

Nations records showed that it was the Ethiopian delegation in imperial times which had consistently opposed it, as the Emperor of Ethiopia had laid claim to Djibouti himself. Somalia, on the other hand, had a tradition of supporting freedom fighters against oppression, whether of the old-style colonialist or the new-style hegemonist sort. The sanctity of frontiers did not apply in a colonialist situation.

42. The Council should exercise care in considering the claim for international assistance advanced by the Ethiopian representative.

43. Mr. CHEREDNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Council was being somewhat slack in applying the rules of procedure to the statements of one of the observers at the current session. He proposed that the Council should address itself to the specific proposals which had been submitted to it. His own delegation had no difficulty in supporting draft resolutions E/1980/L.47/Rev.1, E/1980/L.48 and E/1980/L.50. Members had had just as much time to study the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia and the relevant draft resolution as the documents relating to a number of other agenda items. The draft resolution on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia (E/1980/L.50) seemed to be clear and to the point. As the President had already observed in reply to the irresponsible and irrelevant comments by the observer for Somalia, the Council should apply the same principle to all three draft resolutions as it had in similar circumstances at its first regular session of 1980.

44. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said his country was grateful to Member States that had supported it in its struggle for independence. However, he was surprised that the Ethiopian and Somali representatives had felt constrained to speak in the name of Djibouti when that country had its own representative present. Djibouti well knew how to speak on its own behalf and would not allow any other delegation to act as its advocate on any political matter.

45. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said he wished to assure the observer for Djibouti that he had not intended to speak on that country's behalf. He had merely referred to the fact that the Somali Constitution and flag implied that Somalia incorporated Djibouti.

46. With regard to the destruction wrought in Ethiopia by Somali aggression, he could not do better than refer to the 1979 report of the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, in which it was stated that all the promising irrigation schemes started in Ogaden

in 1976 to resettle nomads on the land had been destroyed by the war and that the population had been dispersed. True freedom meant freedom from hunger and disease. He again appealed to the Council to consider the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia as a matter of urgency.

47. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that although the Soviet representative had seen fit to describe his comments as irresponsible, he had never referred to the Soviet Union either by name or by implication. However, it was worth reminding the Soviet representative of the destruction that had taken place in Afghanistan and of the generally disruptive role which, in the name of socialism, the country he represented had played everywhere in Africa and Asia.

48. Mr. CHEREDNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) enquired how the President proposed to apply rule 46 of the rules of procedure.

49. The PRESIDENT said that when the question of the interpretation of rule 46 had been raised at the Council's first regular session of 1980, he had ruled, in conformity with the practice of the Council since its establishment, that observers could exercise the right of reply. His ruling had not been challenged by any member of the Council. It was for members to take the appropriate action to put an end to the exchange if they so desired.

50. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that observers at meetings of the Economic and Social Council enjoyed full rights, with the exception of the right to vote.

51. It was clearly untrue that the havoc in Ethiopia had been caused by Somali aggression, since conditions in Eritrea and elsewhere were no better than in the Ogaden.

52. The question before the Council was one of procedure; as the Iraqi representative had observed, it was inappropriate for the Council to approve a long and detailed report which it had not had an opportunity to examine. The most the Council could do was to take note of the report and leave it for consideration by the General Assembly or by a subsequent session of the Council, when representatives would have had time to hold the necessary consultations.

53. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that, on the subject of Somali aggression, it was instructive to remember the statement issued by the Somali Government itself on 15 March 1978 announcing that it had withdrawn all its forces from the battlefield.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

43rd meeting

Wednesday, 23 July 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.43

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)*

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (E/1980/L.41 AND ADD.1)

1. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Committee for Development Planning, at its sixteenth session, had pro-

posed the changes in the venue and dates of two of its working group meetings recorded in paragraph 5 of the note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.41). The Secretariat also proposed that the twenty-first session of the Statistical Commission should be rescheduled, as indicated in paragraph 2 of document E/1980/L.41/Add.1. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council concurred in those changes.

It was so decided (decision 1980/157).

* Resumed from the 39th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments
(continued)

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1980/L.54

2. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria), introducing the draft resolution on the situation of refugees in Africa (E/1980/L.54) on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Burundi, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania, said that over half of the world's refugee population was in Africa. At the same time, African countries had the unhappy distinction of constituting the majority in the category of the least developed countries. Nevertheless, as a result of their community spirit and tradition of spontaneous hospitality, many African countries had never closed their borders to refugees, even at the cost of undermining their own fragile economies.

