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Chair: Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales (Guatemala)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

1. **The Chair** said that before beginning consideration of the draft resolutions under specific agenda items, the Committee would hear a statement by the representative of the United States of America.

Statement by the representative of the United States of America

2. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to make some clarifications regarding language that was repeated in multiple draft resolutions. General Assembly resolutions, and many of the outcome documents referenced therein, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, were non-binding documents which did not create rights or obligations under international law.

3. The United States supported the spirit of the 2030 Agenda as a framework for development and would continue to be a global leader in sustainable development through its policies, partnerships, innovations and calls to action. It applauded the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility, in the 2030 Agenda, and emphasized that all countries had a role to play in achieving its vision and must work towards implementation in accordance with their own national policies and priorities. Her delegation highlighted the recognition, in paragraph 58 of the 2030 Agenda, that the implementation of the Agenda must respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, and could not prejudge or serve as a precedent for decisions or actions under way in other forums. For example, it did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services, nor did it interpret or alter any World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

4. Much of the trade-related language in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda had been overtaken by events since July 2015 and was therefore immaterial and had no bearing on ongoing trade negotiations.

5. Her Government had announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change unless suitable terms for reengagement were identified. In that regard, the Paris Agreement and climate change language in those negotiations were without prejudice to the positions of the United States.

6. The United States reaffirmed its support for promoting economic growth and improving energy security while protecting the environment, and reiterated its view on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 expressed in its explanation of position in 2015. The United States had been a strong supporter of disaster risk reduction initiatives, which helped recipients build a culture of preparedness, promote greater resilience and achieve self-reliance.

7. With respect to the New Urban Agenda, her Government believed that each Member State had the sovereign right to determine how it conducted trade with other countries, including by restricting trade in certain circumstances. Unilateral or multilateral economic sanctions could be a successful means of achieving foreign policy objectives. In cases where the United States had applied sanctions, they had been used with specific objectives in mind, including as a means to promote a return to rule of law or democratic systems, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, or to prevent threats to international security. The United States was within its rights to utilize its trade and commercial policy as tools to achieve noble objectives. Targeted economic sanctions could be an appropriate, effective and legitimate alternative to the use of force.

8. The United States enjoyed strong and growing trade relationships across the globe and welcomed efforts to bolster those relationships, increase economic cooperation and drive prosperity to all peoples through free, fair and reciprocal trade. However, as President Trump had stated to the General Assembly on September 25, the United States would act in its sovereign interest, including on trade matters. The United States did not take its trade policy direction from the United Nations. Her Government was of the view that the United Nations must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and must not involve itself in decisions and actions in other forums, including at WTO. The United Nations was not the appropriate venue for those discussions and there should be no expectation or misconception that the United States would heed decisions made by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly on those issues. That included calls that undermined incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that was not voluntary and on mutually agreed terms.

9. The United States also noted that the term “inclusive growth” appeared throughout many of the draft resolutions. Part of the problem with placing inclusive growth at the forefront of economic discussions was that the term was vaguely defined and applied freely to economic discussions with little consideration for the

trade-offs between higher levels of sustainable, supply-led economic growth and more equitable distribution of resources of that growth. The United States recognized the importance of studying inequality and improving the measurements of income and consumption across populations. However, her delegation wished to ensure that any work or goal related to inclusivity remained grounded in evidence and proven best practices.

10. Finally, her statement applied to all agenda items under consideration in the Committee and her delegation requested that the statement be included in the official record of the meeting.

11. **The Chair** urged delegations to refrain from engaging in separate discussions on cross-cutting language. Its reinvention was unnecessary and such discussions would delay the work of the Committee.

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.29)

Draft resolution on information and communications technologies for sustainable development (A/C.2/73/L.29)

12. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.29, said that information and communications technologies were key enablers for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft resolution incorporated the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on information and communications technology (A/73/66-E/2018/10).

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (continued)

(a) International trade and development
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.21)

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/73/L.21)

13. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.21, reiterated the importance of international trade as an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication and as an important source of financing for development; the multilateral trading system was a strong guarantee against protectionism and fundamental to the transparency, predictability and stability of international trade. The Group of 77 and China was therefore deeply concerned about the lack of progress in negotiations under the Doha Round. It was also concerned about the increase in protectionist measures and rhetoric, which would undermine the multilateral trading system and

negatively impact the ability of developing countries to gain access to global markets for their exports.

