouraging the Assembly to urge Governments to increase action in that sphere. Two specific areas merited continuing attention: first, the role of community-based non-governmental organizations in the combat against AIDS and, secondly, the need for countries receiving WHO and bilateral assistance to provide more of their own human resources for that effort, given that staff from donor agencies often outnumbered the local personnel supplied by the government. Donors should also provide the appropriate material resources. The spread of AIDS through intravenous drug use was of serious concern, and the exchange of knowledge to combat that scourge was crucial.

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(Mr. Cahill, United States)

52. With regard to human resources development, his country, which was firmly convinced that human beings were the world's most valuable resource and that efforts to secure well-being and quality of life for all people were of great importance, wished to point out that human resources development should be part of and enjoy a high priority in all programmes and that the establishment of new monitoring bodies was unnecessary.

53. The concept of the net transfer of resources was too narrow. It was the domestic economic policies of the countries themselves that constituted a crucial aspect of successful development strategy. Stimulation of domestic savings, return of flight capital, effective use of external resources and appropriate pricing and interest rate policies were essential factors. Yet the concept of net transfer of resources did not include non-debt-creating flows, earnings derived from the use of borrowed funds and, in a broader sense, private investments, which normally created jobs. The concept of net transfers should therefore not be the sole measure of the adequacy of resource flows to developing countries. In and of themselves, net transfers said little about a country's growth prospects. In fact, net transfers to a country would be positive if debt grew faster than the average rate of interest paid on it. A positive net transfer could not be taken as an indicator of an improving economic situation in a debtor country any more than a negative net transfer could be taken as a sign of poor economic growth. All the major Asian borrowers were net transferers; yet, they continued to have high growth rates and rising international reserves. It would be more important to assess the outcome of the financing and its future consequences for debt-servicing.

54. As it moved through the stages of development, a country gradually increased its ability to finance investment through domestic savings and its net resource inflows gave way to resource outflows. There was no reason to believe that positive resource flows had to continue indefinitely, since that implied an unlimited exponential increase in the country's foreign debt. In considering the issue of resources, the problem of capital flight must not be overlooked. Engendering a loss of domestic savings and a consequent decline in investment, flight capital reduced the country's tax base. Furthermore, foreign creditors were reluctant to provide funds that might end up financing capital placements abroad. Although capital flight had recently declined or even been reversed in certain countries through economic policy improvements, much of the capital had yet to be repatriated.

55. The Committee was considering once again the question of reform of the Economic and Social Council. Reform represented a crucial component of the efforts to make the United Nations more effective. Reform should be built on the base of progress achieved and momentum gained, with efforts being directed at one and the same time towards restructuring and revitalization, processes which mutually reinforced each other. Progress had been made on the reform front. What was needed was action, not more rhetoric. Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 should be implemented, thus enabling the Council to take a more fully integrated approach to the various priority issues. Resolution 1988/77 provided for the elimination of cross-organizational programme analyses. On the

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(Mr. Cahill, United States)

other hand, the provision for in-depth discussion of important themes was valuable. It was essential also to eliminate duplication of publications. Similarly, the efficient reorganization of subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC was a very important goal. Even more important was a true commitment to reform, and, beginning with the General Assembly's forty-fourth session, appropriate action should be taken.

56. Mr. EL GHOUJARI (Tunisia) said that, although the Economic and Social Council had discharged in a relatively satisfactory fashion its mandate under resolution 1988/77, it had to be pointed out that no action had been taken thus far on some of the provisions contained in that resolution, in particular those relating to the work of the Secretariat. It should be noted that that lack of action had been accompanied by serious delays not only in documentation for the session but also in the daily schedule for the publication of draft resolutions and the overall provision of conference services. That state of affairs had had serious consequences: the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations could not be executed and had had to be postponed until the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Furthermore, Member States had expressed their concern about the problem in resolution 1989/114 of the Economic and Social Council, whose paragraphs 25 and 26, concerning the structure of Secretariat support, were of particular importance.

57. While it was unfortunate that the triennial policy review could not be carried out, it was also a matter of concern that certain delegations had used pressure in an attempt to bring about that examination which, to them, undoubtedly seemed feasible since the relevant reports were in their hands before the date of issuance. Such a situation should not be repeated - documentation had to be distributed to all delegations at the same time.

58. His delegation welcomed the Council's adoption of decision 1989/179 on international co-operation in the field of informatics. That domain had to be recognized as the preferred and undisputed instrument of progress and, consequently of development for developing countries, and it was therefore essential that the Economic and Social Council should study possible measures for the effective strengthening of international co-operation in that sector.

