



## General Assembly

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 17 October 1988, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. CAPUTO

(Argentina)

- Programme of work
- Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization [10]
- Report of the International Court of Justice [13]
- Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee [20]:
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
  - (b) Draft resolution

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- Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference [24]:
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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I have to inform members of a change in our tentative programme of work. Agenda item 26, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity", originally scheduled for consideration today, will instead be taken up at a future meeting in order to allow time for the sponsors to submit the information required for the examination of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/43/L.1.

AGENDA ITEM 10

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION (A/43/1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In previous years, the Assembly has taken note of the annual report of the Secretary-General. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Secretary-General.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 10.

AGENDA ITEM 13

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (A/43/4)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the report of the International Court of Justice covering the period 1 August 1987 to 31 July 1988 (A/43/4)?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 13.

AGENDA ITEM 20

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/640)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.4)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In regard to this item, a draft resolution has been circulated in document A/43/L.4.

(The President)

I also wish to inform the General Assembly of the following additional sponsors of draft resolution A/43/L.4: Australia, Canada, Mongolia and Thailand.

I now call on Mr. Frank Njenga, Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/2, of 13 October 1980.

Mr. NJENGA (Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC)): Permit me to offer you, Sir, on behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and on my own behalf, our warmest congratulations on your election as President of the General Assembly at its forty-third session. We are confident that, with the benefit of your experience and wisdom, the forty-third session will be able to achieve historic success.

For the first time since the creation of the United Nations mankind has great expectations and hope of the United Nations. The new initiatives launched by the United Nations in different conflict zones of the world deserve full support and encouragement. I pledge to you, Sir, and the United Nations the fullest co-operation of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and its entire membership in the fulfilment and realization of these hopes and aspirations for international peace.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our most sincere congratulations to Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, whose tireless efforts have made this possible. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peace-keeping forces is a fitting tribute to the efforts that the Secretary-General and the United Nations have deployed in the quest for international peace and security.

It may be recalled that at the forty-first session, in 1986, the General Assembly, in its resolution 41/5, while noting with satisfaction the progress achieved during the preceding five years towards enhancing co-operation between the

(Mr. Nienga, AALCC)

AALCC and the United Nations, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a report on co-operation between the two organizations. That requested report is before the General Assembly in document A/43/640. I wish to congratulate the Secretary-General on this report and commend it to the General Assembly for noting and adoption.

I should like to highlight the fact that the Committee's work supportive of the efforts of the United Nations has hitherto proceeded in three directions, namely: first, inclusion of certain items and topics under consideration by the United Nations in the work programme of the AALCC; secondly, assistance rendered to Governments in their consideration of the agenda items before the Sixth Committee and some of the topics in the humanitarian and economic fields, through the preparation of briefs and studies by the secretariat of the AALCC; and, thirdly, strengthening of the United Nations through promotion of the ratification and implementation of major conventions, as well as through initiatives for the improvement of functional modalities of the General Assembly and other organs including the International Court of Justice.

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee was established in 1956. It began with a modest membership of seven. Today its membership has grown to 40 member States, embracing the two continents of Asia and Africa. The Committee's activities, as envisaged in its statutes, were initially focused on the formulation of legal principles and the provision of advisory services on such issues to member Governments. Some of the topics on which the Committee made its recommendations included: first, the issue of the legality of nuclear tests, in 1964; secondly, principles concerning the status and treatment of aliens, (in 1961); and, thirdly, principles concerning the rights of refugees, (in 1966).

(Mr. Nienga, AALCC)

Recommendations have also been made on the question of the immunity of States in respect of commercial transactions, principles concerning the extradition of offenders taking refuge in the territory of another State, free legal aid, dual nationality, enforcement of foreign judgements, the service of process and recording of evidence in both civil and criminal matters, relief against double taxation and fiscal evasion, the status of South West Africa, the Law of Treaties, the law relating to international rivers, review of the United Nations Charter, principles of coexistence and the law of outer space.

One item in which the Committee's involvement has been both intensive and extensive is the law of the sea. The Committee has made significant contributions towards projecting and protecting the interests of the developing world in this vital field. I may mention here in this regard the evolution of the exclusive economic zone concept, whose origin and elaboration were owed primarily to the work and effort of the AALCC.

Apart from its work in the field of international law, the Committee has also taken up for consideration several issues related to international economic and trade law matters. One of the major achievements in this area was the adoption of an integrated scheme for the settlement of disputes. This scheme envisages the development of national arbitration institutions, the establishment of regional arbitration centres and the provision of the services of the specialized arbitration institutions to the countries of the region.

Two regional arbitration centres have so far been established, one in Kuala Lumpur and the other in Cairo. Negotiations for the establishment of similar centres in Lagos and Tehran are at an advanced stage.

Against this backdrop, therefore, I should like to give a brief resumé of the current work programme of the Committee.

(Mr. Njenga, AALCC)

The twenty-seventh session of the Committee was held in Singapore in March this year. One of the statutory functions of the Committee is to examine questions under consideration by the International Law Commission. Over the years this has helped to establish a close relationship between the two organisations. The Singapore session was honoured by the participation of the then Chairman of the International Law Commission, Mr. Steve McAffrey, who gave a comprehensive overview of the work currently being done by the International Law Commission. The AALCC remains seized of most of the items on the agenda of the International Law Commission.

The Committee has also been following with keen interest the development of international law relating to the status and treatment of refugees. Apart from examining the question of State responsibility in this context, the Committee is at present considering a novel concept of "safety zones" for the displaced persons within their own country of origin. The focus of deliberations on this subject has been the issue of the status of such zones and their operational framework in the context of international law on refugees.

I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on their joint, successful efforts to ensure the convening of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, in Oslo, from 22 to 24 August 1988. We in the AALCC commend the Conference's recommendations to the international community aimed at alleviating the dire plight of the victims of the deliberate and calculated destabilization policies of the racist Pretoria régime.

(Mr. Njenga, AALCC)

In this connection we consider it highly regrettable that the racist régime in Pretoria continues to ignore and defy all international appeals to end its apartheid policy, its destabilization policies and its illegal occupation of Namibia. We applaud the recent visit to Pretoria of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, our Secretary-General, to discuss with the South African authorities implementation of Security Council resolution 345 (1978), on the independence of Namibia. We very much hope that this time South Africa's promises are genuine, but we remain highly sceptical of the goodwill of that racist régime, in view of past experience. We shall, however, be the first to admit our error of judgement if South Africa finally delivers the goods and releases Namibia.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is one of the most important achievements in the field of the development of international law. It is to us a matter of disappointment, however, that progress in the ratification of the Convention has so far been slow. We in the Committee, for our part, have been engaged in stimulating and accelerating this process among our member Governments. For the last five years the Committee has been pursuing a programme of work which has a two-fold objective. The first is to assist its member States in the preparation and adoption of national legislation on their maritime zones. Within this context the Committee has prepared draft model legislation on selected issues, such as the regulation of foreign fishing in the exclusive economic zone. The second is to assist the member States in following the progress of work in the Preparatory Commission. The Committee has been monitoring the work of the Preparatory Commission and studying the problems related thereto. We are, however, seriously concerned at the slow progress being made in the Preparatory Commission and the attempts by some delegations to turn the clock back regarding their obligation to transfer technology to the enterprise.

(Mr. Nienga, AALCC)

One of the items on the agenda of our Committee that may be of interest to Member States of the United Nations is that on "Elements of a legal instrument on friendly and good-neighbourly relations of States of Asia, Africa and the Pacific". In considering this item, the basic objectives of the Committee are, first, to identify universally recognized principles and norms governing friendly and good-neighbourly relations among nations; secondly, to promote uniform understanding and interpretation of these principles and, thirdly, to facilitate strict adherence thereto by member States.

On the debt crisis, I wish to recall the fact that it is nearly a decade and a half since the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action. Each passing year has shown that efforts to build an equitable economic order have met with unending problems, and as a result the North-South dialogue is at a crossroads. Meanwhile, the problems of developing countries have piled up, to the extent that they are on the brink of explosion owing to the excruciating external debt.

We wish in this context to underline that the debt crisis of the developing countries is an issue of concern to the entire international community. If the prevailing situation leads to the collapse of the economies of the developing countries, the repercussions will have devastating effects on the entire international community. The search for solutions, therefore, should be of concern to both the developed and the developing countries.

It may be of interest to point out here that for the last three years the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee has been considering the issue of the debt burden of developing countries. Deliberations within the Committee have led to the conclusion that the United Nations should, inter alia, convene an international conference on debt. It is a matter of satisfaction, also, that the Committee has now decided to extend distribution of one of its studies, entitled

(Mr. Njenga, AALCC)

"Legal aspects of international loan agreements", to the entire membership of the Group of 77. We are also willing to distribute the same study to any other State which has an interest in this debt crisis. The Committee continues to work towards the formulation of norms and legal principles relating to international debt relief.

