DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3201 (S-VI)

The issue of the establishment of a new international economic order was first raised in a political declaration adopted at the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973. The declaration invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a sixth special session of the General Assembly which would be devoted to development and international economic cooperation. By communications of 9 October 1973 and 22 November 1973, Algeria, on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, transmitted the documents of the Conference to the Secretary-General, requesting him to issue them as an official document of the General Assembly under several items of its agenda (A/9330).

At the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the declaration was referred to the Second Committee for consideration under the agenda item relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council (see report of the Second Committee to the General Assembly, A/9400). On 5 December 1973, the Second Committee adopted a joint draft resolution submitted by 87 Member States which called for the convening of a special session of the Assembly devoted to development and international economic cooperation (A.C.2/L.1322 and Rev.1). On 14 December 1973, in its report to the General Assembly (A/9400), the Second Committee recommended that the Assembly adopt a resolution to this effect. On 17 December 1973, the General Assembly adopted, by 123 votes to none, resolution 3172 (XXVIII) which accordingly called for the convening of a special session of the Assembly devoted to development and international economic cooperation. The General Assembly further requested the Economic and Social Council to prepare the agenda for that session on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General.

However, on 30 January 1974, in a letter to the Secretary-General (A/9541), Algeria (on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries) requested the Secretary-General to initiate the appropriate procedure for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the item entitled “Study of the problems of raw materials and development”. On 25 February 1974, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations (A/9542), informing them that the required majority had concurred in this request, and that, as agreed by the Chairmen of the five regional groups, the special session would be convened as of 9 April 1974.

On the first day of the special session, the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session (A/PV.2207). On 11 April 1974, the Assembly allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee the consideration of the agenda item entitled “Study of the problems of raw materials and development” (A/PV.2210). The Ad Hoc Committee held 21 meetings from 10 April to 1 May 1974. On 30 April 1974, 94 Member States (on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries) submitted a joint draft resolution to the Committee entitled “Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order” (A/AC.166/L.47). On the same day, these Member States also submitted a joint draft resolution for a programme of action on the establishment of a new international economic order (A/AC.166/L.48). On 1 May 1974, following some debate, the Chairman of the Committee introduced two revised draft resolutions (A/AC.166/L.50 and 51). On the same day, the Committee adopted these draft resolutions without a vote and recommended that the General Assembly adopt two resolutions to this effect (see Report of the Ad Hoc Committee, A/9556). On 1 May 1974, the draft resolutions were adopted, without a vote, as General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).