



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/42/604

5 October 1989

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Forty-second session

Agenda items 21, 41, 44, 82, 83 and 85

**CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA; UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND
DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990**

**REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

**Letter dated 2 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

On behalf of; the Group of 99, I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the attached Declaration, adopted by the eleventh Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 99, circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 21, 41, 44, 82, 83 and 85.

(Signed) Fernando ANDRADE DIAZ-DURAN
Permanent Representative of
Guatemala to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 99
in New York

ANNEX

Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the Group of 77

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 held their eleventh Annual Meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York from September 28 to 30, and on 1 October 1987,
2. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the worsening of the world economic situation, and its devastating effects on the economies of developing countries, which continue to face a grave crisis. In many developing countries the development process has been severely retarded. There is a widespread debt crisis, primary commodity prices have fallen to unprecedented levels, Real interest rates are extraordinarily high, exchange rates volatile. The flow of financial resources, including official development assistance (ODA), has been much reduced and in fact developing countries suffer substantial net outflows. Investment in infrastructure machinery and human resources have been drastically cut. Societies and political systems are under acute strain. The least developed countries, island and land-locked developing countries are the most seriously affected because of their structural vulnerability.
3. The Ministers expressed their concern that the major market-economy countries pursue unilateral policies that widen the gap between North and South. Instead of implementing realistic policies to enhance global economic co-operation, the industrial countries are abdicating their responsibilities behind dogmatic assertions of faith in market forces and unrealistic assessments of the countries' ability to cope with the adverse external economic environment. They stressed the need for developing and developed countries to engage in serious and comprehensive negotiations aimed at an improvement in the economic situation of developing countries that will largely benefit the economy of the entire world. They also called upon developed countries to undertake urgent steps and measures to ensure that their macroeconomic policies are compatible with the goals and objectives of the development of developing countries,
4. The Ministers, while reaffirming the continuing validity of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and its mid-term review process, and emphasizing that the strategy continued to be a key element for the realization of the objective of the new international economic order, expressed disappointment that the goals and objectives of the strategy remain largely unfulfilled. They called for the requisite political will and greater commitment on the part of developed countries to implement the policy measures in the Strategy. They also called for the initiation of the preparatory process for the elaboration and adoption of an International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. Such a process should consist inter alia, of, a review and appraisal of the Third United Nations Development Decade. They invited the United Nations system to be fully involved in the preparatory process.

5. The Ministers stressed that the firm determination of the developing countries to pursue the dialogue has contributed substantially to the results of the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the areas of debt problems, resources for development and related monetary questions, commodities, international trade and problems of the least developed countries.

They expressed the hope that this constructive result, though limited in view of the gravity of the problems confronting developing countries, can contribute, if matched with the necessary political will of the developed countries, to the advancement of multilateral co-operation towards the promotion of growth and development. The Ministers reaffirmed their full commitment to the mandate of UNCTAD as based on General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX).

6. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the negative impact of new forms of conditionality imposed on developing countries by developed countries and Bretton Woods institutions as well as on the international economic relations. They stressed that the most serious development in the trade policy area in recent years has been the tendency on the part of some developed countries to seek linkages between trading goods and other matters such as developing countries' policies with regard to foreign direct investment, protection of intellectual property, services and fair labour standards. Trade, which is a means of self-reliant development, is in danger of becoming an instrument in the hands of certain developed countries for imposing unacceptable linkage on developing countries dependent on trade. They stressed that observance of multilaterally agreed commitments with respect to trade in goods should not be made conditional on receiving concessions in those areas.

7. The Ministers considered that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank should review their policies and practices so they actively contribute to a new financial and monetary system, more equitable, democratic and supportive of development efforts of developing countries. The conditionality criteria of international financial institutions should take into account, among other things, adverse changes in the external environment that affect the prospects for achieving necessary adjustment with adequate rates of growth and for protecting the poor segments of the population, as well as the necessary resources for development and the periods required for adjustment with growth. The Ministers stressed the need for an integrated approach in the interrelated areas of money, finance, external debt and resource flow, and in this connection they urged the convening of an international conference on money and finance for development with universal participation.