We believe that the recent developments on the international scene augur well for the taking of a decisive step towards convening the much-delayed International Conference on the Indian Ocean. We recognize that the proposed Conference may or may not achieve the immediate objective of creating a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. It would, however, provide an impetus towards the evolution of new ideas for improvement of the political and security climate in that region. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee is prepared to play an active and constructive role in ensuring the attainment of the objectives of the International Conference on the Indian Ocean.

Prospects for peace in the Middle East, which is one of our major concerns, have remained and will remain elusive so long as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land continues and the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people is denied. The current uprising of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories further demonstrates the legitimacy of their demand. In the meantime, Israel must be held responsible under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 for ensuring protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

During the Singapore session in March this year, our Committee decided to take up an item entitled, "Deportation of Palestinians in violation of international law, in particular the Geneva Convention of 1949". We condemn unreservedly the policy currently being pursued by Israel of deporting any person considered by it to be a leader of the popular uprisings of the masses in the occupied territories.

(Mr. Nienga, AALCC)

Apart from being illegal under the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the 1977 Protocol, such expulsions constitute a futile effort to stem the tide of destiny. No matter how many individuals are expelled, the mass uprisings will never stop until the root cause of the problem is eradicated: that is, until the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to their own distinct identity within their own sovereign State is a reality. The Israelis should therefore concern themselves more with the termination of their own illegal and illegitimate occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The spate of terrorism has put the international peace and security of mankind in peril. The international community has responded to this menace through the enacting of a number of conventions which obligate States either to extradite or punish the terrorists. The member States of the AALCC have been fully supportive of these efforts.

However, it is a matter of concern to us that in some quarters attempts are being made to blur the distinction between the peoples' struggle for liberation and terrorist activities. We remain vigilant against such attempts, which are clearly directed against the legitimacy of the struggle for self-determination and independence.

(Mr. Njenga, AALCC)

In this context, therefore, it may be pointed out that the Committee has been working on these two interrelated subjects. It is our conviction that criteria for distinguishing between international terrorism and the struggle for national liberation are not only desirable but also feasible. We remain confident that our current efforts in this regard will constitute a significant contribution to United Nations and other international efforts in combating the menace of international terrorism.

Another of the other major concerns expressed by most of the delegations taking part in the general debate during the past three weeks concerned the question of the dumping of industrial and hazardous wastes in large parts of the third world, which is one of the major causes of environmental degradation. Most Governments have stressed the grave dangers involved and suggested the strengthening of international co-operation to thwart attempts to dump dangerous toxic wastes in the territories of developing countries. The AALCC shares these concerns and is prepared to co-operate with the organizations of the United Nations system in any measures being planned. We would particularly stress the need for positive, concrete steps leading to an international framework convention on the preservation of the environment and the strengthening of existing international legal mechanisms.

I wish to emphasize that the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee is proud of its record in the co-operation arrangements with the United Nations in our common endeavours. We shall spare no effort to enhance this co-operation and to help in the creation of a more just and equitable world.

Before I conclude I wish to inform the Assembly that the Government of the Republic of Kenya has kindly offered to host the twenty-eighth session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, to be held in Nairobi from 13 to

(Mr. Njenga, AALCC)

18 February 1989. In this connection, I express the hope that the United Nations system will, as in the past, be fully represented at that session.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of Egypt to introduce draft resolution A/43/L.4.

Mr. BADANI (Egypt)(interpretation from Arabic): First, it is a pleasure for me to extend my congratulations to Mr. Njenga on his election as Secretary of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee. I should also like to thank him for his statement, in which he described the achievements of the Committee in its patient efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its various bodies in all spheres.

Egypt's interest in the strengthening of co-operation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee and in the prospects for future co-operation results from our firm conviction of the need to expand the role of international law in all its aspects so as to improve the international atmosphere, guarantee the establishment of just and equitable international relations in the service of nations and build a better world for future generations.

The United Nations expressed its gratitude and thanks for the constructive role of the Consultative Committee when it decided, at its thirty-fifth session, to accord it the permanent observer status and to invite it to participate as an observer in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; and when it decided, at its thirty-sixth session, to include this item on the agenda of the General Assembly, with the aim of strengthening the Committee's important role in supporting United Nations activities at the international and interregional levels.

The Consultative Committee has proved that it deserves the confidence of the international community by increasing its efforts and activities in connection with the progressive development and codification of international law, and in the economic and humanitarian spheres. It has also participated effectively in

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

United Nations conferences, and submitted several studies in areas of vital interest to the United Nations.

We have noted with satisfaction the participation of several judges of the International Court of Justice, Presidents of the International Law Commission and representatives of specialized agencies in meetings of the Committee. This demonstrates the shared interest in the problems and questions under consideration.

Given its supportive role with regard to United Nations activities in the sphere of international law, the Consultative Committee has included in its programme of work such questions at present being considered by the International Law Commission as the use of international waterways, for purposes other than navigation, and the jurisdictional immunities of States and their property. The Committee is now studying the legal aspects of these two questions to facilitate the work of the International Law Commission in this sphere.

The Committee collaborates closely with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in helping member States to codify norms of international trade law and encourage members to accede to the international conventions of UNICTRAL. The Consultative Committee is preparing a legal guide on joint industrial projects on the lines of that prepared by UNICITRAL.

In the sphere of international economic co-operation for development, the Consultative Committee devised a formula for the peaceful settlement of disputes resulting from economic and trade relations and decided to set up for this purpose two regional centres for international commercial arbitration in Cairo and Kuala Lumpur. These two centres are now working very competently, with the main aim of assisting in the application of UNCITRAL arbitration system.

In the last few years the Consultative Committee has expanded the base of its activities in several fields of vital interest to the international community by

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

carrying out studies on such topical international problems as the foreign debt problem of the developing countries, the refugee problem and the problem of illicit drug trafficking. In addition, it is at present preparing a study on the issue of the deportation of Palestinians beyond their frontiers, in violation of international law, in particular the Geneva Convention of 1949. It is preparing another study on the criteria for distinguishing between terrorism and the struggle of peoples for independence.

I cannot review here all the activities of the Consultative Committee and its pioneering role in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations.

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

However, it should be noted that during its 32 years of existence the Consultative Committee has gained considerable legal and political experience. This has allowed it to strengthen its impact on the international scene and prove its effectiveness in all areas of interest to the international community. We hope that the United Nations and its specialized agencies will make use of this experience by strengthening their co-operation with the Consultative Committee and benefiting from the specialized studies it has prepared.

Before concluding my statement, I wish to present draft resolution A/43/L.4, entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee". I do so on behalf of the co-sponsors: China, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, New Zealand, Romania, Sudan, Thailand and the United Republic of Tansania.

This draft resolution, which is similar to that introduced on discussion of this agenda item, refers in the operative paragraphs to the efforts of the Consultative Committee to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its various organs, including the International Court of Justice, through programmes and initiatives that it undertakes. In addition, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the progress achieved towards enhancing co-operation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee. Finally, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on co-operation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee.

Mr. KAGAMI (Japan): I should like first of all to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to Mr. Frank Njenga on his election as the new Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee. Given the wealth of his experience and knowledge in Asian and African as well as United

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

Nations affairs, we are confident that the Committee will make even further progress as a truly important legal body connecting countries of two major continents.

At the same time, I wish to pay a special tribute to Mr. Sen, who has served with true distinction as the Committee's Secretary-General ever since its creation. Indeed, the steady development of the Committee in the past three decades is in large part traceable to his unflagging enthusiasm and outstanding leadership, which have been a source of encouragement to each of the Committee's members.

As one of its founding members, Japan attaches great importance to the work of the Committee.

The Committee was established in 1956 as a forum for the free exchange of views and the discussion of common legal problems among experts from Asian and African countries having diverse political, economic and social systems. Since then, the Committee has become a major forum for Asian-African co-operation in legal matters. But it is not only the countries of Asia and Africa that have benefited from the activities of the Committee. An increasing number of Governments from outside the Asian-African region have demonstrated their interest in its work by attending the annual sessions of the Committee as observers. Moreover, through its active co-operation with various organs and conferences of the United Nations, the Committee has strengthened its supportive role regarding the work of the United Nations in wider areas. In particular, it has developed a close relationship over the years with such United Nations bodies as the International Law Commission, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the Economic and Social Council, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

Special mention should also be made of the important recommendations submitted to the Assembly in 1986 with a view to improving the functioning of the General Assembly and rationalizing its procedures. As one of the delegations that were actively engaged in the drafting of those recommendations, we are gratified that they were widely supported in the Assembly and the Sixth Committee.

We are convinced that the co-operative relations between the Committee and this world Organization, which have now become a regular feature, will greatly benefit not only the countries of Asia and Africa, but also countries in other regions. My delegation will continue to extend its full support to the activities of the Committee and to its even closer co-operation with the United Nations.

Mr. ZAMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I should like to begin my statement by thanking the Secretariat for preparing a report on co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (A/43/640), which we have found to be comprehensive and fruitful.

We, the Asian and African countries, in our eagerness to participate actively in the progressive development and codification process of international law, established the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee in 1956 for the exchange of views and information on legal matters of common concern to the two regions. Therefore, the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee have common objectives with respect to encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification.

