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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 7.15 p.m.

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

Draft resolution on trends in the transfer of resources to and from the developing countries and their impact on the economic growth and sustained development of those countries (A/C.2/44/L.12/Rev.1)

1. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that following informal consultations, it had been possible to establish a revised text of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.12/Rev.1, but not to reach consensus. There had been agreement on the following changes: in the first preambular paragraph, the word "problem" should be changed to "problems", and the words "towards a durable solution of the debt problems" should be added at the end; in the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "sustained" should be deleted; in paragraph 1, subparagraph (d) should be inserted after subparagraph (a); in new subparagraph (b), the word "economic" should be inserted after the word "national"; in new subparagraph (d), the word "their" should be deleted and the words "that these institutions have" should be inserted after the word "ensure".

2. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.12/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.12/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted by 113 votes to 1, with no abstentions.

4. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had deemed it necessary to vote against the draft resolution because of problems which included inconsistency in the discussion of resource transfers. Net transfers did not take into account non-debt-creating flows or the earnings derived by the recipient country from the use of borrowed funds. Net transfers to a country would be positive if debt grew faster than the average rate of interest paid on it. It should not be inferred that a positive net transfer aided a debtor country or vice versa. The major Asian borrowers were net transferors, yet they continued to have high growth rates and rising reserves. It was more important to assess the results of the financing and the future debt-servicing consequences.

5. As a country progressed along the development path, it was expected that its ability to finance investment through domestic savings would increase, and that net resource inflows would decline and even be reversed. There was no rationale for the argument that positive resource flows must continue forever, which would imply an unlimited increase in the country's foreign debt.

6. Moreover, not all developing countries or regions were experiencing negative net transfers. Despite claims to the contrary, net transfers to sub-Saharan Africa were positive, as were net transfers to Asia. Negative net transfers were largely a phenomenon of the major debtor countries, most of which were in Latin America, and reflected repayment of the heavy private debts incurred earlier in the decade.

7. The sharp decline in private lending after 1982 had accounted for the major portion of the change in volume flows. On the other hand, official development assistance had increased steadily. Restoring private flows to developing countries required developing countries to put in place appropriate domestic economic policies and the legal and regulatory framework necessary to restore confidence.

8. Another element in the overall debt picture was capital flight, which diverted domestic savings away from domestic investment, and reduced a country's tax base. Recently, capital flight had declined or had been reversed in some countries because of policy improvements; however, much of the capital already abroad had yet to be repatriated.

9. Mr. HUSSEIN (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, thanked all the countries which had supported the draft resolution just adopted. The Group of 77 continued to be concerned by the question of net transfers of resources from the developing countries. For that reason, it attached particular importance to the search for solutions which could reverse the current situation. The problem of net transfers of resources was closely related to the sharp decline in the flow of

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resources, the external debt crisis, the deterioration in the terms of trade, the decline in commodity prices and increasing protectionism. Those phenomena had become the main obstacles to the economic growth and development of the developing countries. For that reason, it was satisfying to note that for the first time, a comprehensive and substantive resolution on the subject had been adopted.

10. Mr. VAN BRAKEL (Canada) said that his delegation had joined with others in supporting the draft resolution despite its disappointment at the inadequate treatment given in the draft to the domestic factors which had caused the outflows of resources from some developing countries to exceed the inflows. By focusing largely on the role of external factors in determining the level of inflows, the draft resolution gave insufficient attention to the appropriate market-oriented policies which must be implemented by the developing countries in order to attract and maintain investment.

11. The implementation of structural adjustment policies was appropriate for all countries, not just the industrialized countries. In recommending intensified efforts by the industrialized countries to undertake structural adjustment measures, while not calling for such measures in the developing countries, the draft resolution lacked the necessary balance. Moreover, overcoming the external indebtedness of the developing countries would require the continued implementation of the strengthened international debt strategy. Central to that strategy were the economic policies being undertaken by the developing countries themselves.

12. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should adopt a draft decision taking note of the reports before it on which no draft proposals had been submitted, to read as follows:

"The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

A/44/275 E/1989/78	Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment
A/44/273 E/1989/77	Report of the Secretary-General on the World Tourism Organization
A/44/255 E/1989/62	Progress report of the Secretary-General on preparatory arrangements for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000
A/44/229 E/1989/60	Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development and the activities of the United Nations system in that field
A/44/277 E/1989/82	Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli trade practices in the occupied Palestinian territories

(The Chairman)

A/44/338 Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a survey prepared by
E/1989/118 the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the
Israeli financial and trade practices in the occupied Syrian Arab
Golan."