8. The Ministers stressed that developing countries had undertaken strenuous adjustment efforts demanded by the international financial and banking institutions, inter alia, through IMF conditionality, that had resulted in enormously high social, political and economic costs, unemployment and recession, and had led to the impairment of their capacity to grow and develop. They emphasized that growth-oriented adjustment programmes should be targeted to mitigate social costs as well as deterioration in capital structure. They called for an increased co-operation between IMF, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions in such a way that it does not lead to cross-conditionality.

9. The macroeconomic policies pursued by some developed countries on matters that are of concern to the entire world and vital to the future of the international monetary, financial and trading systems run aentrary to the economic and social development objectives of developing countries. They emphasized the need to apply effective multilateral surveillance in order to ensure an equitable and symmetrical international adjustment, as well as the au-ordination of the major countries' macroeconomic policies, thus favouring growth and the development of the developing countries.

10. The Ministers noted that, instead of a meaningful and comprehensive policy initiative to enhance global economic co-operation, there has emerged a new tendency in some developed countries to play down the influence of the external economic environment on the development process and to insist on the primacy of domestic policy reform based on the efficacy of the spontaneous market forces alone. Such an approach, not even applied by its major proponents, is inadequate to address development problems, carries the seeds of equal and political instability and ignores the complexity of the contemporary world economy. Such an approach also enables the transnational corporations to move freely goods, raw materials, services, data and capital across national frontiers, at their discretion. The Ministers called upon the international community to join its forces and engage in dialogue to work out the characteristics and mechanisms of a comprehensive international economic system, based on the principles of equity, justice, harmony and universality and on the sovereign rights of States, in order to attain the new international economic order and giving full recognition to the interdependence between money, finance, trade and development and keeping in mind its central objectives of development, growth, employment and social progress.

11. The Ministers expressed deep concern at the deteriorating debt situation of developing countries, which has become one of the most critical problems of the international economy, increasing instability in world financial markets and distorting resource and trade flows. It has also become a major impediment for the sustained growth and development of developing countries, negatively affecting the ability of debtor developing countries to invest, import and achieve their economic and social development goals. Least developed and poorer countries are even more critically affected because of their particularly fragile and vulnerable economic basis. While reiterating the aspiration of debtor developing countries to meet their commitments related to external indebtedness, the Ministers reaffirmed that the external debt of developing countries cannot be serviced or repaid under present international conditions and without sustained economic development, and without further damage to the development process of developing countries.

12. The Ministers stressed that the approach of the developed creditor countries to the debt problem continued to be inequitable, asymmetrical and partial, and has so far failed to provide a meaningful strategy commensurate with the scale and nature of the debt crisis, thus leading to the adoption of unilateral measures by an increasing number of developing debtor countries in order to stem further deterioration of their economic, social and political fabric. Therefore, they also stressed the need for the international community urgently to adopt a new political strategy based on shared responsibility to bring about a durable, development-oriented and global solution to the external debt problem of developing

countries, taking into account the guidelines contained in resolution 41/202 and the results of the seventh session of UNCTAD. The Ministers urged the General Assembly at its forty-second session to explore and define suitable mechanisms and/or options aimed at devising policy approaches and measures conducive to a prompt, viable and durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries.

13. The Ministers stressed that in order to achieve a permanent solution to the crisis of external indebtedness of developing countries with creditor developed countries, commercial banks and multilateral financial institutions, it is imperative, inter alia, to:

(a) Reduce substantially the debt overhang and services by, inter alia, reducing interest rates, converting debt into grants, rescheduling terms and conditions that do not lead to an increase in the debt burden, and benefiting from discounts in the secondary markets)

(b) Undertake recycling of huge surpluses present in developed countries, increase public and private resource flows to developing countries on a multi-annual and predictable basis, including ODA, as well as resources from international financial institutions, and halt and reverse the net transfer of resources to developed countries;

(c) Ensure the increased access of developing countries' exports to international markets by the removal of the protectionist barriers in the developed countries as well as achieving just and remunerative prices for the exports of developing countries, and a transparent and direct link between external debt and export earnings;

(d) Achieve a just and direct link between the payment of external debt and relevant factors of debt-servicing capacity, such as exports earnings, terms of trade, import requirements, GDP growth.

