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## Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

### Report of the Second Committee\*

*Rapporteur:* Mr. David Mulet Lind (Guatemala)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 17 (see [A/74/379](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 22nd, 23rd and 24th meetings, on 14, 21 and 26 November 2019. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/74/L.5](#) and [A/C.2/74/L.5/Rev.1](#)

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 14 November, the observer for the State of Palestine, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/5](#) of 16 October 2018, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries" ([A/C.2/74/L.5](#)).

3. At the 23rd meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries" ([A/C.2/74/L.5/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.5](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.5/Rev.1](#) did not entail programme budget implications.

\* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in seven parts, under the symbols [A/74/379](#), [A/74/379/Add.1](#), [A/74/379/Add.2](#), [A/74/379/Add.3](#), [A/74/379/Add.4](#), [A/74/379/Add.5](#) and [A/74/379/Add.6](#).

<sup>1</sup> [A/C.2/74/SR.22](#), [A/C.2/74/SR.23](#) and [A/C.2/74/SR.24](#).



5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.5/Rev.1](#), by a recorded vote of 116 to 2, with 52 abstentions (see para. 21, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:<sup>2</sup>

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. Also at the 23rd meeting, before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

7. At the same meeting, before the vote, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the United States of America.

8. Also at the same meeting, after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova) and the Russian Federation.

9. Also at the 23rd meeting, after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe, China, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba and Nicaragua.

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, the Secretariat was informed by the delegation of the Gambia that it had intended to vote in favour.

## B. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/74/L.15](#) and [A/C.2/74/L.15/Rev.1](#)

10. At the 22nd meeting, on 14 November, the observer for the State of Palestine, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/5](#) of 16 October 2018, introduced a draft resolution entitled “International trade and development” ([A/C.2/74/L.15](#)).

11. At its 24th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “International trade and development” ([A/C.2/74/L.15/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.15](#) and Kazakhstan.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.15/Rev.1](#) did not entail programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/74/L.15/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 173 to 2 (see para. 21, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

### *In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### *Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

### *Abstaining:*

None.

14. Also at the 24th meeting, after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Finland (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Australia and Canada.

**C. Draft decision [A/C.2/74/L.11](#)**

15. At the 22nd meeting, on 14 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Venue of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in 2020” ([A/C.2/74/L.11](#)), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, on the recommendation of the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-sixth session.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.2/74/L.11](#) (see para. 22, draft decision I).

**D. Draft decision [A/C.2/74/L.12](#)**

18. At the 22nd meeting, on 14 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, in 2020” ([A/C.2/74/L.12](#)), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, on the recommendation of the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-eighth executive session.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.2/74/L.12](#) (see para. 22, draft decision II).

### III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

21. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I**

#### **Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>1</sup> which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

*Bearing in mind* the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

*Recalling* its resolutions [44/215](#) of 22 December 1989, [46/210](#) of 20 December 1991, [48/168](#) of 21 December 1993, [50/96](#) of 20 December 1995, [52/181](#) of 18 December 1997, [54/200](#) of 22 December 1999, [56/179](#) of 21 December 2001, [58/198](#) of 23 December 2003, [60/185](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/183](#) of 19 December 2007, [64/189](#) of 21 December 2009, [66/186](#) of 22 December 2011, [68/200](#) of 20 December 2013, [70/185](#) of 22 December 2015 and [72/201](#) of 20 December 2017,

*Gravely concerned* that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

*Recognizing* that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;
3. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> [A/74/264](#).

impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on the impacts of unilateral economic measures on the achievement of sustainable development.

## Draft resolution II

### International trade and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [56/178](#) of 21 December 2001, [57/235](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/197](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/221](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/184](#) of 22 December 2005, [61/186](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/184](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/203](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/188](#) of 21 December 2009, [65/142](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/185](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/196](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/199](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/205](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/187](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/214](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/202](#) of 20 December 2017 and [73/219](#) of 20 December 2018,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that the benefits of trade are more widely shared,

*Reaffirming* World Trade Organization decision WT/MIN(15)/48-WT/L/982 of 19 December 2015 on the implementation of preferential treatment in favour of services and service suppliers of least developed countries and increasing their participation in services trade and decision WT/L/508/Add.1 of 25 July 2012 on accession by the least developed countries, encouraging progress on the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development, as also reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>1</sup> and stressing that Aid for Trade and targeted trade-related capacity-building are essential to integrating developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, into the international trading system,

*Recognizing* the critical role of women as producers and traders and the need to address their specific challenges in order to facilitate their equal and active participation in domestic, regional and international trade,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

*Recognizing also* that multilateral rules and disciplines are the best guarantee against protectionism and are fundamental to the transparency, predictability and stability of international trade,

*Noting* the commitments to working to ensure that bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements complement the multilateral trading system, recognizing that they can play an important role in complementing global liberalization initiatives, and in this regard welcoming the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, on 30 May 2019,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development<sup>2</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, structural transformation and industrialization, particularly in developing countries;

3. *Reiterates* that States will not be able to achieve the ambitious Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>4</sup> without a revitalized and enhanced global partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation, and that a revitalized global partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>5</sup> in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development;

5. *Notes with concern* that the World Trade Organization is increasingly affected by insufficient progress in multilateral trade negotiations and that it is imperative for the World Trade Organization to address issues that are at the heart of current problems in international trade, and recognizes in this regard the need to strengthen the World Trade Organization, with a view to ensuring the continued viability and effectiveness of its dispute settlement, negotiating and monitoring functions;

6. *Recommits firmly* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization;

7. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to combat protectionism in all its forms and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations, and also emphasizes that the work of the World Trade

<sup>2</sup> A/74/15 (Part I) and A/74/15 (Part II).

<sup>3</sup> A/74/221.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.



Organization shall maintain development at its centre, with provisions for special and differential treatment remaining integral;

8. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect, in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

9. *Calls upon* all members of the World Trade Organization to urgently conclude negotiations on fisheries subsidies in 2019, consistent with the decision of the eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization<sup>6</sup> and with a view to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

10. *Underlines* the importance of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation annexed to the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization in improving transparency, expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, and thereby reducing trade costs, and in this regard encourages its full and effective implementation, including through enhanced support towards its implementation;

11. *Looks forward* to the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Barbados from 18 to 23 October 2020;

12. *Welcomes* the convening of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Nur-Sultan from 8 to 11 June 2020, looks forward to achieving positive outcomes in a balanced, inclusive and transparent way, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the meeting;

13. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and in contributing to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

14. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on developments in the international trading system, including concrete recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in this regard, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “International trade and development”.

<sup>6</sup> WT/MIN(17)/64-WT/L/103s1 of 13 December 2017.

22. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

**Draft decision I**

**Venue of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in 2020**

The General Assembly, recognizing the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the World Investment Forum and an electronic commerce week for Asia, takes note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-sixth session,<sup>1</sup> which was held in Geneva from 24 to 27 June 2019, and the decision contained therein, and welcomes the generous offer of the Government of Barbados to host the fifteenth session of the Conference.

**Draft decision II**

**Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, in 2020**

The General Assembly reaffirms the fundamental role that competition and consumer protection law and policy can play for sound economic development, in accordance with national legislation, and in this regard decides to convene in 2020 the eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

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<sup>1</sup> [A/74/15 \(Part II\)](#).