3. To deal with the refugee problem, OAU had adopted the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The Convention was concerned with the peaceful and humanitarian nature of granting asylum and article II set out the obligations of member States in that regard. At the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Freetown in June 1980, the membership of the OAU Commission of Ten on African Refugees had been increased to 15. The OAU Council of Ministers had also noted with appreciation the measures taken by the Sudan, including the declaration of 1980 as the Year of the Refugee in the Sudan and the organization of the International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan, held in June 1980 at Khartoum. Another conference on the same subject had been held at Arusha in 1979.

4. OAU set great store by the principle of burden-sharing in dealing with refugees. The African countries were deeply grateful for the assistance so far rendered to them, but unfortunately it had not been commensurate with the size of the problem, particularly in view of the adverse effect on many African countries of the current world economic situation. Africa was therefore appealing for more international assistance.

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1980/L.47/REV.1

5. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium) said that the Swedish representative had made some oral revisions at the Council's 42nd meeting to draft resolution E/1980/L.47/Rev.1, but no revised text had been distributed. In order to facilitate the Council's work, he would not oppose consideration of the draft resolution, but as a general rule, the Secretariat should make available up-to-date texts of draft resolutions in all working languages before they were considered in plenary.

6. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), thanking the Belgian representative for his co-operation, said he had not requested the Secretariat to issue a revised text because his oral revisions had not seemed extensive enough to warrant one. There were precedents for the Council acting on oral revisions.

7. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) reminded delegations that, as an economy measure, it was the current practice of the Secretariat not to publish revised texts of draft resolutions, except at the request of the sponsors, who were in the best position to know when a definitive text had been arrived at through consultations. However, the revised version of the draft resolution under consideration was in the process of being prepared for circulation.

8. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council of the oral revisions made to draft resolution E/1980/L.47/Rev.1. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that draft resolution, as thus orally revised.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/43).

9. Mr. TARRAGÔ (Brazil) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution. However, it interpreted the reference to the flexible use of resources in paragraph 1 as relating to the resources available for emergency assistance and not to those available for other purposes, such as UNDP technical assistance funds.

10. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States, commended the excellent work done by many organs of the United Nations system in meeting humanitarian needs in emergency situations. However, an evaluation was called for; the experience acquired by the United Nations could usefully be put on record and analysed, so that the Organization could cope with future emergencies more flexibly.

11. The summary report referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution would no doubt show the need for a more efficient management of funds. Such funds should come not only from the traditional donors but also from other countries in a position to contribute.

12. The European Economic Community had noted with satisfaction that the sponsors, in introducing their draft resolution, had stressed that no new institutions or permanent new arrangements were contemplated to replace the existing machinery.

13. The Community hoped that the Secretariat would take its observations into account in preparing the summary report.

14. He requested that the foregoing three paragraphs of his statement should be reproduced in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS E/1980/L.48 AND E/1980/L.50

15. Mr. HESSEL (France) said that he sympathized with the objectives of both draft resolutions under consideration.

16. In draft resolution E/1980/L.48, however, it seemed too categorical to request the Secretary-General to dispatch another mission to Somalia as a matter of urgency. He proposed, therefore, that the word "dispatch" in operative paragraph 1 should be replaced by the words "consider the necessity of dispatching". He agreed with the Jordanian representative's proposal (42nd meeting) to add a new preambular paragraph; however, he was not in favour of a proliferation of appeals and, for that reason, hoped that the Jordanian representative would withdraw his proposal to insert an additional operative paragraph.

17. With regard to draft resolution E/1980/L.50, he suggested that the preamble should end with the fourth paragraph and that the fifth preambular paragraph should replace operative paragraph 1. He proposed that in the first line of operative paragraph 3 the words "in consultation with" should replace the word "and". The Council should not request the Secretary-General to make an appeal on the basis of a report which had not yet been adopted; he proposed, therefore, that the paragraph should end after the word "Ethiopia". Finally, since it was the responsibility of the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, the words "and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" in operative paragraph 5 should be deleted.

18. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) said that he would prefer to wait until the amendments proposed to draft resolution E/

1980/L.48 were available in writing before commenting on them.