14. The Ministers stressed that in the absence of a jointly developed debt strategy and even the necessary will on the part of creditor developed countries, multilateral financial institutions and commercial banks to put one together, debtor developing countries may be increasingly forced to suspend the servicing of their debt temporarily in order to permit a recovery in the levels of their economic activity and of their foreign exchange reserves.

15. The Ministers stressed their concern over the alarming levels reached in the net transfer of resources from developing countries, resulting from increased debt services, sustained deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries and the reduced access to international financial resources. They also expressed concern over the decline in both concessional and non-concessional lending by the international financial institutions. This trend has halted and in some cases retarded the development process causing a deterioration of the standard of living of the peoples of the developing countries. As a result, per capita incomes are lower today in the developing countries than they were at the beginning of the decade. In 1986, 850 million people lived in countries that experienced no

increase in per capita output. They emphasized the need to promote sustained growth and development in developing countries in order to overcome the fundamental problem of poverty, unemployment and indebtedness.

16. The Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need for concerted action for a substantial increase in the flows of financial resources for development on an assured, continuous and predictable basis consistent with the growth requirements of the world economy and meeting, in particular, the needs of the developing countries. They deplored the fact that the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP and the ODA targets under the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries remained unfulfilled. They urged all developed countries to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Substantial New Programme of Action concerning ODA for the least developed countries, in compliance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Concessional Flows. The Ministers also called for a substantial increase in the financial resources of the multilateral institutions, together with a review of their lending policies in order to promote additional lending and growth. They urged developed countries and international financial institutions to increase the flow of resources in real terms to African countries in accordance with the decisions contained in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. The Ministers expressed the hope that the ongoing discussions in the Development Committee on the adequacy of resource transfers to all developing countries to enhance the momentum of their development would contribute to further progress on this issue.

17. The Ministers noted that the international trade system is gravely jeopardized and its principles and rules are frequently ignored or eluded. They deplored the further intensification of protectionist measures, the erection of new tariff and non-tariff barriers and other restrictions and quotas and emphasized the need for improved export conditions for developing countries. They called upon the developed countries immediately to apply the stand-still and roll-back commitments to which they subscribed in the Declaration of Punta del Este, as well as the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries in accordance with their developmental, financial and trade needs. They also called on developed countries to observe fully all General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provisions, including most-favoured-nation treatment. They also expressed concern that the same developed countries are considering the introduction of trade legislation that goes against the spirit of fairness of the international trade system and reinforces protectionist tendencies, and called upon those countries to refrain from adopting such legislation.

18. The Ministers pointed out that subsidies for agricultural exports and the protectionist practices that certain developed countries apply in the agricultural sector engender an artificial accumulation of excess stocks on the world market and do not serve the purposes of world food security, to the extent that the developing countries' output may be eliminated from domestic and international markets. They reaffirmed also that developing countries have a right to protect their domestic markets from agricultural products benefiting from such subsidies. The Ministers agreed that negotiations in GATT should urgently proceed in order that on early

agreement is reached on an international programme to reform and liberalize international trade in agriculture. In the interim the Ministers urged that developed countries observe stand-still and roll-back regarding subsidy programmes that distort world agricultural trade.

19. The Ministers expressed deep concern at the excessive and continued downward trend in the prices of commodities exported by developing countries, including the recent decline in real terms of oil prices, and the worsening of their terms of trade. In examining the policy measures agreed upon at the seventh session of UNCTAD, they concluded that, although they fall short of expectations, developing countries should implement them without delay. They also welcomed the prospect of an early entry into force of: the agreement of the Common Fund for Commodities and the Integrated Programme for Commodities, and appealed to all those countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the agreement.