(b) International financial system and development (continued) (A/C.2/73/L.12)

Draft resolution on international financial system and development (A/C.2/73/L.12)

14. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.12, said that efforts had been made to streamline the text of the draft resolution, which built upon General Assembly resolution 72/203 and the Secretary-General's report on the international financial system and development (A/73/280). The draft resolution proposed concrete measures to be taken by the international community within the United Nations system to effect improvements in order to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(c) External debt sustainability and development
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.11)

Draft resolution on external debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/73/L.11)

15. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.11, said that the draft resolution called attention to persistent global challenges and highlighted the changing composition of debt, as well as the likelihood that debt distress would spread as developing countries sought to raise investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It put forward a number of specific actions that could be taken to facilitate debt sustainability and debt restructuring.

(d) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development (continued)
(A/C.2/73/L.19)

Draft resolution on promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development (A/C.2/73/L.19)

16. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.19, said that the importance of the draft resolution could not be overemphasized, as it addressed the needs of countries, particularly developing countries, that had suffered from illicit funds transfers and the slow pace of recovery and return of stolen assets. The draft resolution encouraged States to create an appropriate policy environment for the effective recovery of the proceeds of illicit financial flows and urged greater international support for related regional initiatives.

Agenda item 19: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.17)

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/C.2/73/L.17)

17. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.17 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that financing for development was key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and should focus on channelling resources to poverty eradication. Resources to finance development must be aligned with the national priorities of the countries concerned.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.13)

Draft resolution entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" (A/C.2/73/L.13)

18. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.13 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.24)

Draft resolution on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 (A/C.2/73/L.24)

19. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.24.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.14, A/C.2/73/L.27)

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/73/L.14)

20. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.14 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution reflected updates from the Secretary-General's reports, in documents A/73/226 and

A/73/345 respectively, on progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway and on the assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the Small Island Developing States unit of the Secretariat. It addressed the interlinkages between sustainable development and other efforts critical for small island developing States, and highlighted the importance of means of implementation.

Draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/73/L.27)

21. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.27 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution sought to scale up international support for the initiative to recognize the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development.

(c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.15, A/C.2/73/L.6)

Draft resolution on disaster risk reduction (A/C.2/73/L.15)

22. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.15 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution focused on the follow-up to the Sendai Framework and also addressed the interlinkages between sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts.

Draft resolution on effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon (A/C.2/73/L.6)

23. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.6 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.28)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/C.2/73/L.28)

24. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.28 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the urgency of addressing climate change was borne out by the findings in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The Group of 77 and China stressed that Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the central forum to discuss climate change issues, and

urged the General Assembly to provide political support for the successful conclusion of the climate negotiations.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.38)

Draft resolution on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
(A/C.2/73/L.38)

25. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.38](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that coordinated efforts to combat desertification, land degradation, drought and floods would ease forced migration flows and reduce conflicts caused by competition for scarce resources. Relevant stakeholders must continue to invest in technologies, methods and tools and boost capacity-building, knowledge exchange and sharing of technologies on mutually agreed terms. The successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was contingent on political will and international cooperation to combat desertification, land degradation and drought.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)
(A/C.2/73/L.33)

Draft resolution on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/C.2/73/L.33)

26. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.33](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was broadly based on the 2017 resolution; it incorporated additional language in support of enhanced cooperation and capacity-building, including transfer of technology.

(g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (continued) (A/C.2/73/L.36)

Draft resolution on the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/73/L.36)

27. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) introduced draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.36](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(h) Harmony with Nature (continued)
(A/C.2/73/L.39)

Draft resolution on harmony with nature (A/C.2/73/L.39)

28. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.39](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the challenges brought about by climate change had intensified every year. While global efforts to address those impacts were important, the causes must be addressed. The most important cause remained unsustainable patterns of consumption and production that were exhausting planet Earth and all its forms of life. The only way to promote sustainable development and achieve balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of current and future generations was to promote mechanisms to generate a lifestyle in harmony with nature that left no one behind.