13. The draft decision was adopted.

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

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on an international conference on money and finance for
development (A/C.2/44/L.4)

14. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.4 had not been considered during informal consultations. He therefore recommended that its consideration should be deferred to the next session. He drew attention to the following changes: in paragraph 1, the words "April 1988" should be replaced by "1991"; in paragraph 3, "1988" should be replaced by "1991", and the words "forty-third" should be replaced by "forty-sixth".

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to defer consideration of the draft resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

16. It was so decided.

Draft resolution on specific action related to the particular needs and problems of
land-locked developing countries (A/C.2/44/L.42/Rev.1)

17. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.42/Rev.1, said that it had not been possible to reach consensus on the text during informal consultations.

18. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.42/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia,

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Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, United States of America.

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.42/Rev.1 was adopted by 110 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

20. Mr. URIARTE (Chile), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation, which had voted in favour of the draft resolution, interpreted the reference to international law in paragraph 1 to relate specifically to article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

21. Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had abstained, believing that right of access through transit countries must in all cases be established by means of bilateral agreements with the transit countries.

22. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria) said that his delegation had voted in favour as a means of indicating the urgent need for international assistance for land-locked countries, most of which fell into the category of least developed countries. Land-locked countries needed the right of transit and access to the sea; those rights, however, could not be asserted outside the framework of bilateral agreements between the land-locked and transit countries. It should also be noted that the right of transit could not apply to products from countries or régimes reviled or condemned by the international community.

23. Mr. TANLAY (Turkey) said that the draft resolution referred to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which his country had not signed for reasons spelt out, inter alia, in document A/44/PV.62. The fact that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution did not betoken any change of position vis-à-vis the Convention.

24. Mr. CAHILL (United States of America) said that his delegation had abstained, not because it did not take a keen interest in the problems of land-locked countries, but because it did not regard such countries as a distinct category in favour of which specific measures were needed. Some land-locked countries were very successful; others needed assistance.

25. His delegation was unhappy that the draft resolution called on international financial institutions to provide assistance to land-locked countries. Such

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decisions were most appropriately made by the boards of the institutions concerned, and the General Assembly should not seek to influence them. Paragraph 5 suggested donor assistance in support of import substitution policies. His delegation felt that the value of import substitution policies was very hard to quantify, and believed undue emphasis on them to be one of the main causes of slow economic growth.

26. The draft resolution could also have been more balanced. It failed to mention the responsibility of the land-locked countries to assist in their own development, and made no reference either to ill-considered domestic policies as an impediment to development, or to the need for domestic policies to mobilize resources for development.

Draft resolution on commodities (A/C.2/44/L.52/Rev.1)

27. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.52/Rev.1, said that it had not been possible to reach consensus on the text during informal consultations.

28. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.52/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, 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, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

29. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.52/Rev.1 was adopted by 113 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

30. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the worth of all General Assembly resolutions on the environment would be compromised were any one of them found to assert that the world was flat. The draft resolution on which his delegation had just abstained was just as unrealistic: the prices commanded by commodities were a matter for the markets, and the markets only, to decide. His delegation recognized the serious problems faced by many developing countries, but did not believe they were susceptible to global solutions. The best way to tackle them was by economic restructuring, not commodity-pricing agreements. Experience showed that international commodity agreements which provided for market intervention did not yield long-term solutions. The proper course was to help the markets to function efficiently.

31. The draft resolution referred to the Common Fund for Commodities; his delegation believed that the emphasis should be on the second account of the Fund. It looked forward to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, which would help to strengthen the economies of the commodity-dependent countries.

32. He accepted that his delegation's views were those of a small minority, but looked forward to the day when, like the roundness of the globe, they would enjoy wide acceptance.

33. Mr. KAGAMI (Japan) acknowledged the importance of commodities in the economies of developing countries. His own and other major industrialized countries had agreed to help to promote economic diversification in those countries. His delegation was committed to resolving a number of outstanding problems before the Common Fund for Commodities became operational. It had thus voted in favour of the draft resolution.

34. The General Assembly should leave the details of the topic to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which had the requisite expertise. The role of the General Assembly should be reconsidered in the light of the current activities of UNCTAD, in order to avoid any redundant expenditure of effort.

35. Mr. CAHILL (United States of America) said that his delegation had abstained on the draft resolution. He recognized that all the delegations taking part in the informal consultations had modified strongly held views in an effort to reach consensus, but his delegation had been unable to join them because the draft did not address the relationship of long-term market trends to commodity prices. Recent history had shown that commodity agreements were very hard to negotiate and implement. Agreements which followed long-term market trends clearly stood the greatest chance of success: the International Rubber Agreement was a case in point.

