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SECOND COMMITTEE  
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Friday, 24 November 1989  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)

later: Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia)

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1990

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/C.2/44/L.46)

Draft resolution on a second industrial development decade for Africa  
(A/C.2/44/L.46)

1. Mr. GATHUNGU (Kenya), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the African States, said that the African countries and intergovernmental organizations had made extensive efforts to promote the industrial programmes envisaged under the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Africa's capacity to promote economic growth had, however, been hampered by the economic crisis that had engulfed the continent in the early 1980s, and a range of unfavourable external economic factors, forcing African Governments to concentrate on short-term measures such as those in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and to adopt painful structural adjustment programmes and policy reforms.

2. Following the independent mid-term evaluation of the industrial programmes adopted under the Decade, recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its 8th meeting in 1986 (resolution 1 (VIII)) and the decision of the Industrial Development Board at its 5th meeting in July 1989 (IDB.5/DEC.7), the Economic and Social Council had requested the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session to consider proclaiming the period 1991-2000 the second industrial development decade for Africa (resolution 1989/115).

3. Heartening progress had been made in some areas of African economies, despite the crises afflicting them. Kenya believed that the productive capacity of African countries would be enhanced by more support from the international community, thereby benefiting the global economy, and, along with the other African countries, had demonstrated that belief by participating in the 1989 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

AGENDA ITEM 82: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/C.2/44/L.48)

Draft resolution on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/C.2/44/L.48)

4. Mr. TAI (Malaysia) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77.

- (b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/44/L.49, A/C.2/44/L.50, A/C.2/44/L.51, A/C.2/44/L.52, A/C.2/44/L.53 and A/C.2/44/L.54)

Draft resolutions on economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (A/C.2/44/L.49), on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology (A/C.2/44/L.50), commodities (A/C.2/44/L.52), on the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/C.2/44/L.53) and on the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/44/L.54)

5. Mr. TAI (Malaysia) introduced the draft resolutions on behalf of the Group of 77.

Draft resolution on the trade embargo against Nicaragua (A/C.2/44/L.51)

6. Mr. SERRAN CALDERA (Nicaragua), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that, despite repeated resolutions of the General Assembly condemning the trade embargo against Nicaragua, the Government of the United States had recently reimposed the embargo for the fourth consecutive year. The text of the draft resolution, which was supported by the resolutions on the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America (42/204, 42/231 and 43/210) and the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986, was precise and straightforward

7. The trade embargo was an unjust and arbitrary measure, applied for purely political ends, in violation of the principles of peaceful coexistence established in the Charter of the United Nations and other important international instruments. Furthermore, the embargo violated the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation concluded between Nicaragua and the United States in 1956.

8. The embargo had had a serious negative impact on the economic development of Nicaragua, and threatened to disrupt the electoral process in that country. Unless it was lifted it would be impossible to promote the economic integration of Central America, to stabilize the economy of Nicaragua and to stimulate economic and social development in the region.

9. The negative attitude of the United States contrasted with the political and diplomatic efforts by the Central American Governments to reach a peaceful solution to the problems and conflicts in their region, and to the spirit of reconciliation and good will which had come to prevail in other conflict areas in the world. Nicaragua had hoped that the new administration in the United States would rectify the mistake of the old, by lifting the embargo, but its failure to do so threatened the preparations for, and conduct of, the elections in Nicaragua in February 1990.

10. The offer made by President Bush in November 1989 to lift the embargo if the opposition won the Nicaraguan election violated the principle of respect for the internal politics of a sovereign nation and was not conducive to the maintenance of the stability necessary for a normal electoral process. It was both ignoble and undignified for the United States to violate the fundamental principles of democracy and interfere in the internal affairs of another State, against which it

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(Mr. Serran Caldera, Nicaragua)

had been waging a war of aggression for eight years, by applying a trade embargo at the very time an electoral process involving international observers was under way. On behalf of all the sponsors, Nicaragua therefore called upon the Committee to reaffirm its defence of free trade and just and equitable international economic relations by adopting the resolution.