(Mr. Zamani, Islamic Republic  
of Iran)

It was this common objective that led to the commencement of co-operation between the AALCC and the United Nations immediately after the establishment of the AALCC. That co-operation, which continues to this day, may be divided into two periods. The first includes the years before 1981, when the co-operation between the two forums, although it had not been institutionalized, was fruitful and constructive. For example, the AALCC undertook a systematic and permanent examination of the work of the International Law Commission from Asian and African perspectives, and its views and recommendations have been reflected directly or indirectly, in the work of that body. Its evaluation of, and recommendations on, a draft convention on diplomatic immunities and privileges are another example of its active participation in the process of codifying international law.

The second period of co-operation between the AALCC and the United Nations started in 1981, when the arrangements were institutionalized and the AALCC was accorded permanent-observer status by General Assembly resolution 36/38. Since then, the co-operation has been consolidated, and the AALCC has included the following subjects in its programme of projects and studies: law of the sea, international protection of refugees, international economic co-operation, and, more important, annual preparation of notes and comments on items on the agenda of the General Assembly likely to be allocated to the Sixth Committee. These notes are useful to representatives of States members of the AALCC in their active participation in the Sixth Committee.

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, at its twenty-seventh session, which was held in Singapore in March 1988, elected, as its Secretary-General, an experienced and skilled lawyer, who assumed duty a few months ago. We hope that

(Mr. Zamani, Islamic Republic  
of Iran)

under the leadership of Mr. Njenga, who is a member of the International Law Commission, the AALCC will grow further and that co-operation between it and the United Nations in fulfilling subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1 of Article 13 of the Charter - "promoting international co-operation ... and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification" will be further consolidated. This is why my delegation has become one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, and we hope that this resolution will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. GUPTA (India): My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for his excellent report on co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC).

The AALCC was established in 1956 by seven Asian States - Burma, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka and Syria - to serve as an advisory body of legal experts for consultation and co-operation between its member Governments in the field of international law and economic relations, particularly the matters under consideration by the United Nations and its various organs and agencies. Forty States are now members to the AALCC.

At its thirty-fifth session the General Assembly accorded permanent-observer status to the AALCC.

At its forty-first session the General Assembly, by its resolution 41/5 extended congratulations to the AALCC, on its 30th anniversary, for its highly commendable work in promoting inter-regional and international co-operation supportive of the efforts of the United Nations. The Assembly also noted with appreciation the continuing efforts of the Committee towards strengthening the role

(Mr. Gupta, India)

of the United Nations and its various organs through programmes and initiatives undertaken, and the commendable progress achieved during the past five years towards enhancing co-operation between the two organizations in wider areas.

Following the series of consultations and meetings between the officials of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the AALCC, a programme of co-operation was drawn up which identified nine specific areas: the co-operative framework; representation at meetings and conferences; Sixth Committee matters; law-of-the-sea matters; refugee question; efforts towards strengthening the role of the United Nations through rationalization of functional modalities; the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs; international economic co-operation for development and zones of peace; and international co-operation.

The co-operative framework initiated, and subsequently further developed, has now become a regular feature. The AALCC has also undertaken important initiatives with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations. Its activities in these areas have not been confined to its own relationship with this Organization; they have involved all interested member States. Furthermore, the areas of co-operation have been enlarged to cover matters in the economic and humanitarian fields, in addition to progressive development and codification of international law.

The co-operation between the AALCC and the United Nations and its various organs and agencies has over the years, covered extensive fields, including law, economic relations, the environment, the problem of refugees, and ocean resources. The work of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly is of special interest to the AALCC, whose secretariat prepared notes on matters under consideration, in order to assist member States in their participation.

(Mr. Gupta, India)

The law of the sea is an area in which the AALCC's contribution, during the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, is widely known and acknowledged. In the field of international trade law, the Committee maintains close collaboration with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Since 1964, it has been engaged in the study of refugee law and problems of co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), culminating in the adoption of the Bangkok Principles, followed by addendums thereto, at its annual sessions.

(Mr. Gupta, India)

We note with great appreciation the work done by the AALCC and encourage its activities. We note that the existing areas of co-operation between the United Nations and the AALCC will be not only maintained but also further strengthened and extended in tangible ways.

Mr. KIRSCH (Canada) On behalf of the delegations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the General Assembly on this item, Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee. Our delegations wish first of all to associate ourselves with the congratulations extended by previous speakers to Mr. Frank X. Njenga on his election as the new Secretary-General of the Committee. Mr. Njenga's long-standing contribution to the development of international law is well known to members of this Assembly and it augurs well for the future work of the Committee. We wish also to pay a tribute to Dr. Sen for the extremely valuable work he has accomplished for the Committee since its establishment. We also express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on co-operation between the two organizations (A/43/640).

Our three countries have followed the work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) for a number of years. We have again this year been very much impressed by the degree and the quality of the close relationship between the United Nations and the Committee, as is clearly shown in the report. In this regard we welcome the ongoing efforts of the AALCC to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its various organs, including the International Court of Justice, through the rationalization of their functions. We would like to emphasize that the rationalization process that is now well under way has been largely influenced by the valuable labours of the AALCC. As will be recalled, the Committee recommended, in a 1986 report to the General Assembly on reform, ways and

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

means of improving the functioning of the United Nations. On this particular subject I would refer to the statement made by the representative of Canada on 17 October 1986 on behalf of a number of delegations which were involved at that time in consultations on matters of procedural reform in the United Nations.

In the same vein, we find particularly useful the assistance rendered by the Committee to its member Governments for their active participation not only in the work of the General Assembly but also in the work of the Sixth Committee. Such assistance fosters a better quality of debate in those forums.

Since its inception in 1956 the Committee has focused its co-operation with the United Nations mainly on actively promoting the accession of its member Governments to various international instruments. We are glad that, as is indicated in the Secretary-General's report, that co-operation is now extended to legal matters in the economic and humanitarian fields. Aside from promoting, for example, the ratification and implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Committee now participates in the work of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the International Law Commission and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. That is a most welcome development.

In the field of humanitarian law we have noted with interest the ongoing studies being conducted by the AALCC on the question of State responsibility regarding refugees and on the concept of safety zones for displaced persons in the country of origin. The foregoing are examples of the important supportive role of the AALCC in various areas of international law. As has already been pointed out by other delegations, the work of the Committee is of considerable benefit not only for countries of Asia and Africa but also for countries of other regions, and we

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

would like to emphasise that point. We hope that the AALCC will pursue its work in close co-operation with the United Nations and we assure the Committee of our continuing support in that area, as is reflected in the decision of our three countries to co-sponsor draft resolution A/43/L.4.

Mr. ZEPOS (Greece) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community. The Twelve have always appreciated the quality of the work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) and in particular the work it has already done to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its principal bodies.

The Twelve would like to reiterate their appreciation of the important contribution made by Mr. Sen in carrying out his functions as Secretary-General of the Committee. We would like also warmly to congratulate the new Secretary-General, Mr. Frank X. Njenga, and to wish him all success in his new post. We heard with great interest the statement he made and have taken due note of the activities which are under way and those planned by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee. It goes without saying that we attach great importance to questions dealing with the work of the Sixth Committee, questions which the AALCC is once again considering during the present session of the General Assembly.

The Twelve have already had the opportunity in the past of supporting several initiatives of the AALCC, in particular those dealing with the rationalization of the procedures of the General Assembly. They especially welcome the fruitful co-operation which has existed for a number of years between the AALCC and the United Nations and hope that such co-operation will become even closer and more effective in the years to come.

Mr. SKOTNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the Soviet Union we note with satisfaction the growth of the activity of the countries of Asia and Africa in world affairs, their aspirations to independence and to constructive interaction on the bilateral, regional and global levels. A unique and important contribution in the search for solutions to key problems of our day and ways to strengthen the role of international law is being made by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee. Over the more than 30 years of its existence, the Committee has become an authoritative intergovernmental organ. Co-operation between it and the United Nations is doubtless a mutually enriching source of ideas and experience. The report of the Secretary-General on this question, which briefly lists the major areas of work of the Committee and areas of interaction with the United Nations, and also the statement made today by the Secretary-General of the Committee, reaffirm in our view the growing interdependence of universal, regional and national interests and a growing awareness of the integral unity of the world in which we live.

We also see here a reflection of the philosophy and traditions of the Committee, which was established on the initiative of the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, after the Bandung Conference of 1955.

The report of the Secretary-General most clearly illustrates the growing role of international law in the regulation of the most varied areas of international relations. This is clear from the range of issues considered by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee: zones of peace and international co-operation, international economic co-operation for development, the question of refugees, the struggle with the illicit drug trade, the law of the sea and many other relevant problems, including, of course, questions relating to the work of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Skotnikov, USSR)

We consider dialogue with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee as part of broad international discussion on the place and role of international law in today's world and on the need for radically enhancing its role for building a non-nuclear and non-violent world. Reaffirmation of the primacy of international law in inter-State relations is a process which is absolutely necessary if mankind is to make progress.