19. Mr. YU Peiwen (China) said that his delegation supported the amendments proposed to draft resolution E/1980/L.50 by the French representative and those proposed at the 42nd meeting by the Iraqi representative.

20. Mr. GIGUÈRE (Observer for Canada) said that he supported the French representative's amendments to both draft resolutions.

21. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that he wished to see a revised text of draft resolution E/1980/L.50 incorporating the amendments before giving his views.

22. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would assume that the Council wished to defer consideration of draft resolutions E/1980/L.48 and E/1980/L.50 until the revised versions were available.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Special economic and disaster relief assistance (concluded)

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS E/1980/L.52 AND E/1980/L.53

23. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) introduced the draft resolution on humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Djibouti (E/1980/L.52) on behalf of the sponsors. Two small changes should be made: in the first preambular paragraph, the word "statement" in the first line should read "statements", and the foot-note symbol in the second line should be followed by the words "and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1980/44).

24. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced the draft resolution on assistance to refugees in the Sudan (E/1980/L.53) on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Australia, Ethiopia, Iraq and Jordan.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/45).

25. Mr. BIRIDO (Observer for the Sudan) expressed his delegation's thanks to the Tanzanian delegation and to all the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.53.

26. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Jordanian delegation and the other sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.52 and to the Council for its support of the measures contained therein.

27. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria) noted that a series of special economic assistance programmes had been initiated with a view to alleviating the problems faced by many countries. In his statement at the 40th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes had referred to the progress made in implementing those programmes, although much more international assistance would be required if the Governments of the countries concerned were to make headway in overcoming adverse economic and social conditions. His delegation suggested that the Council should take note of that statement.

28. It also suggested that, in reports on programme implementation, activities relating to humanitarian assistance and those devoted to economic reconstruction programmes should be dealt with separately. The Council might decide to discuss the schedule for the submission of reports during its organizational session for 1981, since it

might be felt that the two distinct groups of activities should be reported on at different times.

29. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council took note of the statement made at the 40th meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes.

It was so decided (decision 1980/158).

AGENDA ITEM 7

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/91)

30. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution and draft decision reproduced in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/91). The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were shown in document E/1980/C.1/L.20.

31. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

DRAFT RESOLUTION: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
DECADE IN AFRICA

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/46).

DRAFT DECISION: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
DECADE IN AFRICA (1978-1988)

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/159).

AGENDA ITEM 8

International co-operation in the field of human settlements

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/92)

DRAFT RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

32. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 12 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/92). The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were given in document E/1980/C.1/L.8.

33. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia), referring to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, pointed out that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had no Governing Council. He proposed, therefore, that the words "its Governing Council" in the fifth line of operative paragraph 5 should be replaced by the words "the Commission on Human Settlements".

34. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended by the delegation of Yugoslavia, without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/47).

35. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) requested that the statement made by his delegation, on behalf of all the socialist members and observers in the Council, in the First (Economic) Committee during its consideration of agenda item 8, in connexion with the adoption of the draft resolution on international co-operation in the field of

human settlements, should be reflected in the record of the meeting and in the Council's report.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Science and technology for development

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/94)

DRAFT RESOLUTION: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

36. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 7 of the report before the Council (E/1980/94).

37. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/48).

38. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community participating in the current session, confirmed the position of those States as expressed in the statement made on their behalf by the representative of Ireland at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna. Since that statement had a bearing on paragraph 4 of the resolution just adopted, he would request that it should be included *in extenso* in both the record of the meeting in progress and the Council's report to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 11

International co-operation on the environment

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/95)

DRAFT RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 10 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/95). The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were set forth in document E/1980/C.1/L.12.

40. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/49).

AGENDA ITEM 16

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

AGENDA ITEM 17

Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement by agencies and institutions within the United Nations system

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/102)

41. The PRESIDENT said that the reference to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics inadvertently included in

paragraph 10 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/102) should be deleted.

42. He drew attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision in paragraph 12 of the report.

43. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

DRAFT RESOLUTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AND ASSISTANCE TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/50).

DRAFT DECISION: ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/160).

44. Mr. EHRMAN (United Kingdom) requested that the content of the statement made by his delegation in the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee after the adoption by the Committee of the draft resolution should be recorded in the report of the Council to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/103)

45. Mr. AL-BAKRI (United Arab Emirates) proposed that in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II in paragraph 16 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/103), the reference to the United Nations Development Programme should be removed from its current position and inserted after the reference to the United Nations Environment Programme.