59. His delegation welcomed also the decision taken by the Council in its resolution 1989/87 to recommend to the General Assembly the convening of a United Nations conference on environment and development. Of major importance in that context was ECOSOC resolution 1989/101 concerning the need to provide additional financial resources to developing countries. It appeared useful to call that point to the attention of the United Nations financing bodies in order that they might, in their programmes, take the necessary measures in that regard.

60. Mr. MOUNKHOV (Mongolia) said that the Economic and Social Council had been right to focus its second regular session of 1989 on strengthening international economic co-operation as a means of overcoming the causes and impact of imbalances in the world economy. In that connection, he stressed the great importance which his delegation attached to Council resolutions 1989/110 and 1989/111.

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(Mr. Mounkhou, Mongolia)

61. The main results of the extensive discussion on population issues which had taken place at that session were duly reflected in resolution 1989/91 on the convening of an international meeting on population in 1994 and resolution 1989/92 on strengthening actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action.

62. His delegation had participated actively in the consideration of the issue of human resources development and was happy to note that the report of the Secretary-General on that question (A/44/229-E/1989/60) had been prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1987/81. In that connection it should be recalled that resolution 1989/120 on that question reaffirmed the need for an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to all aspects of human resources development. The integration of women in the development process was viewed as one of the main components of policies adopted in that field.

63. Mongolia attached great importance to the protection of the environment and looked forward to participating in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which should contribute towards resolving the most pressing environmental issues. In that connection, it associated itself with the view expressed in Council resolution 1989/101 that increasing attention needed to be paid to the provision of new and additional financial resources to developing countries for environmental programmes and projects. It also attached great importance to developing an appropriate framework to attain the objectives and goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as recommended in Council resolution 1989/99. For its part, the Mongolian delegation had submitted at the forty-fifth session of ESCAP an idea for the elaboration of regional and subregional programmes of action for the protection of the environment in Asia and the Pacific and for the creation of a regional centre on environment.

64. The Council's recommendations on social and economic development in Africa should be implemented expeditiously and in full so as to assist that continent in overcoming its difficulties.

65. Lastly, he expressed the hope that enhanced multilateralism based on respect for the legitimate interests of all States would prevail in the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade as well as in the preparation of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation.

66. Mr. SILALAH (Indonesia) said that one of the main issues debated at the Council's second regular session of 1989 had been that of structural changes and imbalances in the world economy and their impact on international economic co-operation. During the consideration of that item, grave concern had been voiced regarding the worsening disparities between the developed countries, where growth was vigorous, and the majority of developing countries, which suffered from stagnation and deprivation. In that connection, the positive steps envisaged in Council resolutions 1989/85, 1989/110 and 1989/111 and the increased emphasis placed by the Council on development and multilateral co-operation were to be welcomed.

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(Mr. Silalahi, Indonesia)

67. The issues of external debt and net transfer of resources from developing countries had been prominent among issues in the general debate at the Council's summer session. It was necessary to find a comprehensive and durable solution to those problems on the basis of development-oriented policy measures such as debt reduction and additional flows of financial resources. In that connection, he welcomed the Council's request to the Secretary-General to include in the World Economic Survey, 1990 a comprehensive analysis of the net transfer of resources from the developing countries (Council resolution 1989/112). Moreover, taking into account the close relationship between economic and social factors in development, the request addressed to the Secretary-General in resolution 1989/113 to include a thorough study of that question in the Survey was also to be commended.

68. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation and the new international development strategy for the 1990s should provide an excellent opportunity to address, in a comprehensive, integrated and long-term perspective, the major issues which inhibited development, thus facilitating the transformation of the current economic situation of many developing countries from a painful adjustment process to one of healthy sustainable development. In order to achieve that end, the new strategy should deal with critical development issues such as international trade, resource flows, technology and industrialization as well as with the newer dimensions of external debt, commodities, human resources, development, environment and the eradication of poverty.

69. Turning to the question of environment, he said that the industrial countries, which were largely responsible for environmental degradation, were in the best position to correct the mistakes made in that field and to assist developing countries in their efforts to emerge from poverty and to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development. It was to be hoped that the United Nations conference on environment and development, to be held in 1992, would be able to achieve a consensus in that respect.

70. As to regional co-operation, his delegation had taken a keen interest in the work and results of the forty-fifth session of ESCAP and in the progress made in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action for Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

71. In conclusion, referring to the question of the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, he expressed the hope that Council resolution 1989/114 would promote the necessary changes to enable the Council to assume its rightful role, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, in advancing world economic growth and multilateral co-operation for development.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.