(e) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)  
(A/C.2/44/L.56)

Draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (A/C.2/44/L.56)

11. Mrs. NTETA (Botswana), introducing the draft resolution, announced that Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden had joined the other sponsors. She recalled the expanding role of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in a wide variety of areas and drew attention to those sections of the draft resolution appealing to the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system for their support and co-operation and inviting the donor community and other co-operating partners to participate at a high level in the forthcoming SADCC Annual Consultative Conference in Lusaka in 1990. Noting that co-operation in SADCC was a laudable example of a region endeavouring to help itself, and therefore exemplified the spirit of technical co-operation among developing countries, she appealed to the Committee to adopt the resolution.

(f) ENVIRONMENT (A/C.2/44/L.55 and A/C.2/44/L.58) (continued)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992 (A/C.2/44/L.55)

12. Mr. TAI (Malaysia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said that, for technical reasons, the draft resolution would have to be extensively amended before its final adoption by the Committee.

Draft resolution on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/C.2/44/L.58)

13. Miss POIRET (France), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, said that the sponsors had demonstrated a high degree of political will in reaching a consensus on a subject of such importance. With regard to substantive issues, the conference should have as its principle objective the reaching of an agreement on strategies and measures to reverse damage done to the environment with a view to promoting sustained development and reducing the environmental impact of the population explosion, external debt, famine and disease.

14. It was therefore to be hoped that regional and global strategies could be considered so that Governments could take concrete steps to solve environmental

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(Miss Poiret, France)

problems while promoting social and economic development, on the basis of a specific timetable.

15. With regard to preparations for the conference, the sponsors of the draft resolution viewed them flexibly, as could be seen from the draft text, beginning with paragraph 6.

AGENDA ITEM 83: PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1990 (A/44/3, 45, 303, 361, 409 and Corr.1, 477, 551, 617 and 689)

16. Mr. ZEPOS (Greece), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, said that during the Preparatory Committee's first session, held from 31 May to 2 June, it had been decided that he should hold informal consultations on the session with regional groups and delegations and to reflect the outcome of those deliberations in a preliminary report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. In June he had been invited to attend the special ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 at Caracas, Venezuela, as an observer. The Declaration issued by that meeting was proof of the positive and flexible approach adopted by the Group towards the negotiations on the special session. Since that time he had made a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, which had been marked by a productive debate on the session.

17. The special session was viewed as a major political event that would stimulate discussion and action by Governments and international organizations in a new political environment in which development would resume its place at the head of the international political agenda. The United Nations must play a central part in the resumption of economic growth and social progress throughout the world, while taking stock of the transformations that had occurred in the world economy in the 1980s. New ideas must inspire common approaches.

18. Following his consultations with the regional groups and individual delegations, he had drafted an informal paper, currently in circulation among delegations, to help them reach agreement on the major issues requiring common action at the special session. Broad agreement must be reached during the current session of the General Assembly, and the adoption by the Committee of a text outlining the pertinent issues would demonstrate the political will needed to ensure the success of the preparatory work and provide a basis for further consultations.

19. Mr. CHOO (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, recalled that at the special ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 at Caracas and at the ninth summit meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at Belgrade, the leaders of developing countries had called upon the developed countries to adopt a constructive and integrated approach towards the reactivation of their dialogue with the developing countries. The special session should provide an ideal

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(Mr. Choo, Malaysia)

opportunity for reaching agreement on the nature of the problems facing the developing countries and on an approach to solving them. At the Preparatory Committee's first substantive session, the Group of 77 had welcomed the preliminary outline of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, in the belief that the elements set out in chapter 2 thereof could be taken into account in preparing for the special session.

20. Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/111 acknowledged the need to strengthen multilateralism as the foundation for international economic co-operation. That idea could be pursued further in the process of preparing for the special session.

21. The informal paper to which the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee had just referred was currently being actively considered by the Group of 77, and the Group expected to express its views thereon during the course of the current session. He wished to point out, however, that the special session should not deal with the reform and restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, but should devote itself exclusively to the revitalization of economic growth and development in the developing countries.