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36. His delegation could not agree to welcome the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities. It had no plans to review its decision not to join the Common Fund or make voluntary contributions to the second account. It was worried lest the Fund should become an inefficient mechanism and begin to allocate resources in a manner that did not correspond to real needs.

37. The draft resolution stressed the importance of market access for commodities from developing countries, but made no reference to commodities from developed countries. The world economy would benefit from greater market access for commodities from all countries, not just the developing ones.

38. Mr. HUSSEIN (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that commodities were the life-blood of many developing country economies. As the developing countries' terms of trade worsened, their ability to shoulder their debt burdens declined. He accepted that, over the long term, economic diversification was needed, but stability was needed meanwhile. The promotion by UNCTAD of producer-consumer consultations and co-operation would help. The Group of 77 welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, and supported the call on the international community to contribute to the functioning of the Fund.

39. The Group of 77 was in no doubt that the world was round: all countries must share it, and fairer prices for commodities would be conducive to that end.

Draft resolutions on protectionism and structural adjustment, and commodities
(A/C.2/44/L.5)

40. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that since a draft resolution on commodities had just been adopted, the draft resolution on that topic contained in document A/C.2/44/L.5 could be withdrawn.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that on the basis of the statement made by the Vice-Chairman, he would take it that the Committee wished to defer consideration of the draft resolution entitled "protectionism and structural adjustment" to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, and that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.52/Rev.1, the Committee preferred not to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Commodities" contained in document A/C.2/44/L.5.

42. It was so decided.

43. Mr. HUSSEIN (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that although the draft resolution on commodities contained in document A/C.2/44/L.5 had been under consideration for a long time, the Group of 77 had agreed to its withdrawal in a spirit of flexibility and compromise. It was to be hoped that the problems outlined in the draft resolution would be taken into account during the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, and in the preparations for the international development strategy.

44. The CHAIRMAN proposed a draft decision with the following wording:

"The Assembly notes the report of the Secretary-General on current international monetary issues contained in document A/44/631.

45. The draft decision was adopted.

(f) ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes (A/C.2/44/L.80)

46. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, said that after extensive informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.43/Rev.1, agreement had been reached on the text contained in A/C.2/44/L.80. The text should be verified in languages other than the original English, as there had been some omissions in translation, particularly in section I, paragraph 1, of the French, where the equivalent of "without prejudice to the final position to be taken by regional intergovernmental organizations on the Convention" should have been included. In the fourth line of that paragraph, the words "in each region" should be placed between commas. In section II, paragraph 5, a comma should be inserted after the word "demand". He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

47. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.80, as orally revised, was adopted.

48. Mr. CAHILL (United States of America), explaining his delegation's position, said that although the United States had joined the consensus in a spirit of co-operation, it had a number of strong reservations concerning draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.80. In view of their limited expertise, it was questionable whether regional commissions could play an effective role in the monitoring and assessing of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes. Mechanisms for that purpose already existed, including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, under which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme collected information about hazardous wastes, and the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, which provided information about hazardous chemicals.

49. His delegation had consistently questioned the utility of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments (sect. II, para. 1), and had opposed the List since its inception. The List was of particularly questionable usefulness to developing countries, which were most in need of reliable information. The List was also too inclusive, as a specific product could be placed on it at the request of a single State.

50. More precise and reliable sources of information about dangerous and toxic chemicals were available. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations listed pesticides and chemicals which had been banned or severely restricted by five or more countries. The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals listed all chemicals for which countries reported that export notification was required under their domestic law.

51. Mr. LEMERLE (France), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve had joined consensus in a spirit of compromise. However, they believed that the Basel Convention was the only coherent and global framework for the movements of dangerous wastes, and the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, the sole international instrument on toxic products. Strict control of the transfer of wastes, the exchange of information on techniques, the exchange of competent experts in the field and the provision of technical assistance to requesting countries could be amply ensured through the implementation of the Basel Convention. Under Lomé IV, the Twelve had even gone beyond the provisions of the Basel Convention by agreeing not to export dangerous wastes to the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The international community should focus its efforts on strengthening existing instruments and avoiding duplication of mechanisms.

52. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.80, draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.43/Rev.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

53. It was so decided.

Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (A/C.2/44/9, A/C.2/44/10)

54. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to documents A/C.2/44/9 and A/C.2/44/10 relating to accession by the United Nations to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. The documents contained, respectively, the text of a letter from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the President of the General Assembly, and the response of the President of the General Assembly.

