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at 3 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairmen: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)AGENDA ITEM 88: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)(a) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)(b) INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST THE LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 87: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)(a) PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (1991-2000) (continued)(g) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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A/C.2/44/SR.34

20 November 1989

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution on the target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1991-1992 (A/C.2/44/L.3)

1. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, said that informal consultations on the draft resolution had proceeded smoothly and speedily, and he could recommend the text to the Committee for adoption by consensus.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.3 was adopted.

Draft resolutions on implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/165 and on the report of the Secretary-General on General Assembly resolution 42/165 (A/C.2/44/L.14 and L.39)

3. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.39, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.14, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

4. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.39 was adopted.

5. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked all the delegations who had assisted the Soviet Union in preparing the draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.14, and expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for its detailed elaboration of the concept of international economic security. The consensus that had been reached reflected the international community's approval of the decision by the Soviet Union to redefine its role in the world economy, by working towards active participation in multilateral economic institutions. It was vital that the positive changes in the world political situation and the intensified economic interdependence of all countries should be reflected in the work of the Committee, and concrete steps should be taken to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the economic field. Particular importance attached, therefore, to the special session in April 1990, and the Soviet Union hoped that joint efforts by all the groups of countries concerned would ensure successful preparations for that important event.

6. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.39 because it believed that the United Nations had an important role to play in the promotion of international economic co-operation among Member States. However, in connection with the first two preambular paragraphs, he wished to point out that some 30 Member States, including his own, had either voted against General Assembly resolution 42/165, or had abstained in the vote thereon, in part because the concept of international economic security had been so vaguely defined.

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(Mr. Dugan, United States)

7. His delegation also objected to certain aspects of the Secretary-General's report on international economic security (A/44/217), to which the draft resolution referred, such as the conclusions that the current debt strategy had led to a stalemate. In fact, that strategy had been supported by the international community, most recently at the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF. Nor could his delegation agree that the debt problem was a political problem: it was primarily economic and financial in nature and must be addressed from that perspective. Debt relief must be considered on a case-by-case basis, without the involvement of any United Nations agencies other than the World Bank and IMF. Finally, his delegation's position on the Common Fund for Commodities was well known, and his Government would not reconsider its decision not to contribute to the second account.

8. Mr. KAGAMI (Japan) said that his delegation had also joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.39, which constituted a vast improvement over the original text. However, while the draft text contained positive elements, his delegation had some reservations as to the basic underlying concept and its acceptance of the draft text implied no change in that view.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.39, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.14 was withdrawn.

10. It was so decided.

Draft resolutions on prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/C.2/44/L.22* and A/C.2/44/L.34)

11. The CHAIRMAN said that Ireland had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.22*.

12. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.34, based on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.22*, and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

13. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that the Second Committee was the only forum in the United Nations that had addressed the issue of AIDS in the context of its impact on developing countries. He therefore proposed that the phrase "including at the regional and country levels" should be inserted in paragraph 3 after the phrase "all other relevant other organizations of the United Nations system".

14. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) said that as he had submitted the draft resolution in his capacity as Vice-Chairman and not on behalf of the sponsors of the original text, he had no authority to accept the proposed new wording. He therefore suggested that the two draft resolutions should be reconsidered in informal consultations.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Committee wished to hold further informal consultations on the two draft resolutions before it.

16. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 88: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/C.2/44/L.17-L.21 and L.32)

Draft resolution on special economic assistance to Chad (A/C.2/44/L.17)

17. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that Senegal had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. He proposed that, in the last preambular paragraph, the words "lending agencies" in the last line should be replaced by the words "all contributors" and that, in operative paragraph 6 (a), the words "lending and donor agency" should be replaced by the word "contributors". He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.17, as orally amended, was adopted.

19. Mr. ALMABROUK (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, although Libya had joined the consensus on the draft decision, as it had in 1988, that did not imply that it accepted or recognized the map contained in the annex to document A/44/418, which did not represent reality and was not consistent with the map registered at the United Nations.

20. Mr. TOROV (Chad) sincerely thanked Libya for joining the consensus, and, on behalf of the sponsors, thanked the international community for responding to his country's plight.

Draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti (A/C.2/44/L.18)

21. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that Brazil and Cameroon had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. He proposed that, in operative paragraph 4, the words "the report of the United Nations mission" should be replaced by the words "those requirements" and that the phrases following the word "may" should be replaced by the words "respond favourably to them". He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

22. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.18, as orally amended, was adopted.

23. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) confirmed that the adoption of that draft resolution would entail no financial implications and that it would be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) through extrabudgetary contributions.

24. Mr. DORANI (Djibouti) said that his delegation was pleased with the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution. Djibouti's efforts to rebuild its economy were being severely hampered by the severe consequences of natural calamities, and it was therefore particularly grateful to the Governments and non-governmental organizations which had provided assistance. His delegation hoped that the evaluation of Djibouti's requirements, called for in the resolution, would be carried out as soon as possible, with a view to drawing up an urgent programme of rehabilitation and reconstruction for the country.

Draft resolution on emergency assistance to Somalia (A/C.2/44/L.19)

25. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that Cameroon, Jamaica and Romania had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, and noted that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had erroneously been listed as a sponsor. He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

26. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.19 was adopted.

27. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) thanked members of the Committee for their positive contribution, and appealed to all donor Governments and agencies to contribute generously to the implementation of the programme of assistance outlined in the interim report of the United Nations inter-agency mission which had visited Somalia.

Draft resolution on assistance to Democratic Yemen (A/C.2/44/L.20)

28. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that Brazil, the German Democratic Republic, Jamaica and Japan had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution and recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

29. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.20 was adopted.

30. Mr. MISSARY (Democratic Yemen) thanked all the States which had sponsored draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.20 and appealed to all donor agencies to allocate funds for programmes of reconstruction and rehabilitation to restore the infrastructures destroyed by torrential rains and flooding.

Draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/C.2/44/L.21)

31. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that Mauritania and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors. He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.21 was adopted.

33. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon) thanked the international community for the assistance extended to his country during a difficult period. It was to be hoped that, once emergency help was no longer needed, aid would be channelled into rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Draft resolution on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America (A/C.2/44/L.32)

34. Mr. BARRETO (Brazil) announced that Brazil wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

35. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.32 was adopted.

37. Mr. MacARTHUR (United States of America) said that his delegation welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations system to help the countries of Central America achieve peace, social progress and economic development. Over the previous six years the United States had provided more than \$5 billion in economic assistance to the democracies of the region.

38. While joining the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.32, his delegation wished to make it clear that assistance to the region must be linked to meaningful democratic reform. If the Special Plan was meant to support the Central American peace process, it made no sense to disburse aid unless there was meaningful progress towards democratization. Democracy was fundamental to the sustained economic development of the region. His delegation therefore strongly supported the third preambular paragraph of the resolution. It believed that Nicaragua must demonstrate its commitment to democratization, specifically in its national elections scheduled for February 1990, before assistance could be provided to it under the Special Plan. Furthermore, economic assistance was most effective when accompanied by a set of economic reforms that resulted in reduced protectionism and government intervention. Without sound policies, no amount of aid would lead to sustained economic growth or an equitable sharing of the benefits of that growth.

39. Mr. PAF TOR (Honduras) thanked the Committee on behalf of the sponsors, and reiterated his belief that the Special Plan constituted a framework for co-operation to solve the social and economic problems of the region and to help in the efforts to achieve peace.

(b) INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST THE LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (continued)

Draft decision on an international strategy for the fight against the locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (A/C.2/44/L.16)

40. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft decision by consensus.

41. Draft decision A/C.2/44/L.16 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 87: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research
(A/C.2/44/L.36)

42. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that the words "for the implementation of", at the end of line 2 of paragraph 6, should be replaced by the words "to execute". The amendment had been suggested by the Office of Legal Affairs and he understood that it was acceptable to all interested delegations. He recommended that the draft resolution, should be adopted by consensus.

43. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.36, as orally revised, was adopted.

44. Mr. KONN (Cameroon) said that his delegation was pleased that an end was in sight to the difficulties that had impeded the smooth running of the Institute in recent years and expressed the hope that in its capacity as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNITAR would be able to finance many training projects in its field of competence.

45. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), referring to paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.36, expressed the hope that, notwithstanding the difficulties of operating in the Manhattan real estate market, it would be possible by the time of the next session to examine UNITAR's future on a sounder basis, as a result of the successful sale of the building.