22. Mr. ESCURE (France), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that they were approaching the preparation of the special session in an extremely positive frame of mind. On many recent occasions they had pointed out that the special session and the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade were complementary exercises. In fact, the special session would be meaningful only if all countries resolved to begin the 1990s by removing as quickly as possible the impediments to economic growth and development in certain parts of the world. The special session must also serve as a forum for discussion and agreement on general principles for international economic policies that would be valid for many years to come and could be applied flexibly to unforeseeable circumstances.

23. There were seven guiding principles which should be reflected in the development strategy. Firstly, each country must determine its own development strategy and objectives and continue to adjust its production structures to maximize profitability, create national savings for development and strengthen public institutions. Secondly, the problem of excessive population growth and its implications for employment, education and health, etc., must also be dealt with by individual States. Thirdly, the developing countries were entitled to external support, so long as they managed it effectively. Fourthly, national strategies and external assistance would be even more effective if they were better adapted to specific local situations and problems. Fifthly, an indispensable element of a favourable international environment was a multilateral and open system of global economic relations which favoured the movement of goods, services, capital and technology. Such a system must provide outlets for the exports of developing countries and facilitate productive foreign investment in those countries. Sixthly, there could be no sustained development without proper attention to the

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(Mr. Escure, France)

environment. Finally, there could be no sustained development without attention to the human factor.

24. Those principles alone would not ensure the success of the special session, however. All parties must express their views and assume their responsibilities to make the strategy produced by the special session their own. The session must also serve as a vehicle for co-operation which would promote a dialogue on key economic problems facing all countries. It was to be hoped that before the end of the current session, a general framework could be adopted that would serve as a basis for the work of the Preparatory Committee as that body drew up a draft agenda for the session which reflected the seven guiding principles in terms sufficiently general to remain valid throughout the decade but sufficiently precise that their adoption would be politically binding on all States and international organizations.

25. Mr. NIKAI (Japan) said that the special session should give due consideration to the great transformation the world had undergone during the 1980s. The session should address major opportunities and challenges in an integrated way and in a spirit of shared responsibility and co-operation. The final document of the session must send a clear political message to the world.

26. His delegation had been an active participant in the preparations for the session and believed that, if productive, the session would certainly contribute to the revitalization of dialogue and international relations at a time when all nations faced difficult economic and development problems. It was gratifying that all major countries had participated in the Preparatory Committee's first session, and his delegation hoped that the comprehensive report to be based on the preliminary outline of the Secretary-General's report would take duly into consideration the discussions that had taken place.

27. His delegation had been disappointed by the statement made by the Group of 77 at the first session in which it had identified subjects it did not wish to have discussed at the special session. He did, however, welcome the Group's general commitment to constructive dialogue, as manifested in the statement issued by the Group at its special ministerial meeting at Caracas in June. He also welcomed the readiness of the non-aligned countries, demonstrated at their ninth summit meeting, to resume the dialogue between developed and developing countries. He sincerely hoped that that constructive, realistic and practical approach would continue to prevail in all forums, including the Second Committee and the Preparatory Committee, for the new spirit of co-operation would go far in making the special session a meaningful one for all countries.

28. He appreciated the efforts that had been made in informal consultations at the initiative of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee regarding the orientation of the special session. A broad understanding among delegations on that matter would enhance the work to be done prior to the Preparatory Committee's next session, in early 1990. The special session was so important that thorough consideration must be given to its orientation, for it should not become a replay

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(Mr. Nikai, Japan)

of the Second Committee's general debate or of discussions held in the Economic and Social Council.

29. Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, said that they had consistently supported the convening of the special session and had actively participated in the preparatory process, a process in which they believed the interests of all countries must be balanced.

30. The arrangements for the special session were being made at a time when the international political atmosphere had improved and profound changes were taking place in the world economy. The new global challenges also called for common and comprehensive approaches to international economic problems that took fully into account the realities of an interdependent and multi-faceted world. The special session should therefore set broad policy guidelines for international development co-operation and help create favourable external conditions for the growth and development of all countries, particularly the developing countries. His delegation expected that such features of international economic relations as predictability, confidence, stability, equality, mutual benefit and non-discrimination would be reflected in the final document of the session.

