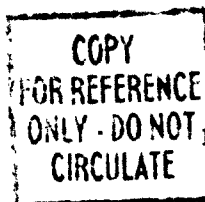


United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records*



SECOND COMMITTEE
54th meeting
held on
Friday, 30 November 1984
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

DEC 18 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 54th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 83: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND
REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION: REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(f) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued)

(i) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/39/SR.54
4 December 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

84-58084 7799S (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 83: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that revisions in the draft resolutions before the Committee under item 83 (a) and (b) which had been agreed on during informal consultations would be announced by the Secretary.

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/39/L.38-L.46, L.49, L.51, L.52, L.56, L.57, L.59-L.65, L.68/Rev.1, L.69, L.71-L.74)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.38

2. The CHAIRMAN noted that Kuwait had proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, which had been circulated in document A/C.2/39/L.74.

3. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the words ", the United Nations Fund for Population Activities" should be inserted after "the United Nations Children's Fund" in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. The word "Requests" in paragraph 8 should be changed to "Invites"; the words "in particular" and the list of organizations which followed in that paragraph should be deleted.

4. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said that his delegation intended to join in the consensus on all draft resolutions pertaining to agenda item 83, on the understanding that none of them entailed any programme budget implications.

5. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.38, as orally revised, was adopted.

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

6. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as a result of informal consultations, the portion of paragraph 8 (c) following the words "in implementing the present resolution" should be deleted, and a new paragraph 9 should be added, reading: "9. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report, in close collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, information on the response of the international community to the 1982-1984 three-year programme on the economic reactivation and development of Equatorial Guinea presented at the International Conference of Donors".

7. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.39, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.40

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.40 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.41

9. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that in the English text of the draft resolution, the word "and" should be inserted between the words "air" and "telecommunication" in the eleventh preambular paragraph.

10. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.41 was adopted.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.42 and A/C.2/39/L.43

11. Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.42 and A/C.2/39/L.43 were adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.44

12. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that paragraph 10 (c) of the draft resolution should be deleted and a new paragraph 11 added, reading: "Also requests the Secretary-General to carry out, in close collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, an evaluation of the results of the round-table conference of donors and of the progress made in organizing and implementing the special programme of economic assistance for Guinea-Bissau, in time for the status of this programme to be considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session."

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.44, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.45 and A/C.2/39/L.46

14. Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.45 and A/C.2/39/L.46 were adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.49

15. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cameroon and Zimbabwe had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.49 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.51

17. The CHAIRMAN announced that Ethiopia and Madagascar had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.51 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.52

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.52 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.56

20. The CHAIRMAN announced that Ghana had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

21. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.56 was adopted.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.57, A/C.2/39/L.59 and A/C.2/39/L.60

22. Draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.57, A/C.2/39/L.59 and A/C.2/39/L.60 were adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.61

23. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Comoros, Ecuador, Liberia and Suriname had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

24. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the words "the United Nations Fund for Population Activities," should be inserted before the words "the World Food Programme".

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.61, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.62

26. The CHAIRMAN announced that Burkina Faso, Ecuador, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Oman, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.62 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.63

28. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

29. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that the words "the United Nations Fund for Population Activities," should be added before the words "the United Nations Development Programme" in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.63, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.64

31. The CHAIRMAN announced that Burkina Faso and Ghana had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

32. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the words "and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities" should be added after the words "United Nations Children's Fund".

33. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.64, as orally revised, was adopted.

/...

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.65

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.65 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.68/Rev.1

35. The CHAIRMAN announced that Colombia had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.68/Rev.1 was adopted.

37. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that his delegation had originally been a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.68/Rev.1 because of Israel's willingness and capacity to aid drought-stricken Ethiopia. However, although the severity of the drought in Ethiopia should lead countries to transcend any political differences between them in responding to it, Arab and Islamic countries had threatened to withdraw their sponsorship of, and even oppose, the draft resolution as long as Israel's name remained on the list of sponsors. Those countries had not hesitated to exploit a devastating and universal problem for their own political ends, thereby disrupting and making a mockery of the good which the United Nations sought to accomplish.

38. Israel had not wished to prevent the adoption of a resolution that would help Ethiopia and its people. In a spirit of pragmatism, and out of a genuine wish to win the fight against hunger in Ethiopia, his delegation had withdrawn Israel's name from the list of sponsors. It was a tragic shame that petty Arab spitefulness and blackmail had prevented a more genuine indication of international unity and solidarity in such an important matter.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.69

39. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that, in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the words "at its second regular session of 1985" should be added after the words "the Economic and Social Council".

40. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.69, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.71

41. The CHAIRMAN said that Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia and Saint Lucia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

42. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that, in paragraph 7, the words "to be" should be deleted; in paragraph 8, the words "the United Nations Fund for Population Activities," should be added after the words "the United Nations Children's Fund,"; and, in paragraph 10, the words "the end of June" should be added before "1985".

43. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.71, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.72

44. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.72 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.73

45. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that the names of some sponsors did not appear on the cover page of the draft resolution; they were, however, contained on a list in the Committee secretariat. In the last preambular paragraph the word "imperative" should be replaced by the word "urgent", and in the English text of paragraph 5 (b), the word "national" should be replaced by the word "natural".

46. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted.

47. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union provided and would continue to provide assistance to developing countries to facilitate the implementation of their national development plans, and rendered considerable assistance to African countries stricken by natural disaster. In general, it supported the work of the United Nations in that field. However, the United Nations was still associated with some activities which had nothing to do with humanitarian aid, such as the strengthening of police services and the reconstruction of military barracks and prisons. Members of inter-agency missions should take a more responsible approach to identifying the priority needs of countries stricken by natural disasters.

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

48. The CHAIRMAN proposed, for the consideration of the members of the Committee, the following draft decision concerning the reports submitted under agenda item 83 (b):

"Special programmes of economic assistance

"The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee:

"(a) Takes note of the summary reports of the Secretary-General on Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru (A/39/392, sect. II) and on Tonga (A/39/392/Add.1);

"(b) Takes note of the oral report, made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator at the 37th meeting of the Second Committee on 6 November 1984, on the steps taken to implement General Assembly resolution 38/217 of 20 December 1983, entitled 'Special assistance to alleviate the economic and social problems faced in regions of Honduras and Nicaragua as a result of the May 1982 floods and other subsequent natural disasters';

"(c) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance provided by the United Nations system (A/39/393 and Add.1)."

49. The draft decision was adopted.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 83 (b).

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/39/L.47)

51. The CHAIRMAN said that Gabon and Liberia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

52. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) announced that a new fifth preambular paragraph should be inserted, reading:

"Noting with satisfaction the collaboration between the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Club du Sahel and urging that this collaboration be continued and strengthened,".

At the end of paragraph 8, the following text should be inserted:

"and in particular to help those countries to formulate and implement national and medium-term and long-term plans to combat desertification and drought, with a view to achieving food self-reliance."

53. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.47, as orally revised, was adopted.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 83 (c).

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/39/L.28 and L.86, L.30)

55. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said that, in the absence of written statements on programme budget implications of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 12, his delegation requested an oral statement from the Secretariat that neither of those resolutions had such implications.

56. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the resolutions mentioned by the representative of the United States had no financial implications.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.86

57. Mr. STEBEISKI (Poland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as his own delegation, said that the socialist countries would implement only those recommendations on fisheries management and

(Mr. Stebeiski, Poland)

development which did not contradict the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

58. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.86 was adopted.

59. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.86, draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.28 was withdrawn.

60. Mr. GEZER (Turkey) said that his delegation had reluctantly refrained from calling for a vote on draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.86. On 29 June 1984, the Permanent Representative of Turkey had sent a letter to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in which he stated that Turkey had not signed the Convention on the Law of the Sea and that Turkey's participation in the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development or its approval of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development did not in any way imply Turkey's acceptance of the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea. He requested the issuance of that letter as an addendum to the report of the World Conference and its distribution in the same manner as the report had been distributed, as well as its full reflection in the records of the Second Committee.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that the statement of the representative of Turkey would be reflected in the records of the Second Committee and drawn to the attention of FAO.

62. Mr. KANEKO (Japan) said that his delegation had joined the consensus adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.86 but that, at the World Conference, his country had reserved its position on paragraph 14 of the Strategy because technical co-operation was usually extended in accordance with overall co-operation programmes and independently of fisheries agreements between donor and recipient countries.

63. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's acceptance of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.86 did not in any way compromise its well-known stand on the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

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

64. The CHAIRMAN said that in the third preambular paragraph, the word "stage" in the English text should be replaced by the word "state"; in footnote 1, the words "and Corr.1" should be inserted after "A/39/312-E/1984/106".

65. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.30 as a whole.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic,

/...

Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Chile, Finland, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

66. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.30 was adopted by 93 votes to 20, with 10 abstentions.

67. Mr. YAGAO-NGAMA (Central African Republic) said that, because of a mechanical disorder, his delegation's abstention had not been reflected in the voting.

68. Mr. MALIK (India) said that his delegation regretted that a recorded vote had been needed on a resolution which pertained to confidence-building.

69. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution in view of its belief that the spirit of mutual confidence should prevail in international economic relations. However, confidence-building could not be established and maintained through voting. His delegation would have preferred to see continued consultations on the draft resolution so that it could have been adopted by consensus.

70. Mr. ELHASSAN (Sudan) said that, although his delegation supported the concepts contained in the draft resolution, it had not taken part in the vote since it believed that a draft resolution on confidence-building should not be put to a recorded vote.

71. Mr. AIMEE (Saint Lucia) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, especially because of its paragraph 2, which in no way bound his delegation's future position regarding the methodology to be used.

72. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, but that such a resolution should be put to a vote was a negative step and worked against the very purpose of the resolution. He hoped that, in future, a greater effort would be made to prevent draft resolutions of that kind from being put to a vote.

73. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as his own delegation, said that they had voted in favour of the draft resolution. It was deplorable that some delegations had been unable to support the draft resolution, for it would have been more appropriate to adopt it by consensus, since it set forth a minimum of the mutual understanding and practical measures required to establish confidence in international economic relations.