46. His delegation's interpretation of paragraph 6 differed from that of the Cameroonian delegation. In its view, the time was not ripe for the Institute to become an executing agency of UNDP. Nevertheless, his delegation attached importance to reaching a consensus, and had thus been pleased to join in that consensus.

47. Mr. SADIQ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation wholeheartedly supported the Institute and had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.36.

48. Mr. BABA (Uganda) said that his delegation had also joined the consensus. Its only regret was that UNITAR should have to sell a prime site in order to pay its debts.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/44/3, A/44/84, A/44/139, A/44/187, A/44/188, A/44/235, A/44/254, A/44/260, A/44/355, A/44/409 and Corr.1, A/44/467, A/44/499, A/44/598, A/44/617, A/44/631, A/44/705 and A/44/706; A/C.2/44/L.4)

- (a) PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (1991-2000) (continued)

Draft resolution on preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade (A/C.2/44/L.11)

49. Mr. VALLENILLA (Venezuela) said that the phrase "activades nacionales" in section III of the annex to the draft resolution should be changed to "esfuerzos nacionales", so as to correspond to the English version of the text.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that that correction would be incorporated into the Spanish text.

51. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.11 was adopted.

52. Mr. LEMERLE (France), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.11, which would provide a framework for the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade. Substantive work on the strategy could thus begin in January 1990, and it was to be hoped that all groups would participate in that effort to make the new strategy a success.

- (g) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft decision on countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa (A/C.2/44/L.26)

53. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, proposed that the paragraph numbers 1 and 2 should be replaced by the letters (a) and (b), and that the words "and the other competent organizations" should be added after the word "desertification" in paragraph (a). He recommended that the draft decision should be adopted by consensus.

54. Draft decision A/C.2/44/L.26, as orally amended, was adopted.

- (b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/44/3, A/44/15, vols. I and II, A/44/202, A/44/268, A/44/295, A/44/386, A/44/437, A/44/510, A/44/554, A/44/581 and A/44/588; A/C.2/44/L.5)

55. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) noted that, according to the Secretary-General's report on the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/44/467), per capita income for Africa had declined by 41 per cent during the period 1980 to 1988. Far from being eradicated, poverty in Africa had grown disastrously.

56. Discussion of the role and future of UNCTAD must therefore take place in the context of a broad strategy to reverse the set-backs of the 1980s. Three major

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(Mr. Osman, Somalia)

elements must be reviewed simultaneously: the need for increased resources for technical co-operation; the need for drastic debt reduction; and the need for fairer terms of trade. Progress in any one of those areas was dependent on progress in all three of them.

57. His Government wished to make a plea that an increase in resources for development assistance should be effected mainly through the multilateral agencies, in order to strengthen the synergistic effect of international technical co-operation. If it was true that the purpose of the arms race had always been to ensure peace as well as economic and social stability, then the current climate of détente might present an opportunity to work towards those goals in a more positive and constructive manner. Even a small shift of resources away from the sword to the ploughshare could make the difference between a global economic cataclysm and revitalization of the world economy.

58. There would also be a need to halt the proliferation of non-tariff barriers, and the steady decline in prices of commodities. The time had come for debt forgiveness, soft loans and concessionary grants. There must also be a rapid and large-scale response to the plight of refugees in Africa, and to the disruption caused by drought.

59. The declaration unanimously adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its thirty-sixth session identified broad challenges for the future, and emphasized the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance, international debt and overall development. The time had thus come to strengthen UNCTAD as an institution and to give it the support it needed to meet the demands that would be made of it.

60. Mr. MOHIUDDIN (Bangladesh) said that his delegation was pleased with resolutions 375 (XXXVI) on the debt and development problems of developing countries, and 374 (XXXVII) on the interdependence of problems of trade, development, finance and the international monetary system adopted by the Trade and Development Board. They reflected a renewed sense of realism and timely awareness of the validity of the role of UNCTAD in helping to meet the various developmental challenges confronting the international community in a serious and constructive manner.