31. The session should reaffirm support for strengthening the role of the United Nations as a unique universal forum capable of combining bilateral, regional and global interests for the benefit of the world economy and the revival of growth in the developing countries. Appropriate attention should be paid to strengthening multilateral, social and economic co-operation in the United Nations for the 1990s and to ensuring more effective co-ordination of the activities of the various bodies and institutions of the United Nations system.

32. Greater attention should be given to the crucial role of science and technology as a factor for economic development, and to increase access to technological achievements, the social aspects of growth and development, and the development of human resources with a view to the ultimate aim of development - people and their prosperity. Due attention should also be given to the relationship between disarmament and development as well as between environment and development.

33. The decisions of the special session should be aimed at achieving balanced development of the world economy, which was possible only through neutrally advantageous co-operation and, in particular, growth and development in the developing countries.

34. The final document should contain recommendations on ways of strengthening multilateral economic co-operation in key spheres, including specific measures to improve macro-economic policy co-ordination on a universal basis. It should seek constructive solutions to world economic problems and help to develop international co-operation in the economic field. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking were prepared to co-operate constructively in the preparation of such a document which should address basic issues of international finance, trade,

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(Mr. Zapotocky, Czechoslovakia)

technology, and environment in the context of international co-operation for the benefit of all nations.

35. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria) said that the highly original nature of the annex to General Assembly decision 43/460 was such as to guarantee that the special session would be a prominent event for the entire international community, united in the cause of reactivating economic growth wherever it was lacking. His delegation wished to express its gratitude to the delegation of China for the role it had played in the drafting of the annex.

36. In an increasingly interdependent world, to assist others was, in the final analysis, to assist one's own self and therefore one's own descendants. By deciding to convene in 1990 the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to development, the United Nations seemed to have realized at last that the sacrifices inherent in the internal structural adjustments of the countries of the South which had characterized the 1980s would be vain in the absence of symmetrical international adjustment and the adaptation of the developed countries' macro-economic policies to the economic growth needs of all.

37. The requirements for equitable development necessarily involved redressing world macro-economic imbalances as well as achieving a just and lasting solution of the external debt crisis, both through debt forgiveness and rescheduling and through the restoration of positive North-South financial flows. They thus entailed the establishment of international economic co-operation freed from concerns alien to economic development through the rehabilitation of multilateral economic co-operation of which the United Nations constituted the backbone.

38. The special session offered a suitable opportunity to strengthen recent achievements made in the field of political dialogue through economic progress in the interest of all, which constituted the best guarantees of international peace and security. The clear nature of the proposals and recommendations contained in the preliminary draft of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on the status of international co-operation augured well for the success of that endeavour. In that connection, his delegation stressed the need for the 10 elements contained in chapter II of the preliminary draft to be taken duly into consideration.

39. The seventh session of UNCTAD had also made the revitalization of development, growth and international trade its primary objective, but 13 months later, adoption of its final act was still awaiting implementation. While the adoption of specific international measures was vital, their harmonious implementation through respect for the commitments freely entered into was also essential.

40. The 1990 special session would be held 10 years after the General Assembly's eleventh special session, also devoted to international economic co-operation. The failure of that session had certainly contributed to the failure of the Third United Nations Development Decade, and every effort must be made to ensure that history did not repeat itself.

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41. Mr. Doljintseren (Mongolia) took the Chair.

42. Mr. RYSIŃSKI (Poland) said that the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly should generate new impulses for enhancing international co-operation and should help define a system of values and principles which would guarantee a firm base for stable growth and sustainable development. That would require an appropriately high level of representation at the session, which in turn could help generate the political will for further economic dialogue and more detailed negotiations. Unless the necessary conditions were created for reviving the economies of the developing countries and solving the external debt crisis, the possibility of the session's success would remain limited. In that context, "reliability and predictability", "confidence and security" and "flexibility and balance of interest" should be central concepts.