74. In view of the allegations made by some Western States that United Nations activities concerning confidence-building in international economic relations were not justified and could impair ongoing activities in the political field, it should be pointed out that there was a close relationship between confidence-building in the political and military field and similar activities in the economic field. It was strange that certain delegations should object to constructive actions in the economic field on the grounds that political relations were strained, particularly since those same delegations had on other occasions complained about the politicization of the Committee's work. The Socialist delegations had therefore concluded that the purpose of those objections was to justify the misuse of international economic relations for political purposes. Accordingly, they wondered whether the Western countries were really in favour of a dialogue leading to the adoption of concrete measures to improve the world economic situation, what was the basis for their claim that the restoration of trust in economic relations was contrary to their own interests and whether they wished to replace the policy of co-operation by a policy of confrontation. The socialist countries wanted neither confrontation nor international tension.

75. Mr. BLANCO (Venezuela) said that, although his delegation had intended not to participate in the vote, for technical reasons it had voted in favour of the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(f) FOOD PROBLEMS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.54

76. Mr. UY (Budget Division) replying to a question from Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America), said that if no statement of programme budget implications was submitted in connection with a draft resolution it meant that the draft resolution had no such implications.

77. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.54 was adopted.

78. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.13 was withdrawn.

(i) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.12/Rev.1

79. The CHAIRMAN said that Suriname had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

80. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.12/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

81. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.12/Rev.1 was adopted by 105 votes to none, with 23 abstentions.

82. Mr. GOTTELMANN (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Italy and the United Kingdom, as well as his own, said that although their Governments addressed themselves to the problem of remnants of war with great concern, they had been unable to support the draft resolution, for the issues it raised fell within the sphere of bilateral relations. They noted that it did contain a reference to the concept of bilateral relations; however, in so far as it referred to the just demands of the developing countries for compensation it was not acceptable to them, for by so doing it prejudged the outcome of bilateral

/...

(Mr. Gottelmann, Federal Republic of Germany)

negotiations. Moreover, the concept of the responsibility of certain States and therefore the obligations referred to in the text were devoid of foundation under international law.

83. Mr. MALIK (India) said that it was his understanding that the draft resolution applied only to actions relating to colonial and imperialist wars.

84. Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden) said that her delegation had again been compelled to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution concerning remnants of war. The possibility of achieving practical results in that field would be furthered if the controversial question of international responsibility and the related demands for compensation were left aside.

85. Although there was no general rule in international law that implied a strict responsibility for the laying of mines during an armed conflict there was a general duty to co-operate. Instead of giving the Secretary-General tasks which experience had shown could not be carried out, it would be more constructive to try to co-operate along the lines envisaged in article 9 of Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

86. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution, and reaffirmed the position on the question it had outlined in detail at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

87. Mr. PEQUENO (Sao Tome and Principe) said that had he been present during the voting, his delegation would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.92

88. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that the title of Part A was also the title of the entire draft resolution.

89. Draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.92 was adopted.

90. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.92, draft resolutions A/C.2/39/L.20 and L.23 were withdrawn.

91. Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden), speaking on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/39/L.92 had been preceded by extensive consultations on the possibility of merging the two preambular parts, as had been done with respect to the Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/65. Despite considerable efforts by a number of delegations and by the Secretariat to work out new formulations, the sponsors had done little to accommodate the concerns expressed. That was regrettable, for the draft resolution would have been more forceful had the overlapping language been eliminated, which it could have been without prejudice to the technical differences that applied to the global part of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the part pertaining to the Sudano-Sahelian region.

(Ms. Eriksson, Sweden)

92. The work of the United Nations was not furthered by the proliferation of resolutions, and the Nordic countries felt strongly that the Committee should reorganize its agenda with respect to the desertification issues so as to reduce the number of resolutions on the subject and to deal with desertification only under the sub-item on environment.

93. Mr. MANN (Canada) said that the draft resolution was not as forceful as his delegation would have wished. It would have preferred to see less duplication and believed that the format of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/65 should be the model for future resolutions on the issue. Moreover the new item entitled "Countries stricken by desertification and drought", which had been introduced at the current session of the General Assembly, should not reappear as a separate item in future. Instead, desertification should be addressed within the overall context of the environment.

94. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) expressed concern at the proliferation of draft resolutions on desertification. At the same time, his delegation was supportive of any programme to combat desertification and would work with the sponsors of the draft resolution to make further modifications to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

95. Mr. SAAD (Egypt) said that his delegation, too, was in favour of fewer resolutions; however, it would not be appropriate to reduce the number of resolutions at the expense of substance. He expressed surprise at the comments made by the preceding speakers. The fact that there was only one draft resolution on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification testified to the spirit of accommodation demonstrated by the sponsors.

96. Mr. AMADOU BA (Senegal) said that he, too, had been surprised by the preceding statements. Regarding the suggestion that item 141 should be omitted from the agenda of future sessions of the General Assembly, he pointed out that the request for the inclusion of the item had been endorsed by more than 21 countries and had been accepted by the General Committee. Moreover, the Second Committee had requested the Secretary-General to report on the question at its fortieth session. He failed to understand why a delegation which had been present at both the debates should request that the item be struck from the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.