We welcome the contribution of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee to resolving this problem and wish it all success in its noble endeavours.

Mr. KASINA (Kenya): Close co-operation has evolved between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) since the Committee's founding in 1956. The co-operation, which has continued to grow over the years, was given a formal basis in 1980 when the Committee was granted permanent observer status in the United Nations; indeed, it was with the intention of further strengthening those ties that, on the occasion of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Committee, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 36/38 of 1981, in which, inter alia, it

"requests the Secretary-General to carry out consultations with the Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee ...".

It also decided to include in the agenda of the General Assembly the item "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee" - an item which since then has appeared annually on the General Assembly's agenda.

The importance of the annual inclusion of this item in the agenda each year cannot be over-emphasized. Suffice it to say that it symbolizes both the close co-operation between the two organizations and the recognition of the importance of the Committee's work. The areas of co-operation between the United Nations and the

(Mr. Kasina, Kenya)

Committee have been vast and varied, covering international law, the debt crisis, refugee problems, the environment, ocean resources and outer space, to name but a few.

The Committee's mandate has made it both possible and necessary to establish and develop working relations with organs and bodies of the United Nations other than the General Assembly. The Committee has in this way had occasion to work with the International Law Commission, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Preparatory Committee on the International Sea-Bed Authority and the Law of the Sea Tribunal.

Of specific interest to the Committee has been the work of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. The contributions of the AALCC in support of the work of the Sixth Committee are worth noting. In addition, the Committee has been involved in the work of the International Law Commission, especially in connection with the Conference on Diplomatic Relations, the Conference on the Law of Treaties and the Conference on the Succession of States.

A particularly valued contribution was made by the Committee in regard to the Law of the Sea. After the adoption of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Committee worked towards assisting its member States in its implementation, as regards their rights under the Convention and the benefits that accrue under it.

Collaboration between the Committee and UNCITRAL has long been fruitful, as evidenced, for example, by the establishment, under the auspices of the AALCC, of centres of arbitration in Kuala Lumpur, Cairo and Lagos, where the rules of arbitration of UNCITRAL are used. The Committee has also been supportive of the work of UNCITRAL in other areas, in particular in regard to the draft convention on

(Mr. Kasina, Kenya)

the international sale of goods and the carriage of goods by sea, and legal guidance on the drawing up of contracts for the construction of industrial works.

In addition to the consultations that have been routinely conducted on matters of common interest between the Committee and the competent organs and offices of the United Nations, the Committee has also undertaken initiatives with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations.

In conclusion, I should like to place on record my delegation's satisfaction with the Committee's work. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Kenya will be hosting the 1989 session of the Committee in Nairobi from 13 to 18 February 1989. I should also like to extend to the Secretary-General of AALCC our warmest congratulations on his election. We are confident that, with his well-known skills, the excellent work being done by the Committee will continue. My delegation hopes that the mutually advantageous co-operation that exists between the United Nations and the Committee will continue to grow.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/43/L.4.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/43/L.4 was adopted (resolution 43/1).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of Israel, who wishes to explain his position.

Mr. NISSIM-ISSACHAROFF (Israel): Though my delegation did not request a recorded vote on draft resolution A/43/L.4, we would like to record our objection to paragraph 1 of that resolution, and in particular to paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Secretary-General's report (A/43/640).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): This concludes our consideration of agenda item 20.

#### AGENDA ITEM 24

#### CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/498 and Add. 1)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.2)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In connection with this item, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution (A/43/L.2).

I call upon the Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in accordance to General Assembly resolution 3369 (XXX), of 10 October 1975.

Mr. ANSAY (Organization of the Islamic Conference): It is indeed a privilege for me to address the General Assembly on a matter of particular significance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to the United Nations, namely co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

(Mr. Ansay, Organization of  
the Islamic Conference)

Allow me to begin, Sir, by congratulating you on your election to the high office of the presidency of the General Assembly. Your election is a tribute to your personal qualities, to your vast experience and skilled leadership and to your great country.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Florin, who served with distinction as President at the Assembly during the course of the difficult but none the less fruitful forty-second session.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his invaluable work at the head of this Organization.

I should like to associate myself with the numerous expressions of appreciation and gratitude that have been addressed in this forum to the Secretary-General for his devotion to the cause of humanity and peace and for his untiring efforts to promote a climate of international peace, security and co-operation. His principles and determination, embellished by personal charm and able leadership, have been instrumental in approaching and achieving those recent political successes that seemed so distant only a little while ago.

Since its inception, the Organization of the Islamic Conference has been fully dedicated to the realization of the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter. The charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference underlines the determination of its membership of 46 States to make effective contributions towards the enrichment of mankind and the achievement of progress, freedom and justice all over the world by promoting global peace and security. The Organization of the Islamic Conference derives its inspiration from the eternal, noble message of Islam. Its establishment was predicated on the principles of peace and harmony, tolerance, equality and justice for all.

(Mr. Ansay, Organization of  
the Islamic Conference)

All members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are also Members of the United Nations. It is natural, therefore, that the two organizations should work closely to promote the ideals, principles and objectives that they share.

Co-operation between the two organizations received an important boost in 1975, when the Organization of the Islamic Conference was granted observer status by the United Nations. By the late 1970s it was felt that the ever increasing interaction of the two organizations should be given an institutional framework whereby the secretariats and the specialized agencies, organs and bodies of the two organizations could hold regular consultations to review their ongoing work and to examine the possibilities of expanding and enlarging their areas of co-operation.

It was in this context that the third general meeting of representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and of the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was held in Geneva from 4 to 6 July 1988. As the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/498/Add.1) indicates, the consultation was highly successful. The meeting reviewed the progress made and put forward recommendations regarding seven priority areas for strengthening co-operation, namely: food and agriculture, development of science and technology, investment mechanisms and joint ventures, education and eradication of illiteracy, assistance to refugees, technical co-operation and development of trade.

The meeting noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in these seven designated priority areas of co-operation, given the constraints on resources, particularly the financial resources, which have affected the capacity of both organizations. The meeting decided to continue the bilateral and multilateral co-operation between the two systems, and agreed upon various conclusions and recommendations in the areas referred to.

(Mr. Ansary, Organization of  
the Islamic Conference)

Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/36, which was the first resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, a number of co-operation agreements have been signed by our organization with specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the bodies concerned with technical co-operation for development.

Since its inception, the Organization of the Islamic Conference has adopted numerous resolutions and declarations, both at the summit level and at the level of the conference of foreign ministers, addressing the issues that confront the Islamic world, as well as important global issues relating, inter alia, to international peace and security, human rights and social and economic issues, including the establishment of the new international economic order.

On the question of Palestine and the explosive situation in the Middle East, the Organization of the Islamic Conference reaffirms that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be established without the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including the Holy City of Al Quds Al Sharif, and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with the Holy City of Jerusalem as its capital.

(Mr. Ansary, Organization of  
the Islamic Conference)

The Organization of the Islamic Conference has expressed its full support for the national uprising of the Palestinian people in occupied Palestinian territories, and fully supports the early convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East, as called for by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation on an equal footing of all parties directly concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference welcomes the signing of the Geneva Accords as a step towards the comprehensive settlement of the problem of Afghanistan and calls for the establishment of a broad-based Government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan. This would usher in an era of peace and enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour.

(Mr. Ansary, Organization of  
the Islamic Conference)

The Organization of the Islamic Conference expresses its relief and satisfaction at the cessation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and hopes that the negotiations being conducted by the two sides, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the full implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and on a comprehensive and just settlement will be successful. The fruitful co-operation between the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the most commendable work done by the high-level Islamic peace Committee to bring an end to this sad chapter, will always be cherished by the membership of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference stands firmly behind the black people of South Africa and Namibia in their just and legitimate struggle against the abhorrent policy of apartheid of the South African régime. The Organization of the Islamic Conference condemns the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Pretoria régime and demands the immediate implementation of Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978), which constitute the only acceptable basis for the transition of Namibia to independence. The Organization of the Islamic Conference also stands firmly behind increased assistance to the countries of Africa for the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa.

On the international economic situation, the Organization of the Islamic Conference supports inter alia the proposal which calls for the waiver of interest due on all loans, and reconsideration by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank of their stringent conditions for development assistance for the development of human resources in developing countries and for the expansion of

(Mr. Ansay, Organization of  
the Islamic Conference)

scientific and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology from the North to the South.

Draft resolution A/43/L.2, now before the Assembly, which will be formally introduced by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, reflects the firm determination of both our organizations to collaborate in various political, economic and social fields and to continue to enhance the existing co-operation between the two organizations. I am confident that the draft resolution will have the unanimous approval of members of the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of Jordan to introduce draft resolution A/43/L.2.