(i) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.40)

Draft resolution on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
(A/C.2/73/L.40)

29. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.40](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that important developments had emerged from the high-level political forum and the report of the Secretary-General on affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ([A/73/267](#)), which had been included in the draft resolution.

(j) Combating sand and dust storms (continued)
(A/C.2/73/L.16)

Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms
(A/C.2/73/L.16)

30. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.16](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the topic of sand and dust storms had gained wider recognition as a result of the economic, social and environmental ramifications involved, which posed a serious challenge to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.4)

Draft resolution on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) (A/C.2/73/L.4)

31. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.4](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution focused on creating a new governance structure for UN-Habitat, as mandated in General Assembly resolution [72/226](#), and proposed that it should be funded from the regular budget.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (continued)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (continued)
(A/C.2/73/L.23)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards a New International Economic Order" (A/C.2/73/L.23)

32. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.23](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the ideas and proposals for action for a new international economic order set out in May 1974 in the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order had acquired additional relevance in the current context. Adhering to the spirit and principles of the Declaration would help to achieve the important agendas adopted by the international community.

33. **The Chair** informed the Committee that draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.23](#) had no programme budget implications.

34. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his delegation regretted having to call for a vote on the draft resolution. Once again, the General Assembly was attempting to prescribe actions for institutions outside its purview, dictate attributes and characteristics of trade and WTO processes, and call for technology transfer that was not voluntary or on mutually agreed terms. In addition, the draft resolution contained an unacceptable reference to foreign occupation. The United States called on Member States to avoid the unnecessary politicization of resolutions. It was a waste of the scarce time and resources of the United Nations to consider the draft resolution, which should be

withdrawn. His delegation urged all delegations to vote against the outdated draft resolution.

35. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Republic of Korea, Tonga, Turkey.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.23 was adopted by 114 votes to 47, with 4 abstentions.*

37. **Ms. Lindner** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union had voted against draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.23](#) as it remained convinced that General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) did not provide a contemporary framework for addressing the multiple challenges of a globalized world. The European Union was concerned that referencing concepts dating back to the 1970s might misrepresent the ability of the United Nations to help solve current global problems and, as a result, marginalize the Organization's role in global economic governance. Moreover, the draft resolution continued to address substantive issues that were already covered in other resolutions and work falling under the purview of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

38. The European Union maintained its commitment to implement the outcomes of the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, which collectively provided the framework for addressing contemporary issues. The debates and outcomes of such institutions and forums as the Bretton Woods institutions, the Group of 20 and WTO should also be taken into account. The European Union was prepared to engage in constructive discussions to improve global economic governance with a view to a strong, coherent, inclusive and representative international architecture for sustainable development, while respecting the mandates of respective organizations.

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations *(continued)*

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries *(continued)* [\(A/C.2/73/L.31\)](#)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [\(A/C.2/73/L.31\)](#)

39. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.31](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, needed enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they faced in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Group

underlined its concern about the decline in official development assistance and called for development assistance and cooperation commitments to be fulfilled.

(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries *(continued)* [\(A/C.2/73/L.30\)](#)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries [\(A/C.2/73/L.30\)](#)

40. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.30](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution sought to strengthen the focus on addressing the special challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. It reaffirmed the decision in General Assembly resolution [72/232](#) to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 by the end of 2019 and requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues *(continued)* [\(A/C.2/73/L.18\)](#)

Draft resolution on eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [\(A/C.2/73/L.18\)](#)

41. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.18](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was aimed at forging international synergies and taking concrete action to address the issue of rural poverty. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda depended on the transformation of rural areas, especially in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

(a) Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) *(continued)* [\(A/C.2/73/L.9\)](#)

Draft resolution on implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) [\(A/C.2/73/L.9\)](#)

42. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.9](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was aimed at the effective implementation of the Third Decade, which would complement ongoing international efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme

poverty, was the greatest global challenge and the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda. The draft resolution called upon the international community, including Member States and the organizations of the United Nations development system, to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication and to take measures to address the root causes.