20. The Ministers stressed the need to conclude the negotiations on the elaboration of a universally applicable code of conduct of transnational corporations and called upon developed countries to show flexibility to enable its early conclusion and adoption. They expressed the appreciation and support for the work and activities of the Centre on Transnational Corporations including studies in the areas of the environment, services and transnational banks. They also stressed that any administrative rearrangement or any change in reporting procedures taking place in the United Nations should not affect the Centre's autonomy and capacity to fulfil its programmes as mandated.

21. The Ministers expressed concern that the economic situation of African countries had worsened and that their short- and longer-term prospects remained bleak in spite of the tremendous efforts at policy reform consistent with the commitments undertaken, often at severe political and social costs, particularly in the Sudanese-Saharan countries affected by drought and desertification. In this regard they expressed deep concern that the developed countries had so far failed to provide the expected support, particularly the required financial resources for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-13/2. They noted with regret that while Africa is implementing programmes of recovery, it is also experiencing an increasing rate of net transfer of resources to the developed countries and multilateral financial institutions, especially IMF. They, therefore, called on the international community, in particular the developed countries, to fulfil their commitments, taking into account, inter alia, the alarming debt and debt-service burden and the collapse of commodity prices. They also called on the international community substantially and urgently to increase, in real terms, the resource flows through bilateral and multilateral financial institutions to Africa, on highly concessional terms. They further invited the developed countries to take appropriate measures to increase the private flows to Africa, including those from commercial banks.

22. The Ministers pointed out that, because of the very fragile and vulnerable economic infrastructures of the least developed countries, the adverse international economic environment has a much more devastating effect on their economies. They strongly appealed to the international community and in particular

the developed countries, multilateral, international regional and subregional financial institutions, to implement urgently, fully and effectively the 1901 Substantial New Programme of Action and recommendations and conclusions agreed upon during the mid-term global review in 1985, and to transfer substantial additional external resources to the least developed countries on terms corresponding to their immediate and long-term development needs.

23. The Ministers noted the specific needs and acute problems of the developing, land-locked and island developing countries whose unique problems and inherent disadvantages have a particularly negative impact on their development. They called upon the donor community, the multilateral and development financial institutions to provide additional and adequate technical and financial resources for capital input in infrastructural development and other measures required to alleviate their specific transit transport and communications problems. They invited the transit countries to intensify co-operation with the land-locked developing countries to alleviate transit problems in accordance with the relevant United Nations conventions and resolutions.

24. The Ministers stressed that major environmental problems are of a global character and cautioned against directing all prescriptions to the developing countries, whose contribution to the causes and solutions can only be marginal. They stressed the need for increasing and strengthening multilateral technical and financial assistance to developing countries in their concrete programmes of environmental protection. While recognizing the interrelationship between environment, population and development, taking into account scientific and technological developments, they emphasised further that the readiness of developing countries for environmental protection can only be implemented effectively with simultaneous efforts to solve the problems of world poverty, debt, international inequality and development in general. They expressed deep concern that international financial institutions would translate environmental issues into additional conditionality since this approach, rather than helping, might bring about additional difficulties in implementing environmental as well as economic and social programmes; they stressed that insufficient financing is the key obstacle to the promotion of greater effectiveness of developing countries' efforts in the restoration and protection of the environment. They stressed further the importance of enhancing the activities of the United Nations in environmental protection. In this context due consideration should be given to those activities of transnational corporations which have a negative effect on the environment, with a view to analysing ways and means to regulate them adequately. They further underlined that the main threat to the environment and human life itself is nuclear weapons and the danger of a global nuclear war,

25. The Ministers expressed their concern over the marginal participation of developing countries in the new scientific and technological revolution. They reiterated their strong commitment to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, which provides comprehensive guidance for the work of the United Nations system in this field. They were of the view that the United Nations has the crucial role to play in promoting international co-operation in the field of science and technology for development in order to ensure that developing countries fully benefit from new scientific achievements.