43. Economic interdependence made it necessary to take account of the balance of all relevant interests in the different dimensions of international relations. A comprehensive dialogue should be held on all combinations of the economic interests of North, South, East and West. The potential of East-West co-operation for easing the transition of the world economy towards a new, more mature stage of development should not be overlooked in the drafting of the agenda for the special session. However, East-West relations could not be treated separately from overall global relations, which were best served when their composite elements worked in unison. East-West relations should not therefore be construed as a threat to North-South co-operation; on the contrary, they were essential for a sustainable North-South dialogue.

44. General Assembly decision 43/460 and the first session of the Preparatory Committee offered a meaningful starting-point for the preparations for the special session. Poland believed that a pragmatic approach must be taken in the session's work to reflect ways of strengthening multilateral co-operation for economic and social development and defining the role of the United Nations in that area. Some crucial and interrelated issues which should be considered at the session included the flow of finance and goods, the role of science and technology, disparities and imbalances in international economic relations, conditions of adjustment, environmental protection, and development of human resources.

45. Mr. MENON (India) said that while North-South interaction in the economic field had been more or less at a standstill for over a decade, the world economy had been undergoing far-reaching changes. The gap between the developed and developing countries continued to widen. With the emergence of new economic Powers, the world had become multipolar and new arrangements for regional and interregional co-operation had either come into being or were developing. The developing countries as a whole derived little benefit from the recent sustained growth in world output. The time had come to take stock of those developments and to assess their implications for the world economy and, in particular, for the growth and development of the developing countries. Such an exercise would also make it possible to strengthen the mechanisms of international economic co-operation and where necessary adapt them to the new realities.

(Mr. Menon, India)

46. Needless to say, such co-operation was not designed for the exclusive benefit of the developing world but was aimed, firstly, at correcting imbalances and, secondly, at harnessing the potential of the developing world for the benefit of all countries.

47. Global peace and security could not be sustained without eliminating inequities and disparities. The rest of the world could not consider itself immune to the consequences of upheavals in the underprivileged regions of the world.

48. At the special session, the international community should engage in purposeful dialogue in a spirit of mutual interest and solidarity, seeking to achieve a consensus on the nature of the problems, the approaches required to solve them and the modalities to be applied. First of all, it must be recognized that the revitalization of economic growth and development in developing countries required the strengthening of international co-operation. For too long, long-term development prospects had been made subservient to short-term measures concentrating on adjustment. Secondly, such revitalization required a supportive international economic environment: the current adverse environment needed to be reversed, primarily by redressing the structural imbalances of the global economy. Thirdly, policy co-ordination needed to be made more participatory. Marginalizing the developing world might appear to be a logical market-oriented phenomenon in the short term, but it could seriously impede economic growth in the longer term. A broader-based system of policy co-ordination that reflected the interest of all countries was therefore inescapable.

49. Interrelated issues, especially trade, money and finance, debt, and technology and development, must be addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner. The sustained growth of the world economy in the long term could be ensured only if all the constituent parts grew in harmony. Restoration of the growth momentum required a positive substantial transfer of resources, liberalization of world trade through the removal of protectionist barriers, improvement of market access, stable monetary conditions and reduction of real interest rates. Poverty alleviation and raising the standard of living of large masses of people would continue to be priorities for the developing countries, even those developing countries which had achieved modest growth rates in the past few years, for a long time to come.

50. Mr. PILBEAM (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the perilous state of the world's ecosystem required decisive action and, possibly, profound changes in the economic activity of all countries in order to make development sustainable. Without early major action, irreparable damage could be done to resource bases, and environmental problems could become increasingly intractable and expensive, with obvious implications for development. It was therefore essential that the special session should address important environmental issues, including conservation and management of resources as an integral part of sustainable development. Environmentally and economically sustainable development should become a central political concern in both developed and developing countries.