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): It gives me much pleasure to introduce, on behalf of all member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, draft resolution A/43/L.2, dated 7 October 1988, which is entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

The Organization of the Islamic Conference is based on the glorious humanitarian principles enshrined in the tolerant message of Islam. These include the principles of co-operation, equality, justice and the pursuit of peace. The Organization of the Islamic Conference addresses many issues of concern to the Islamic world, which are thus by definition international issues of concern to all mankind. These are, among other things, the issues of security, peace, progress and development in various spheres.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

All member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are also Members of the United Nations. Thus it is only logical that constructive co-operation be maintained between the two organizations, as such co-operation is beneficial to both and, indeed, to the entire world. Furthermore, the Charter of the United Nations encourages the activities in the context of regional co-operation to promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference recognizes the importance and significance of the co-operation that exists between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations, and seeks to enhance and expand it. Draft resolution A/43/L.2 is an illustration of this orientation on the part of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The text of the draft resolution is in large measure similar to texts of resolutions recently adopted by the General Assembly on this item. In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/498 and Add. 1). In operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly approves the conclusions and recommendations of the third general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which was held in Geneva between 4 and 6 July 1988. These recommendations are contained in paragraphs 21 to 87 of A/43/498/Add. 1.

In operative paragraph 3 the General Assembly notes with satisfaction the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Mr. Salah Jordan)

In operative paragraph 4 the Assembly requests the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue co-operation in their common search for solutions to global problems.

In operative paragraph 5 the General Assembly encourages the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their co-operation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In operative paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference; expresses its appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of co-operation between the two organizations; and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the state of co-operation.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

In operative paragraph 7, the General Assembly recommends that a co-ordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference should be organized during 1989 at a time and place to be determined through consultations with the organizations concerned.

In the tenth operative paragraph the Assembly decides to include this item in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session.

On behalf of all member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I call upon all members of the General Assembly to support draft resolution A/43/L.2, which envisages the promotion of co-operation between the two organizations with a view to achieving their lofty goals. We hope that the draft resolution will be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): May I take it that the General Assembly adopts draft resolution A/43/L.2?

Draft resolution A/43/L.2 was adopted (resolution 43/2).

The PRESIDENT (intepretation from Spanish): I now call on the representative of Israel.

Mr. NISSIM-ISSACHAROFF (Israel): Although my delegation did not request a recorded vote on draft resolution A/43/L.2, we should like to record our reservations regarding the wording of operative paragraph 2.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have now concluded consideration of agenda item 24.

## AGENDA ITEM 25

## CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/509 and Add.1)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.7)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In this connection, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution (A/43/L.7).

I call first on the Deputy Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 477 (V), of 1 November 1950,

Mr. MANSOURI (League of Arab States) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset, Sir, I should like to congratulate you on behalf of the League of Arab States on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at this historic time, when we see this Organization's effectiveness and credibility being strengthened and its Members rededicating themselves to the principles set out in the Charter. Your election to that important post is a tribute by the international community to your qualities and wisdom and to Argentina's international status. I should like also to express appreciation of the close relations between Argentina and all Arab countries.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the League of Arab States, to congratulate Mr. Peter Florin on his excellent guidance of the work of the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

I must also pay a tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, and convey to him the appreciation of the League of Arab States for his efforts in carrying out his duties and fulfilling his responsibilities, especially with regard to co-operation between the world Organisation and the League of Arab States, and in exerting his good offices on behalf of peace throughout the world.

(Mr. Mansouri, League of Arab States)

Co-operation between the secretariat of the League of Arab States and the United Nations goes back a long way - indeed, to the beginning of the establishment of the two organizations. The charter of each organization is based on such noble purposes and principles as non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States, co-operation in ensuring for all men a prosperous future in which they can enjoy justice and freedom in their own country, and the establishment of a stable, peaceful society conducive to international peace and security, which is the ultimate goal of both organizations.

The League of Arab States works through its member States to strengthen the process of consultation and understanding between the two organizations and their different bodies. It is on this basis that this item has been included in the General Assembly's agenda for many years, so that certain rules guiding this co-operation may be established. The Secretary-General's report (A/43/509 and Add.1) clarifies the scope of this co-operation during the past five years and the results achieved. It also stresses the importance of continuing and strengthening this co-operation in the future.

The League of Arab States looks forward to the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. This stems from our belief in the principles upon which this Organization is based and the need for respect for its resolutions and the fulfilment by its Member States of the commitments and responsibilities emanating from membership of the Organization, the first of which is compliance with its resolutions. Only thus can they do their duty to the Organization and fulfil the collective responsibility to ensure the collective security that is our aim.

The League of Arab States, through its various bodies and especially on the basis of the various Arab summits, strives to find ways and means of establishing peace in the Middle East. The Arab summit at Fez, Morocco, in 1982 laid down clear

(Mr. Mansouri, League of Arab States)

guidelines for the establishment of peace in the Middle East region. The other summits, at Amman in 1987 and in Algeria in 1988, reaffirmed the commitment of all Arab States to the resolutions adopted at the Fez summit on peace in the Middle East and the need to implement these principles.

The resolutions adopted at the Arab summits and those adopted by the General Assembly call for the speedy convening of a conference on peace in the Middle East as the appropriate means of achieving a just and lasting peace settlement in the region, including a solution of the Palestinian question and restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

(Mr. Mansouri, League of Arab States)

The uprising of the Arab people in Palestine, which has entered its eleventh month, proves beyond any doubt that the Palestinian people reject the continued Israeli occupation and call for the restoration of their full rights, especially the right to self-determination and to an independent State.

This uprising should be an object lesson that impels all States, particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, to hasten to fulfil their responsibilities and come to the help of the Secretary-General in his efforts to bring about the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on a footing of equality.

The positive results of international détente which the world has now begun to witness, as reflected in the current efforts to find peaceful solutions to the regional conflicts, should embrace the Middle East.

While we laud the energetic attempts by the permanent members of the Security Council, in conjunction with the Secretary-General, to bring about the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), we hope that the same will be done to ensure implementation of the General Assembly's resolutions calling for the restoration of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and demanding that Israel implement Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of its forces from all Lebanese territory and the Arab Syrian Golan.

The League of Arab States reaffirms its complete and total co-operation with the United Nations in all spheres and its continued desire to engage in intensive consultations in the search for ways and means to support and ensure the implementation of all the Organization's resolutions, whether on general

(Mr. Mansouri, League of Arab States)

disarmament, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the ending of apartheid, decolonization, the legitimacy of the right to self-determination, or the basic human rights of all peoples and countries, as well as resolutions pertaining to development, the protection of the environment and humanitarian aid, among other things.

In the Arab League we have striven and continue to strive for the establishment of the ground rules of joint Arab economic development, taking into account the fact that we should plan for development, progress and stability within the framework of a long-term programme to raise the standard of living of our citizens and ensure their welfare, freedom and dignity. It was with this aim in view that the strategy for joint Arab economic development was formulated and adopted at the Arab summit meeting held in Amman in 1983. Various specialized Arab agencies and organizations have become active in the implementation of this plan, in co-operation with each other and with the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The report of the Secretary-General (A/43/509 and Add.1) highlights this co-operation and the various stages that have been completed in the political, social and economic sectors.

In this respect, we would like to express our appreciation of the technical co-operation extended by the United Nations system to our Arab specialized agencies and organizations. We also reaffirm our resolve to avail ourselves of all the available Arab expertise in the implementation of these projects in the Arab world. We urge the international specialized agencies to co-operate further with the Arab agencies in order to help in the completion of development projects in the Arab world, especially those that were adopted, together with a number of recommendations, in Tunis in 1983 and in Geneva in 1988.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I now call on the representative of Democratic Yemen, who will introduce draft resolution A/43/L.7.

Mr. AL-ALFI (Democratic Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the delegation of my country, which has the honour of presiding over the Arab Group this month, and of the other Arab countries sponsors of the draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, I have pleasure in submitting to the General Assembly draft resolution A/43/L.7. The aim of this draft resolution is to encourage a spirit of co-operation and lay the foundations for joint action by the United Nations and the League of Arab States, in keeping with the resolutions adopted by the Arab summits and with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the charter of the League of Arab States.

This draft resolution, in spirit and in content, attempts to strengthen relations with the United Nations in all areas, in particular the political, economic and social spheres, while respecting the primary obligation of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, defend human rights, reject apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination and segregation and eradicate colonialism, to allow the peoples to enjoy their right to self-determination. In this draft resolution the Arab States are as one in their desire to ensure respect for the commitments undertaken as Members of the Organization.

It is clear that the Arab countries and the League of Arab States attach particular importance to the strengthening of co-operation between the two organizations. This is made clear in operative paragraphs 3, 4, 10 and 11 of the draft resolution. For example, in paragraph 3 the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen co-operation with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for the purpose of implementing United

(Mr. Al-Alfi, Democratic Yemen)

Nations resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Middle East conflict and the question of Palestine, the core of the conflict.

In paragraph 4, it requests the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, further to intensify their co-operation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

In paragraph 9 it decides that, in order to intensify co-operation, a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should take place once every three years and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized annually on areas of priorities and wide importance in the development field of the Arab States, time and place to be determined by consultations between the two organizations.