Development is a fundamental right of humanity as a whole and can only be achieved through, inter alia, the elimination of all obstacles and limitations that will prevent the developing countries from having access to the latest scientific and technological knowledge. The Ministers called for the early completion of the negotiations on the code of conduct for the transfer of technology. They once again expressed their full support to the activities of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development as an autonomous unit and to the Advisory Committee for Science and Technology for Development. They also stressed that any administrative rearrangement or any change in reporting procedures that takes place in the United Nations should not affect the Centre's autonomy and capacity to fulfil its programme as mandated.

26. The Ministers reaffirmed their continued support and faith in multilateralism within the framework of the United Nations system, which is the most appropriate instrument for dialogue and negotiation. They expressed their concern over the lack of political will as well as over the increasing tendency on the part of some developed countries to continue to take decisions that are of concern to the entire world economy without taking due account of the interests of developing countries and also outside the multilateral framework of the United Nations system and from the perspective of their own national interests. They reiterated the need to implement fully the declaration and programme of action for the establishment of a new international economic order, resolution 34/138, on the launching of global negotiations, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the full implementation of the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, in order to achieve the goals of the Charter of the United Nations.

27. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the ongoing financial crisis of the United Nations being a reflation of attempts aimed at undermining multilateralism, which endanger the ability of the Organization to fulfil the purposes for which it was created. To this end they once again urged Member States to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those related to their financial obligations,

28. The Ministers emphasized the need for a balanced implementation of resolution 41/213 at the intergovernmental and Secretariat levels, in order to provide an environment conducive to a harmonious and efficient deliberation by the Special Commission on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields established by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1987/112. They noted the need to have a timely, orderly, integrated and well co-ordinated implementation of that resolution, which would take into account the interests of developing countries in order not to jeopardize the development-oriented programmes and activities of the United Nations, nor pre-empt the decisions that the General Assembly will take on the basis of the Economic and Social Council Special Commission. The Ministers recalled that the study would constitute the main basis for the final implementation of resolution 41/213 in the economic and social sectors and that any other previous actions undertaken in that regard should be adjusted accordingly.

29. The Ministers reaffirmed their deep commitment to strengthening economic co-operation among developing countries and to the Caracas Programme of Action, and stressed the need for its revitalization as an instrument of collective self-reliance in the implementation of the declaration and programme of action for the establishment of a new international economic order.

30. The Ministers endorsed the report of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee Meeting, held at Havana from 7 to 12 September 1987, on the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, which provides a significant opportunity to enhance South-South co-operation. They noted the request made by the Committee to the Chairman of the Group of 77 to carry out consultations on the possibility of biennializing the meetings of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee. The Ministers decided that the meetings of the Committee should henceforth be held every two years beginning in 1989. They also decided to consider economic co-operation between developing countries in depth during their twelfth Annual Meeting in 1988 and to continue afterwards their biennial in-depth consideration of such co-operation.

31. The Ministers endorsed the recommendation adopted by the Committee at its sixth meeting on the projects contained in the report of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC. They requested the Chairmen of the Group of 77 in New York to be guided by the observations contained in the report of the Committee's sixth meeting regarding the recommended projects. They stressed the importance of abiding by the guidelines for the utilization of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC as contained in the report of the Cairo High-Level Meeting on ECDC in 1986. They invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to try and ensure that the report of the Committee of Experts was submitted well in advance before meetings of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee for adequate consideration by Member States.

32. The Ministers welcomed the Pyongyang declaration and plan of action on South-South co-operation adopted at the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries on South-South Co-operation held in June 1987, and expressed support to the efforts made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to strengthen economic co-operation among non-aligned and other developing countries.

33. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the establishment of the South Commission under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Julius Nyerere, first President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and his appointment of members of the Commission as a positive development in the field of South-South co-operation. They expressed confidence that the South Commission would make a valuable contribution to South-South co-operation, urged all developing countries to give their unswerving support to the work of the Commission and invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to establish as appropriate the necessary consultations for co-operation with the South Commission.