61. In its resolution 42/177, the General Assembly decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 1990. The resolution provided for two preparatory meetings. The first, the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries, had been held at Geneva in May 1989. That Meeting was to be followed by a meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Least Developed Countries, as Preparatory Committee for the Second United Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held at Geneva in the spring of 1990.

62. His delegation expressed its sincere appreciation to UNCTAD for its important contribution to the meeting of the donor countries and representatives of the least

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(Mr. Mohiuddin, Bangladesh)

developed countries, which had given the participants the first opportunity since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action to carry out the first comprehensive assessment of the social and economic situation in the least developed countries. The representatives of the least developed countries had stressed that such an assessment should be dynamic and forward-looking, and that economic and statistical indices did not fully reflect the problems of the least developed countries. They had also stressed the need for a supportive international environment which would facilitate the development of the least developed countries.

63. During the 1980s, the external economic climate had worsened for the least developed countries as a whole and, while many developed countries had made sustained efforts to provide development assistance, resource transfers to the least developed countries had declined. The least developed countries continued to struggle against the rising burden of debt, the continuing decline in commodity prices, and difficulties in expanding their export base because of shrinking markets. While the importance of the efforts of the least developed countries could not be over-estimated, restoration of growth in, and modernization of the economic bases of, the least developed countries would require substantial increases in official development assistance. Consensus must also be reached on a more fundamental approach to the problem of the debt of the least developed countries; such an approach should include a decisive reduction of the overall debt stock of those countries and the implementation of measures to reduce their debt obligations to multilateral institutions, as well as their commercial debt. At the May 1989 meeting, the representatives of the least developed countries had also stressed the important role of non-debt-creating foreign direct investment in alleviating their indebtedness.

64. The least developed countries had emphasized the need to reverse the rising tide of protectionism and had called for urgent action in such areas as full duty-free treatment of their exports and exemption from quotas and ceilings.

65. Bangladesh hoped that at its forthcoming meeting, the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries would be able to work out a format for a substantial new programme of action for the 1990s for the least developed countries, and would gain international support for the least developed countries in all areas, including aid flows, debt relief, commodity prices, compensatory financing and market access.

66. His delegation expressed its sincere appreciation to all donor countries and organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for enabling the least developed countries to participate fully in the preparatory process for the 1990 Conference. In line with past practice, the Secretary-General should obtain additional resources to provide for travel expenses and per diem allowances for three representatives from each least developed country to the Conference.

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(Mr. Mohiuddin, Bangladesh)

67. Recalling that in its resolution 43/186 the General Assembly requested all concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit reports containing a review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input to the preparations for the Conference, he called upon those organs, organizations and bodies which had not already done so to make their respective reports available and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to begin or intensify public information activities in favour of the Conference.

68. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia) expressed concern at the continued application of protectionist measures in world trade. Standstill and roll-back measures must be taken in order to check the spread of protectionism. His delegation proposed that a global moratorium should be declared on protectionism in world trade. No country should take any additional protectionist measures during the moratorium, and the moratorium should eventually be converted into measures designed to reverse and dismantle all forms of protectionism in world trade.

69. Trade in services had recently acquired greater significance and had become one of the important subjects of multilateral trade negotiations in the Uruguay Round. The General Assembly and the Second Committee should therefore pay greater attention to the role of services in the current world economy and trade. The issue could be discussed in the Second Committee as a separate item or as a sub-item on its agenda, under the item entitled "Trade and development". As a result of deliberations on the subject, the Second Committee could adopt a special resolution on trade in services. His delegation believed that action taken by the General Assembly could ultimately lead to the utilization of services to solve many urgent economic problems confronting the developing countries.

70. The international community should pay more attention to the specific needs of the land-locked developing countries. As a land-locked country itself, Mongolia experienced all the problems which that disadvantageous situation posed to development and growth.

71. UNCTAD had a special role to play in promoting world trade and in tackling the issues of international trade and economic relations. It had played and continued to play an important part in promoting economic co-operation among developing countries and it had been instrumental in working out the global system of trade preferences among developing countries. Economic co-operation among developing countries, which constituted an indispensable component of the current international economic development process, should be further consolidated in the 1990s. His delegation also attached special importance to the forthcoming eighth session of UNCTAD. Given the importance and magnitude of the problems to be discussed at that forum, the preparatory process for the eighth session should begin as early as possible in 1990.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.