(Mr. Al-Alfi, Democratic Yemen)

Paragraph 10 recommends that the: Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States take the necessary steps to conclude an agreement of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States when the text of such an agreement is finalized by the two organizations, as called for in operative paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 42/5.

In the light of what I have said in going over the preambular and operative parts of the text, I appeal to Member States to vote in favour of draft resolution A/43/L.7, which is aimed primarily at supporting international legitimacy and pursuing co-operation between the two organizations to give effect to the noble principles to the fulfilment of which all the peoples of the world aspire, so as to ensure a world of peace, co-operation, justice and fraternity.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of Israel, who wishes to explain his vote.

I remind members that in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401 explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. NISSIM-ISSACHAROFF (Israel): The General Assembly has before it once again a draft resolution regarding co-operation between the United Nations and the Arab League. Since the Arab League's establishment it has pursued objectives and activities against my country which clearly contradict the Charter of the United Nations. In the view of the delegation of Israel, therefore, such co-operation with the United Nations is clearly inappropriate.

On the political level, the Arab League, as an organization, has consistently rejected any realistic or viable approach to the peaceful settlement of the

(Mr. Nissim-Issacharoff, Israel)

Arab-Israeli conflict. This is reflected in the wording of operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution before us which calls for the implementation of:

"United Nations resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East".

These highly contentious resolutions of the General Assembly have never constituted any genuine basis for a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in particular by those actively involved in the peace process. If anything, they undermine the very idea of direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

On the economic level, the Arab League has continued over the years its efforts to attempt to weaken and boycott Israel. Fortunately, most international companies are not intimidated by this blackmail. This blackmail, however, has become the singular trademark of the Arab League.

It is primarily for these reasons that my delegation will vote against the draft resolution A/43/L.7.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/43/L.7. I have to inform members that the Secretary-General does not foresee programme budget implications in the implementation of this draft resolution.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, 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, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Draft resolution A/43/L.7 was adopted by 146 votes to 2. (resolution 43/3).\*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I shall now call on representatives who wish to explain their votes.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): As in previous years, the United States again voted against the resolution on this item. This is not because we are opposed to the general principle of enhanced co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. On the contrary, we fully endorse greater co-operation of this kind.

\* Subsequently the delegation of Swaziland advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

Operative paragraph 3 of this resolution, however, requests the Secretary-General to attempt to implement previous General Assembly resolutions that the United States has consistently opposed as damaging to the prospects for peace and security in the Middle East. We cannot support adoption of a text that is so clearly inconsistent with United States policy.

Mr. ZOIS (Greece): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve member States of the European Community.

While we have all voted in favour of the resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States just adopted, we wish, nevertheless, once again to make a few general comments.

Over the last few years the General Assembly has been faced with a growing number of resolutions relating to the co-operation between the United Nations and various organizations holding observer status, a tendency which will continue during this General Assembly. The Twelve are well aware of the benefits of such co-operation and have been happy to join in expressions of support and encouragement for the further development of such co-operation within the framework of the Charter. However, the Twelve would prefer that a resolution of this kind deal with questions of co-operation in terms which avoid introducing contentious elements. In particular, with regard to operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/43/L.7, the Twelve wish to draw attention to the need to avoid prejudicing the role of the Secretary-General, and also to the fact that the Twelve have not supported all the resolutions referred to in that paragraph.

(Mr. Zois, Greece)

The Twelve also urge that, in view of the current financial constraints, efforts be made to limit the cost of such co-operation between the United Nations and various organizations with observer status.

With regard to paragraph 12, we would like to state that its contents should not serve as a precedent for the future. The United Nations should be free to make use, in its various projects, of the best and most economical expertise available to it.

Mr. KAGAMI (Japan): The delegation of Japan is well aware of the extremely valuable benefits to be derived from co-operation between the United Nations and the various organizations with observer status. Japan thus welcomes and firmly supports the co-operation of the United Nations with the League of Arab States. Consequently, Japan voted in favour of draft resolution A/43/L.7. However, we would like to place on record our position concerning operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, which includes references to some of those United Nations resolutions that we did not support.

Japan also wishes to draw attention to the need for efforts to limit the costs of such co-operation between the United Nations and the various organizations with observer status, in view of the current financial constraints.

Mr. BOREHAM (Australia): Australia has been a consistently strong supporter of instruments of regional co-operation and of co-operation between such bodies and the United Nations. The Secretary-General's report (A/43/509 and Add.1) is a source of satisfaction. For this reason Australia has registered a positive vote on this resolution.

My delegation wishes to place on record, however, that, as with similar resolutions in the past, again this year it encountered difficulties with the wording of operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution on which we have just

(Mr. Boreham, Australia)

voted. My delegation, however, looks forward to substantive debates on the relevant questions under other items later in this session.

Regarding operative paragraph 12, while understanding the sentiment expressed in this context, my delegation considers that the United Nations should continue to be mindful of the need for merit, efficiency and economy in the employment of staff. This principle applies in all resolutions where considerations of this kind are raised.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (New Zealand): My delegation supports the promotion of co-operation between this Organization and the League of Arab States. We accordingly voted in favour of the resolution that has just been adopted.

Again, however, we have reservations about aspects of the resolution, in particular operative paragraph 3. I wish to place on record that our vote does not signify any change in our position on matters that are not relevant to the resolution.

On operative paragraph 12, I wish to state my delegation's belief in the need for continued adherence to the Organization's existing criteria concerning the employment of staff.

Mr. KIRSCH (Canada): As in the case of similar resolutions in previous years, Canada voted in favour of the resolution that has just been adopted. We are very much aware of the benefits derived from the ongoing co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. However, we would like to record that we have certain reservations with regard to operative paragraph 3, as it refers to previous United Nations resolutions that Canada did not support. Also, we view the recommendation in operative paragraph 12 as being within the context of existing United Nations personnel policies, and as not setting a precedent.

Mr. von BARNEKOW (Denmark): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

(Mr. von Barnekow, Denmark)

The Nordic countries voted for the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly on the understanding that the elements with political implications are not relevant to the issue and, obviously, cannot prejudice the positions of the Nordic countries on the substantive matter referred to.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Observer for the League of Arab States has asked to be allowed to reply to a statement. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 477 (V), of 1 November 1950, I call on him.

Mr. MANSOURI (League of Arab States) (interpretation from Arabic): We listened a while ago to the representative of Israel as he tried to justify his negative vote on the resolution regarding co-operation with the League of Arab States. It would seem that there was no justification for his negative vote on the resolution, which was supported by the majority of States, the vote being 146 in favour and only two against.

The representative of Israel tried to attack the League of Arab States by making false accusations. The League of Arab States has stated clearly its position on many issues, especially the issue of peace and security in the Middle East. It would have been better had the representative of Israel adopted a positive attitude to the offer made by the League of Arab States, which supports the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict by peaceful means, as demonstrated at the first Arab summit and at subsequent Arab summits.

He should also have accepted the General Assembly's resolutions on the subject, all of which call for the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. To be effective, that conference would have to have full powers and all the interested parties should participate, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with all the others.

(Mr. Mansouri, League of Arab States)

We in the Arab homeland work for, and look forward to, the social and economic development that will ensure the well-being and dignity of Arab citizens and their sovereignty over their land. In our march towards that goal we must strive to end Israel's occupation of Arab territories. Israel must withdraw from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, south Lebanon and the Arab Golan Heights. The League of Arab States seeks peace - that is the goal of all mankind, but especially of the Arab peoples - and we hope that Israel will respond favourably to our demand.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): This concludes our consideration of agenda item 25.

AGENDA ITEM 27

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/552 and Add.1)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.8/Rev.1)

THE PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In this connection the Assembly has before it a draft resolution (A/43/L.8/Rev.1).

I call on the representative of Honduras to introduce draft resolution A/43/L.8/Rev.1.

Mr. MARTINEZ ORDOÑEZ (Honduras) (interpretation from Spanish): It gives me great satisfaction, Sir, to convey to you my warmest congratulations on the able manner in which you have been conducting the proceedings of the General Assembly. Your broad experience and well-known capabilities, which are an honour to the Republic of Argentina and to our region, are a guarantee of the success of our work.

The Secretary-General has submitted to the Assembly a report on the item "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States" (A/43/552 and Add.1), pursuant to resolution 42/11 of 28 October 1987. That report recognizes the importance of co-operation and co-ordination between both organizations mainly with a view to action in the economic and social spheres. It also reflects the need for more efficient and co-ordinated liaison between the available economic and social resources in order to attain shared goals. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his excellent report and we wish to express our recognition of those organizations within the United Nations system which have contributed to it.

I have the honour to submit to this Assembly for consideration the draft resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States contained in document A/43/L.8/Rev.1. This draft resolution was initially co-sponsored by Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and my own country, Honduras. In addition, the following countries have joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago.

(Mr. Martinez Ordoñez,  
Honduras)

The substance of the draft resolution invites the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to promote and expand co-operation between both organizations in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations for the attainment of their common objectives.