55. In the light of the suggestion made by the President of the General Assembly in the final paragraph of his letter (A/C.2/44/10), he proposed that the Committee should defer action on the issue, pending a future request for its consideration.

56. The following would be the text of the draft decision to that effect:

"The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 43/441 of 20 December 1988, and taking note of the letters contained in documents A/C.2/44/9 and A/C.2/44/10,

(The Chairman)

Decides to defer action on the question of the accession by the United Nations to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency to a future session, pending a request for its consideration."

57. The draft decision was adopted.

(j) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SPACES FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS (continued)

Draft resolution on environmental protection of extraterritorial spaces for present and future generations (A/C.2/44/L.41)

58. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, said that a consensus had not been reached in informal consultations on the very important but difficult subject of the draft resolution. He had been advised by the sponsors that they would agree to defer action.

59. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 84: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development (A/C.2/44/L.8)

60. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, said that since informal consultations had been inconclusive, he proposed that consideration of the draft decision should be deferred until the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

61. It was so decided.

62. Mr. HUSSEIN (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the problem of external debt had reached crisis proportions and urgently needed a lasting solution. In view of that urgency, the Group of 77 had steadfastly advocated the establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development. The commission was not intended to become permanent or to replace institutions within the United Nations system which played specific roles with regard to the debt problem, but rather to serve as a market-place for ideas.

63. The Group of 77 continued to believe in the usefulness of an advisory commission, which would in no way conflict with the appointment of Mr. Craxi, the former Italian Prime Minister, as the Secretary-General's personal representative on debt, an appointment which it welcomed. On the contrary, such a commission could only supplement the Secretary-General's efforts to contribute to a lasting solution of the debt problem.

64. The Group of 77 had agreed to defer action on its proposal to establish an advisory commission until the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. It would submit the proposal to the Secretary-General, together with elements which it

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would like the Secretary-General and his personal representative on debt to emphasize.

65. The Group of 77 requested the Secretary-General to include discussion of the proposed advisory commission and the other elements to which it had referred in his report on debt to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Group of 77 would prepare a programme of work and would engage in consultations with the Secretary-General, his personal representative and various delegations with a view to the establishment of the proposed commission.

AGENDA ITEM 85: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued) (A/C.2/44/L.40/Rev.1)

66. The CHAIRMAN announced that Côte d'Ivoire had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.40/Rev.1.

67. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, said that after lengthy informal consultations, a consensus had been reached on the draft resolution

68. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), referring to paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, inquired whether the item under consideration would also be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. If so, that would constitute erosion of the principle of biennialization.

69. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in accordance with the decision to be taken by the Committee, the item would be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session only.

70. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.40/Rev.1 had included the provision in paragraph 19 because of the nature of the subject of the draft resolution. It should in no way be viewed as an erosion of the principle of biennialization.

71. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria) said that he could join the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that the item would not be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

72. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) said that his delegation would have to wait until the completion of the consideration of the agenda item at the forty-fifth session before it could take a decision concerning the following session.

73. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria) and Mr. VALLENILLA (Venezuela) said that they supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria concerning paragraph 19 of the draft resolution.

74. Mr. FARRUGIA (Malta) said that his delegation supported the view expressed by the representative of New Zealand. At the forty-fifth session, the Committee would decide on its programme of work for the following session.

75. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.40/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

76. Mr. MARKS (United States of America), explaining his delegation's position, said that the United States had been pleased to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.40/Rev.1. Climate change was arguably the most important environmental issue facing the international community and there were serious potential environmental, social and economic implications to be considered. The international community had given the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change a mandate to assess all aspects of the problem. Referring to paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, he stressed that the negotiations on a framework convention on climate should be conducted in a focused and efficient manner, and therefore should take place independently of the work by the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development.

77. He reiterated his delegation's strong reservations concerning the viability of the concept, referred to in paragraph 15, of assured access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for developing countries on favourable terms. Nevertheless, his Government recognized the unique needs of developing countries in that regard, and would continue to explore ways to facilitate access to and transfer of such technologies for those countries.

78. Mr. FARRUGIA (Malta) expressed satisfaction at the flexibility which had been demonstrated by all delegations, particularly the sponsors of the draft resolution, and had made it possible to reach a consensus. The adoption of the draft resolution paved the way for further progress on the question of climate change in the near future.

79. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/44/484).

The meeting rose at 9.35 p.m.