34. The Ministers welcomed the initiative taken by some members to organize TCDC project programming activities. They recommended further exchanges of information and experience among developing countries on their capacity to participate on TCDC and stressed the need to strengthen national local capacity. The Ministers

reiterated also the importance of undertaking consultations with the view to launching the Action Committee on Inter-enterprise Co-operation. They called for the early completion in the drafting of a model contract for recruitment of experts and the implementation of the multisectoral information network project. The Ministers expressed their support for the recommendation to hold the Third Biennial Meeting of Directors of UNCTAD National Agencies before the seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee.

35. The Ministers reiterated the need for a harmonization between the activities undertaken by the Group of 77 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries regarding the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. In this regard, they acknowledged the need for more active co-operation in the areas of technology and food and agriculture, and the use of the Centre for Science and Technology of the non-aligned and other developing countries as a clearing-house for information on technical and scientific capacities of developing countries.

36. The Ministers stressed the relevance of the efforts to increase transfer of technology among developing countries, and considered the co-operation among the members of the Group of 77 in this field, giving due account to the needs of the least developed countries as a step towards the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

37. The Ministers welcomed the offers to host the First Meeting of Representatives of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries of the Group of 77 in Brazil and the Consultative Meeting of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries on External Debt in Morocco.

38. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress achieved in the negotiations on the global system of trade preferences, one of the most significant examples of South-South co-operation. They took particular note of the preparatory measures that will enable participating countries to move very soon into the actual stage of exchange of trade concessions. They expressed hope that the first round would be followed by the signing of the framework agreement on the definitive establishment of the global system of trade preference, and of the protocols incorporating the results of the first round, to be annexed to the framework agreement. They welcomed the offer of Yugoslavia to host the next Ministerial Meeting of the Negotiating Committee of the Global System of Trade Preferences.

39. The Ministers reiterated their continued and unwavering support for the struggle against apartheid and expressed their solidarity with its victims and with those neighbouring countries suffering from aggression and economic destabilization by the racist régime of Pretoria. They once again urged the international community to impose comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria régime in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The Ministers reaffirmed that urgent, more vigorous and concrete steps and actions should be taken individually and collectively by all the members of the international community to end without delay colonialism, occupation, domination and exploitation, which constitute major obstacles to the economic emancipation of the developing countries and peoples. The Ministers also reaffirmed the rights of

all countries, territories and peoples subjected to or affected by those condemned practices to restitution and full compensation for the exploitation, depletion, loss or damages to their natural and all other resources. They noted particular difficulties being experienced by the Palestinian people, whose living conditions have been deteriorating as a result of the Israeli occupation and who urgently need to be liberated from occupation to enable them to develop their national economy, and the similar conditions of the people of South Africa and Namibia, including the countries of the front-line States whose painstakingly developed infrastructure and legitimate development programmes are undermined by the South African régime's policy of destabilization. Therefore, they reiterated their unswerving support for the heroic struggle of the peoples of Namibia, South Africa, Palestine, Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories. The Ministers further called upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures in order to eliminate the use of coercive measures against developing countries, which have been on the rise and have taken new forms.

40. The Minister ⁹ once again underlined that development can only be attained in an atmosphere of international peace and co-operation and stressed the direct relationship between peace, disarmament and development. The Ministers reiterated their appeal for the immediate halting of the arms race and an urgent adoption of disarmament measures that would release human material, technological and financial resources badly needed for development. In this context, they noted the outcome of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987, which established for the first time the close and multidimensional relationship between disarmament and development. They reaffirmed the urgency to devise measures or mechanisms to reallocate resources liberated through disarmament efforts into development objectives, and stressed that this should be the next step. They further noted with regret that the participation of developed countries in the conference was not universal.

41. The Ministers recalled the importance of the proclamation of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and noted that the General Assembly had decided to devote two plenary meetings during its forty-second session to the observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless on Monday, 12 October 1987. The Ministers appealed to the international community and the United Nations system to extend their support, paying special attention to measures that would improve the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged in the implementation of the global strategies for shelter to the year 2000.