In the third operative paragraph it recommends that a general meeting be held between representatives of the Organization of American States and representatives of the United Nations and other organisations of the United Nations system, on a date and at a place to be determined, for the purpose of holding consultations on projects, measures and procedures which will facilitate and broaden co-operation between them.

The fourth operative paragraph recommends that in 1989 local meetings should be promoted between resident representatives of the two organizations in each country which is a member of both organizations, in consultation with the national authorities of those countries.

Finally, in the last operative paragraphs the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly within two years - that is to say at its forty-fifth session - a report on the implementation of this draft resolution and decides to include this item in the provisional agenda of that session.

On behalf of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution I invite the General Assembly to adopt it without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Prior to the Assembly's taking a decision on the draft resolution I call upon the representative of Belize.

Mr. TILLET (Belize): The Belize delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the representative of Honduras for his precise presentation of the draft resolution A/43/L.8/Rev.1.

The United Nations has always sought to work with regional organizations - as well it should - for by so doing it increases the prospects for peace and development throughout the world. The Assembly has today adopted resolutions on co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations and the League of Arab States. Draft resolution A/43/L.8/Rev.1 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) encourages co-operation between those two organizations. The Belize delegation supports the idea of co-operation between the United Nations and the OAS but we believe such co-operation would be more meaningful if all the American States were members of the OAS.

As members of the Assembly will recall, article 8 of the charter of the Organization of American States prohibits Belize and Guyana from becoming members of that regional organization. If it were a matter of the OAS's being open to all American States and two having chosen not to be members, that would have been a different situation, but its charter itself closes the doors of the OAS to Belize and Guyana. It is in that context that the Belize delegation views this draft resolution with some degree of scepticism, particularly operative paragraph 4, on which I must reserve my Government's position until such time as all American States are members of both organizations.

It is our view that the most genuine display of co-operation by the member States of the Organization of American States would have been for each member of that organization to have ratified the Cartagena Consensus before this draft

(Mr. Tillet, Belize)

resolution was put to the General Assembly this year. That would have opened the door of the OAS for Belize and Guyana.

To date, 14 member States of the Organization of American States have not ratified the Consensus and 17 have done so. We have been informed by others that the process of ratification has started. It is our hope that by the time a similar draft resolution is presented to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly member States of the OAS will have made it possible for Belize to support it unreservedly.

On behalf of the people and Government of Belize it is my great pleasure to express our gratitude to those American States which have already ratified the Cartagena Consensus. At the same time I must call on those American States which have not yet done so to demonstrate their genuine desire for co-operation by the early ratification of the Consensus. That would clear the way for a truly regional Organization of American States and for greater co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/43/L.8/Rev.1.

In this connection I should like to inform members of the Assembly that the Secretary-General does not foresee programme budget implications in the implementation of the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/43/L.8/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 43/4).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 27.

AGENDA ITEM 28

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/433)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.6)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In connection with the item on co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System the Assembly has before it a draft resolution (A/43/L.6).

(The President)

I call on the representative of Peru to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a pleasure for me to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System", contained in document A/43/L.6.

As the Assembly knows, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), is made up of the 26 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which established it in 1975 in order to provide the region with an organisation that would be exclusively for the members of the region. SELA is therefore the only forum for co-ordination and co-operation among Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the annual dialogue of its foreign ministers has to date been the highest level of regional consultation. The draft resolution is therefore co-sponsored by all of the States members of SELA. Its main purpose is to help broaden and strengthen the co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

Ever since SELA was established in October 1975, various organisations and agencies of the United Nations system have given it their support and co-operation and have taken part in various joint projects of interest to the Governments of the region. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/12 in which it called on the Secretary-General to report to it at the current session on the implementation of that resolution and on the evolution of co-operation between the United Nations system and SELA. Through the adoption of the draft resolution which we are submitting today, we are seeking to renew the commitment to broaden and strengthen that co-operation.

In its preamble the draft resolution refers to decision 282 of the Latin American Council, which is the supreme body of SELA, and states that it considers General Assembly resolution 42/12 to be an important step. In the operative part:

"Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General"

and

(Mr. Alzamora, Peru)

"Expresses satisfaction with decision 282 of the Latin American Council of the Latin American Economic System".

It also:

"Expresses its gratitude for the constant efforts made by the Latin American Economic System in promoting co-operation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and consultation and co-ordination of their position on subjects of vital importance to the region, as well as in enhancing their economic and social development".

Furthermore, it:

"Urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to broaden and deepen its co-ordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System"

and:

"Urges the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and broaden its support to the programme that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out within the framework of the 1989-1991 work programme approved by the Latin American Council".

It further:

"Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to intensify their co-operation with the activities of the Latin American Economic System".

Finally, it:

"Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote, in close collaboration with the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System, the holding of a meeting in 1989 between their respective secretariats," - without financial implications for the Organization - "with the aim of identifying those areas in which it will be possible to broaden

(Mr. Alzamora, Peru)

co-operation between the United Nations system and the Latin American Economic System".

Bearing in mind that this draft resolution does not contain any controversial elements and that it reflects the aspirations of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the broadening and strengthening of co-operation between the United Nations and SELA, the Peruvian delegation hopes that this draft resolution, which is sponsored by all countries members of the System, may be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I now call on the representative of Mexico, who wishes to explain his position on this draft resolution.

Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. President, as you aptly said at the end of the general debate of this session of the General Assembly, the time has come for the question of development to be given a central place in our international agenda. Only thus will we be able to consolidate the progress made in the area of disarmament and the solution of regional conflicts.

In the course of the work of the Second Committee, my delegation expressed pleasure and satisfaction over the achievements made by the super-Powers in their dialogue and over the progress made on political issues. However, we mentioned our concern over the lesser importance which the Powers attach to the development of the third world and to the urgency of the need to overcome the economic crisis which exists in developing countries and for the international community as a whole.

We said that peace was not merely the absence of war. In order for peace to be real, complete and lasting, a number of conditions must be met so that men and women everywhere in the world may live to the full, without lacking the basic essentials. At present, those conditions are not being met and, what is even

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

worse, it would seem that there is no clear awareness of the urgency of meeting them.

In the United Nations and in all international organizations efforts and reforms should be directed towards strengthening the Organization's capacity to respond to the challenges of development and poverty.

Motivated as we are by our desire to promote multilateralism at the economic level, and not at the political level only, we consider it extremely important to support and promote a more effective relationship between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). Co-operation between those two organisations is of special importance since, as has been mentioned here, SELA is the only instrument for broad-based agreement and co-operation that exists solely for Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Ever since its establishment, SELA has played a key role in the process of Latin American integration and in the search for more just and equitable international economic relations. Within its framework, several instruments of consultation and negotiation have been agreed to, which have been of help in identifying shared goals and drawing up joint strategies.

A new exercise, which no doubt will be of great importance in the future, is the informal meeting of foreign ministers which was held at the end of the fourteenth session of the Latin American Council, and which enjoyed the participation of countries from the region which are not members of SELA. This was the first time that ministers and deputy ministers for foreign affairs from the entire region had met to analyse the international problems we face.

In the area of regional co-operation, SELA has undertaken various programmes and actions in priority areas with a view to meeting the needs resulting from the economic and social problems resulting from the current crisis. Efforts at co-operation have been stepped up in the area of foreign debt, which is the major

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

obstacle to the reactivation of development in our countries. To this end, a regional mechanism has been established for the exchange of information and experience in regard to debt management and negotiation.

In addition to this, the Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, members of SELA, convened a regional conference in Caracas, on foreign debt in order to consider new approaches and to discuss fair and lasting solutions to this serious problem.

One aspect which has been given special attention is that of technical co-operation among developing countries, aimed at strengthening the following sectors: agriculture, health, foreign trade, housing, science and technology, and education.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean recently agreed on new mechanisms for more effective participation in the defining of priorities and the drawing up of regional projects financed by the United Nations Development Programme. This means that the use and co-ordination of the resources available for the operational activities of the United Nations system will be more consistent with the needs of the region.

The report submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/12 presents a promising picture of the co-operation efforts undertaken since 1975 and the immediate prospects for strengthening ties between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

Co-operation between SELA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a key element. The projects that have been developed jointly by those institutions are many, and have covered a broad range of economic activities.

Throughout its work, SELA has had the support of other agencies of the United Nations system. Co-operation between SELA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization has made significant progress, including in areas such as capital development and micro-electronics.

We also wish to highlight co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the purpose of undertaking studies and preparing proposals on the best utilization of the region's purchasing power to strengthen intra-zonal trade and to increase the region's share of world trade.

In addition to these actions, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/12, SELA has been undertaking specific activities of co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations. Furthermore, in July a co-operation agreement was signed with the United Nations

(Mr. Meya Palencia, Mexico)

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote co-ordinated co-operation in the exact and social sciences, culture and communications.

Co-operation has also been manifest in the work done by SELA action committees, in which regard we wish to highlight that of the Committee of Action and Support of Economic and Social Development in Central America, which was established in 1983 to promote the development of the countries of the area without discrimination or political preconditions, and thus contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

This list of activities shows the importance which the member countries of SELA attach to co-operation with the United Nations, and indicates their desire to intensify these efforts. This will was expressed in decision 282 of the 14th Latin American Council, which reiterates the interest of Latin America and the Caribbean in broadening and strengthening co-operation with the United Nations.