(b) Industrial development cooperation
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.10)

Draft resolution on industrial development cooperation
(A/C.2/73/L.10)

43. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.10](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was aimed at promoting industrialization as a critical component of the development process; it identified the core elements of and key conditions for optimal industrialization and encouraged multilateral cooperation in line with such relevant outcomes as those generated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (continued)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (continued)
(A/C.2/73/L.8)

Draft resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system
(A/C.2/73/L.8)

44. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.8](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was aimed at building on the momentum of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) on the repositioning of the United Nations development system while adhering to the principles and mandates set out in resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The draft resolution provided a timely reminder that all outstanding mandates from the two resolutions should be urgently implemented and that funding for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system remained a concern.

(b) South-South cooperation for development
(continued) (A/C.2/73/L.22)

Draft resolution on South-South cooperation
(A/C.2/73/L.22)

45. **Mr. El Ashmawy** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.22](#) on behalf of the Group of 77

and China, said that the document had been drafted with a minimalist approach in anticipation of the upcoming second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation. It reaffirmed that South-South cooperation, which was a complement to and not a substitute for North-South cooperation, should be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

Agenda item 26: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (continued) (A/C.2/73/L.7, A/C.2/73/L.2/Rev.1, A/C.2/73/L.3/Rev.1, A/C.2/73/L.5/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/C.2/73/L.7)

46. **Mr. Elkhishin** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.7](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that over the past three years, such factors as conflict, environmental problems and excessive volatility in food prices had driven hunger to levels that had not been seen for a decade. The draft resolution addressed those challenges and promoted initiatives aimed at bringing Sustainable Development Goal 2 back within reach.

Draft resolution on World Food Safety Day
(A/C.2/73/L.2/Rev.1)

47. **Mr. Carazo** (Costa Rica), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.2/Rev.1](#) on behalf of the sponsors, said that food safety was crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Cancer was one of over 200 ailments caused by food that contained bacteria, viruses, parasites or harmful chemicals. Hundreds of millions of people became ill and hundreds of thousands died every year from ingesting contaminated foods.

48. The globalization and complexity of food supply chains had given rise to increased public concern about the safety of food products, in particular those that were traded internationally. The draft resolution, which was based on decisions taken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations during its fortieth session, was aimed at educating the public about the repercussions of contaminated food on human health and on the economic health of the food and agriculture sector.

49. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

50. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Armenia, Czechia, France, Georgia, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Montenegro, Myanmar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda and Zambia had become sponsors of the draft resolution. She also noted that Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, the Central African Republic, Chile, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Norway, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Ukraine had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

51. *Draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.2/Rev.1 was adopted.*

52. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his country commended the delegation of Costa Rica on its hard work to produce the draft resolution and respected the contributions made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to the paramount issue of food safety in the context of international trade. However, he expressed concern about language in the seventh preambular paragraph that, in the view of the United States, incorrectly expanded the mandate of the World Health Organization.

*Draft resolution on World Pulses Day
(A/C.2/73/L.3/Rev.1)*

53. **Mr. Tiare** (Burkina Faso), introducing draft resolution [A/C.2/73/L.3/Rev.1](#) on behalf of the sponsors, said that Burkina Faso had hosted the closing ceremony of the International Year of Pulses, at which a statement had been adopted recommending the establishment of World Pulses Day. In his report on activities during the International Year ([A/73/287](#)), the Secretary-General had underscored the heightened public awareness of the nutritional benefits associated with pulses and of their fundamental role in a sustainable future.

54. The draft resolution served as a concrete reminder that pulses were extremely nutritious and economically accessible, that they contributed to food security at every level and that they could be a key element of strategies to adapt to climate change and promote biodiversity. The purpose of the draft resolution was to maintain the momentum created by the International Year, raise awareness about pulses and their potential role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and stimulate investment and production in the sector.

55. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

56. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Belize, Cameroon, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Myanmar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay and Zambia had become sponsors of the draft resolution. She also noted that Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, Malawi, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

57. *Draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.3/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Draft resolution on the International Year of Plant Health, 2020 (A/C.2/73/L.5/Rev.1)

58. **Ms. van Veen** (Finland), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the purpose of declaring 2020 the International Year of Plant Health was to raise awareness about the positive effects of plant health on food security, poverty eradication, economic development and environmental protection, and about its crucial role in achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was hoped that the efforts made would prevent further losses in agricultural production and biodiversity.

59. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

60. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Latvia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, South Africa, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution. She also noted that Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Bhutan, Chile, China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Mauritius, Oman, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Yemen had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

61. *Draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.5/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 64: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/73/L.37)

Draft resolution on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/C.2/73/L.37)

62. **Mr. Elkhishin** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.37 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (in document A/71/86-E/2016/13) had clearly shown that the 51-year Israeli occupation had had a detrimental effect on the social and economic development of the people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. The report also addressed Israeli violations of relevant Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian and human rights law, some of which might amount to a grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (the Fourth Geneva Convention), or constitute collective punishment. The adoption of the draft resolution would send another message to the occupying Power that it was high time to bring its occupation to an end; it would also aid in alleviating the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian and Syrian civilian populations and ultimately contribute to the international efforts to bring an end to the occupation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

63. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

64. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Turkey had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

65. **Mr. Alrgabi** (Saudi Arabia), making a general statement, called on the Committee to adopt the resolution by consensus. The Israeli occupation affected villages, fields, holy places and every living creature under its sway. The actions of the settlers defied all international instruments and norms. The time had come to make the best strategic choice for regional peace, which was the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the two-State solution.

66. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that neither the content of the draft resolution nor the ESCWA report on which it

was based reflected reality. She would not dignify the substance of that report by discussing it. Suffice it to say that it was largely based on highly selective and unreliable data and was blatantly biased against Israel.

67. Both the draft resolution and the report failed to acknowledge Hamas, whose hate-filled terrorist vision was made manifest by raining down rockets on Israeli towns and by shooting and stabbing civilians. Such was the “diplomacy” of the murderous gang ruling over millions of people in Gaza, and yet the draft resolution failed to make the connection between that reign of terror and the conditions of those forced to live under it. The fact that the draft resolution attributed no responsibility whatsoever to Hamas was absurd.

68. The draft resolution was nothing more than a political agenda in search of an official document symbol and was an inappropriate use of the Committee’s time and resources, not to mention a waste of taxpayer money. The idea that the draft resolution addressed development or reflected reality was a charade that the Committee should not prolong for another year. Her delegation had called for a vote and intended to vote against the draft resolution. All delegations should reject one-sided political scheming and uphold the professionalism of the Committee by doing likewise.

69. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.37.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, 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, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines,

Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Kiribati, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu.

70. *Draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.37 was adopted by 149 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions.*¹

71. **Ms. Lindner** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had supported the current draft resolution as it had in previous years. However, she wished the record to reflect that the use of the term "Palestine" in the draft resolution could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual positions of Member States on that issue and to the question of validity of accession to the Convention and treaties mentioned in the document.

72. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), expressing appreciation to all Member States that had voted in favour of the draft resolution, said that the adoption of the draft resolution served as a resounding reaffirmation of the rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan. It upheld their sovereignty over their natural resources including land, water and energy in accordance with international law, and humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions. It also reaffirmed the obligation to respect international law,

including the Fourth Geneva Convention, in all circumstances.

73. The draft resolution renewed an expression of grave concern about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of trees and destruction of farms, which had a grave environmental and economic impact. It demanded that the occupying Power immediately cease the exploitation, damaging and endangerment of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan.

74. Adherence to international law was an absolute imperative that could only have a positive impact on the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals. Respect for international law was what would ultimately effect real change on the ground and lead to a just, comprehensive and durable peace for the long-suffering Palestinian people. It was unquestionably urgent that the international community act collectively and with determination to uphold international law and end 51 years of brutal occupation by Israel, thereby enabling the Palestinian people to chart a successful course to the achievement of the Goals and ensure that no one was left behind.

75. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that putting an end to foreign occupation was no mere whim. Nor was it merely a development issue, although Israeli practices were indeed obstructing the economic development of Palestinians and Syrians under occupation. Hundreds of United Nations resolutions had affirmed the right of Palestinians and Syrians to their land. She reminded the Committee of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention protecting the natural resources of occupied territories. It was no surprise that three of the States that had voted against the draft resolution had been established on the basis of settlement.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

¹ The delegation of the Dominican Republic subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.