46. Mr. HESSEL (France) queried the significance of that proposal.

47. Mr. AL-BAKRI (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. IDRIS (Observer for the Sudan) expressed the belief that the new wording would reflect more accurately the respective competences of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, UNEP and UNDP as far as the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification was concerned.

48. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) found the proposed new wording quite acceptable. General Assembly resolutions 33/88 and 34/187 specified that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office was acting on behalf of both UNEP and UNDP.

49. The PRESIDENT, pointing out that paragraph 16 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/103) contained two draft resolutions, said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt both of them, taking account of the amendment just proposed, without a vote.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/51).

DRAFT RESOLUTION II: IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1980/52).

50. Mr. BRESSAN (Observer for the Holy See) reminded the Council that on 10 May 1980, at Ouagadougou, the Pope had launched an appeal to the world to combat desertification and its dreadful consequences for mankind. An extract from that address had recently been circulated to members of the Council.

51. The Holy See could not but applaud the commitment reflected in the two resolutions which the Council had just adopted and would merely stress the importance of the role that could be played by private contributors and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

44th meeting

Thursday, 24 July 1980, at 11.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.44

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1980/L.49/Rev.2)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the revised draft decision on the review of the economic situation in Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tonga, with a view to the inclusion of those countries in the list of the least developed countries (E/1980/L.49/Rev.2).

2. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing draft decision E/1980/L.49/Rev.2 on behalf of the sponsors, said that since the revised version of the draft decision had been issued there had been further consultations, as a result of which it had been agreed to make a further revision to the text. The words "relating to those criteria" should be added after the words "recent data" at the end of paragraph (c).

3. He hoped that members would find no difficulty in adopting the draft decision since it in no way violated the procedure established by the General Assembly for including developing countries in the list of the least developed countries. The draft decision merely requested CDP to expedite its review of the economic situation of the countries in question, with a view to their inclusion in the list. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly had adopted a number of resolutions (resolutions 34/121, 34/123, 34/124, 34/126, 34/131 and 34/132) inviting the Council to request CDP to give priority consideration to the inclusion of those countries in the list of the least developed countries to be drawn up in the context of the third United Nations development decade.

4. The object of the changes that had been made to the original text of the draft decision (E/1980/L.49) was, firstly, to request that the recommendations of CDP should be submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1981, and, secondly, to request that the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session should authorize the Council to take final action on the recommendations of CDP. It had been felt necessary to make mention in the revised text of developing countries which had recently become independent, particularly in view of the fact that preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries were under way.

5. Since the consultations which had led to the finalization of the text of the draft decision had involved a wide range of delegations, in addition to the sponsors, he hoped that it could be adopted without difficulty. Its purpose was not to open the door to a wholesale review of a list of the least developed among the developing countries, but simply to enable the countries concerned to be urgently considered for inclusion in the list.

6. Mr. DHAR (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis) said that the Secretariat had been asked to explore the possibility of arranging a special session of CDP to examine the question of the identification of the least developed among the developing countries. The Secretariat had suggested to CDP that it might consider devoting a session to the issue in the month of November. In suggesting that timing, account had been taken of the work programme of working groups of CDP for that year. Replies received from members of the Committee had indicated that the majority would not find it convenient to attend a session in November, but the Council might wish to consider the possibility of convening a working group of the Committee in the second week of November which could undertake the necessary technical work in preparation for consideration of the question by the Committee itself at its session in March 1981.

7. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) informed members of the Council that the financial implications of a meeting of a working group of seven experts for four days in New York would amount to a sum of \$14,800 for travel and subsistence and \$7,600 for conference services. The first sum could be entirely absorbed by the provision made under paragraphs 6 and 7 of the programme budget for 1980-1981. The figure for conference services would be absorbed as far as possible by existing services, and only if surplus financing were requested would it be included under the heading of additional expenditure, for submission to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. In other words, additional expenditure for that purpose would be purely hypothetical.

8. Mr. INAN (Turkey) supported the draft decision.

9. Mr. ACEMAH (Observer for Uganda) supported the draft decision and asked to be included among its sponsors.

10. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that, as a sponsor of the draft decision, he wished to express his full support for it.