Given an international arena that increasingly opposes the goals of economic progress of the third world, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries becomes all the more important to supplement efforts being made to open up new prospects and development opportunities and bring about a more just and equitable restructuring of the international economic order.

The undertaking and consolidation of these initiatives by SELA will require close co-operation with the competent bodies of the United Nations system.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have brought to this General Assembly a draft resolution on strengthening co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System. We are convinced that adoption of this draft resolution will give important impetus to co-operation between those organizations.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

In Latin America we understand that broad-based agreement is a key element in the solution of problems, and we recognize the work SELA has done. We direct our efforts towards a just and permanent solution of the debt problem and to our future development. On 27 October in Punta del Este, Uruguay, there will be a meeting of the permanent mechanism for consultation and political agreement at the presidential level, with an agenda in which economic issues will have a central place.

The United Nations must participate vigorously in efforts to strengthen co-operation among developing countries and in search of international economic relations capable of benefiting all countries through shared responsibilities.

The easing of world tensions must not cause the developing world to be forgotten or left out of the process that brings well-being, progress and peace in its broadest sense. For all of us, the price would be too high.

Mr. PEÑALOSA (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) is an item that has acquired renewed importance, especially at a time of increased international dialogue to achieve solutions of peace and prosperity for the peoples of the world. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's report on this item and his recognition therein of the need to strengthen already existing bonds of co-operation between the two organizations.

Ever since its creation in 1975, SELA has been making progress and increasing its co-operation with the United Nations, in particular its Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In each of SELA's two major areas of action, this co-operation has been clear: in the area of regional consultation, in the support given to initiatives which, inter alia, led to the meeting of Presidents in 1984, at which the key Quito Declaration and Plan of Action were

(Mr. Peñalosa, Colombia)

adopted; and, more recently, in the area of commodities, in the agreement that led to the regional Plan of Action adopted in Guatemala in 1987.

In regional co-operation, action by SELA has been supported by specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, especially in the fields of industry, science and technology, and trade information.

Last September's meeting in Caracas, at which the Latin American Council of SELA reaffirmed the principles contained in the Panama agreement that established the organization, also recognized the importance of General Assembly resolution 42/12. The dialogue of foreign ministers of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in conjunction with meetings of the Council, has enabled us to expand our political and economic exchanges, thus strengthening inter-regional co-operation.

(Mr. Peñalosa, Colombia)

As an expression of the importance attached to this new aspect of political dialogue among foreign ministers of the region Colombia has offered to host the next meeting, to be held in Cartagena in 1989. Regional forums such as the Latin American Economic System (SELA), whose secretariat plays an essential role, serve not only for the identification of common needs and the exchange of experiences, but also for the planning of initiatives and solutions which, because they come from those with greater experience, may be more like to succeed. These initiatives, brought to the broader forum of the United Nations, will be the basis for world-wide strategies to solve problems in the various systems of activity of the Organization, and will benefit from a broader exchange of information in a universal forum.

Accordingly, the delegation of Colombia recommends that the Assembly adopt by consensus the draft resolution just introduced by the delegation of Peru.

Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana): As a member of the Group of Latin American States, Guyana attaches great importance to the role of Latin American Economic System (SELA) as a catalyst for regional development. We believe that the system, which was created in 1975 and boasts a broadly based membership, can be an effective instrument for promoting economic co-operation among participating countries. We would therefore wish to encourage it in this direction so that its full potential may be realized.

In the midst of the prevailing economic crisis our region has seen its developmental efforts frustrated at every turn. There is urgent need therefore to devise a common strategy for restoring economic growth in the Latin American and Caribbean community. The forum of SELA, built as it is on the premise of regional solidarity, is ideally suited to the formulation of such an approach. Through a process of consultation and co-ordination, the system has been remarkably

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

successful in stirring member States to joint political action in the face of their economic and social problems.

Indeed, at the fourteenth regular meeting of the Latin American Council, which was held in Caracas from 19 to 20 September this year, this collective determination was reinforced by the adoption of a number of decisions aimed at protecting the region from further decline. They contemplate and provide for the deepening of the regional integration movement and the strengthening of its bargaining power in international economic negotiations.

In keeping with the Bolivarian vision of a united Latin America and the Caribbean, SELA has been specifically mandated to maximize dialogue and co-operation among member States. This improvement in relations will inevitably lead to the strengthening of the regional and subregional integration process, to the achievement of greater economic complementarity and to enhanced regional self-reliance.

The wide gamut of responsibilities which SELA is called upon to bear will undoubtedly stretch its capabilities to the full. Fully cognisant of the system's limitations, the Latin American Caribbean Council was of the view that the United Nations, as an Organization that shares SELA's objectives of peace, co-operation and development, could, by virtue of its experience and expertise, assist SELA in the discharge of its mandates.

That was the basis of decision 282, which records the Council's satisfaction with the institutional co-ordination and co-operation that has developed following the agreement signed last year between the permanent secretariat of SELA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Council on that occasion further expressed a special interest in the expansion of that relationship.

(Mr. Insanally, Guyana)

That aspiration is now reflected in draft resolution A/43/L.6, which is before the General Assembly for consideration. My delegation is fully persuaded that increased collaboration between the United Nations and SELA would serve not only to avoid unnecessary duplication of activities by the two organizations but also to hasten the economic revival of Latin America and the Caribbean. Accordingly, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, we commend it for unanimous adoption by this body.

Mr. TAVERAS GUZMAN (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish):

The delegation of the Dominican Republic strongly supports the inclusion on the agenda of the item entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System". Our delegation believes that any draft resulting from consideration and intellectual effort and aimed at improving our economic, social and political situation in strictly Latin American terms constitutes a serious step forward in reasserting certain fundamental values and principles on the basis of which Latin America can and should recover its ability to grow and innovate, its creative capacities, its ability to deal with new circumstances and to produce new and appropriate responses to the realities of the region.

While it is true that there is much variety and many different national characteristics in our region and that the Latin American and Caribbean countries all differ greatly in terms of the size of their territories and the structure and magnitude of their production of goods and services, it is equally true that in the sphere of foreign relations there is more that unites our countries than that divides us. Therefore, the delegation of the Dominican Republic once again praises SELA's work, and this time will support the adoption of the draft resolution on this item.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/43/L.6.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/43/L.6 was adopted (resolution 43/5).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have completed consideration of agenda item 26.

## AGENDA ITEM 142

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.3)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In connection with this item, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution (A/43/L.3).

I call on the representative of Mexico to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The importance of yet another regional issue brings me to the rostrum. Twenty-five years ago, in resolution 1911 (XVIII), of 27 November 1963, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the initiative for the denuclearization of Latin America. Today, on behalf of the 23 States parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, I have the honour to submit to the General Assembly for consideration draft resolution A/43/L.3, in which it would decide to grant observer status to the Agency set up under article 7 of that Treaty, namely, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). It is sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The strictly procedural nature of this draft resolution accounts for the brevity of the text. In the preambular part the General Assembly would take note of the desire of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean for co-operation with the United Nations.

In the operative part, the Assembly would decide to invite the Agency to participate in its work in the capacity of observer and request the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the resolution, once adopted.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

It should be recalled that in resolution 2286 (XXII), of 5 December 1967, the General Assembly welcomed the Treaty of Tlatelolco and said that it

"constitutes an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security".

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly has included in its agenda items relating to the banning of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and has adopted numerous resolutions in this respect, this request that observer status be granted to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean is a logical consequence of earlier actions that will formalize relations that have existed since the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which in its article 21 states that no provision shall be interpreted in such a way as to restrict the rights and obligations of the parties under the United Nations Charter.

Last year we commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean parties to the Treaty it is a source of pride that the United Nations recognizes the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones. In the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which took place in 1978, it is stated that the establishment of such zones constitutes an important disarmament measure that should be encouraged in different parts of the world with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco has been a source of inspiration for Governments and peoples in other parts of the world which wish to increase the areas in which nuclear weapons have been prohibited for ever. The sponsors of draft resolution A/43/L.3 believe that OPANAL's experience in the performance of its functions and in ensuring compliance with the obligations assumed by States in under the Treaty

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

of Tlatelolco can support such efforts and we hope that the General Assembly will adopt the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The General Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/43/L.3.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/43/L.3 was adopted (resolution 43/6).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of the United States, who wishes to explain her Government's position.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): The United States participated in the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/43/L.3 granting observer status to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL). The United States encourages co-operation between the United Nations and OPANAL. Considering the highly specific nature of OPANAL's concerns, however, we are surprised that it has been thought necessary or useful to establish formal relations of the nature considered in the resolution. It is our view that, even without observer status, ways are already available under the Charter for the participation of organizations such as OPANAL in United Nations activities related to their specific sphere of influence. In the light of this, we trust that in the future consideration will be given to these possibilities before such measures are embarked upon.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 142.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.