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(Mr. Pilbeam, Australia)

51. The special session would give the international community a chance of coming to a common understanding on the major economic and social priorities for development for the next decade and to arrive at a general consensus to meet those challenges in a spirit of co-operation. Developed countries should address problems of access to their markets and capital flows, and developing countries should take steps to improve their policies and institutions in order to realize their full development potential. The pursuit of sound economic policies by both groups, including measures to reduce fiscal deficits and restore foreign-exchange relations to sustainable positions, would provide a framework for improving investor confidence and establishing a firm basis for long-term growth and development. Increased reliance on market forces, reduced barriers to trade and the operation of a dynamic private sector were important factors in that process.

52. People were the main resource for meeting the challenge of development. Human resources development, through effective education and training, basic health care, the more active participation of women, broad-based agricultural and rural development and the adoption of effective and fair economic and political systems, would be crucial in determining whether development continued.

53. The special session provided an opportunity for the representatives of developed and developing countries jointly to increase world understanding of the elements conducive to sustainable growth and development. The most effective means of communicating that understanding to the public and to decision-makers should be borne in mind. A short, memorable document had obvious presentational advantages and might be easier to negotiate than a long and detailed communiqué. The declaration to be adopted at the conclusion of the session should be realistic and relevant, and provide policy-makers with guidelines for formulating and implementing appropriate economic strategies; it could also serve as the conceptual framework for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

54. Mr. FEJIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the special session would afford an exceptional opportunity to revive multilateral dialogue and negotiations on urgent international economic problems, in particular those which impeded the development of the developing countries and their integration into the mainstream of the world economy. Obviously, its success would depend not only on the general economic and political environment, but also on a common understanding of the session's main objectives and the main issues which should be considered. The central objective of the session should be to achieve consensus on ways of revitalizing economic growth and development and, in particular, removing those obstacles in the international economic environment which prevented the developing countries from taking advantage of their own natural, human and other resources.

55. The special session was not a substitute for existing international economic forums. Rather, it provided an opportunity to address global economic issues in an integrated manner and to adopt general policy guidelines and recommendations which would take into account the respective spheres of competence of the relevant United Nations bodies and special agencies.

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(Mr. Fejic, Yugoslavia)

56. The political level and short duration of the special session precluded long negotiations on detailed sets of concrete policies and measures. However, it must clearly identify the major issues, and the preliminary outline prepared by the Secretary-General for the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was a good point of departure for that task and a good basis for the preparation of the comprehensive report to be submitted to the special session. Yugoslavia fully supported the view expressed in the preliminary outline on the need for the special session to contribute to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the consideration of global economic issues and enhancing its capacity to initiate concerted action in that field. In order to ensure the success of the session, all Member States should dedicate themselves to the strengthening of international economic co-operation and demonstrate their willingness to contribute actively to the search for a new development consensus.

57. Mr. FJAERTOFT (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the final document of the special session should be short, simple and understandable. Its structure, headings, ideas and language must appeal to the hearts as well as the minds of ordinary people everywhere. It should reflect the international community's common perception of the current world economic and social situation, the challenges which that situation posed and the responses required to meet them. The final document should provide a conceptual outline for the future orientation of the economic and social activities of the United Nations system, and should end with a strong commitment to increase and improve international economic co-operation.

58. The outcome of the special session should serve as the conceptual basis for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. However, the session should not prescribe specific policies or measures, since that would be the task of the international development strategy.

59. The final document should lay emphasis on three major areas. The first area was the economy, and the document should emphasize how the rapid internationalization of countries' economies had made them interdependent, how interlinked economic issues must be dealt with in an integrated manner, and how the persistent imbalances in the world economy, as well as in national economies, must be eliminated, or at least reduced, in order to ensure an international environment conducive to the revitalization of the developing countries' economies. In that context, the Nordic countries emphasized the importance of achieving the 0.7 per cent target for official development assistance. The second area on which the document should focus was the relationship between economic activity and the environment, and the recognition that all national and international policies and activities must be designed on an environmentally sustainable basis. The third area was human development. The eradication of widespread poverty necessitated the improved mobilization of human resources for development. Any successful development policy must acknowledge the role of women. Long-term economic and social growth and development was possible only when there was a healthy, well-educated population which enjoyed human rights and was able to participate

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(Mr. Fjaertoft, Norway)

fully in economic and political processes. The importance of population policies must also be stressed.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.