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Agenda item 55 (a)

**Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries****Report of the Second Committee\***

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

**I. Introduction**

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 55 (see A/60/491, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 30th and 37th meetings, on 15 November and 15 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.30 and 37).

**II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.32 and Rev.1 and amendment contained in document A/C.2/60/L.69**

2. At the 30th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" (A/C.2/60/L.32), which read:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and its resolutions 57/276 of 20 December 2002, 58/228 of 23 December 2003 and 59/244 of 22 December*

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\* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/60/491 and Add.1 and 2.

2004 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*“Reaffirming* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

*“Recognizing* the importance of the review of the progress achieved towards meeting the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as they address the special needs of the least developed countries,

*“Taking note* of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2004 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme ‘Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010’,

*“Recalling* paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/244, in which it decided to hold the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, and paragraph 6 of the same resolution, in which it decided to consider at its sixtieth session the modalities for conducting such a comprehensive review,

*“Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/44 of 27 July 2005 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

*“Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*“Taking note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

“1. *Reaffirms* the commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries, and urges all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

“2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the insufficient implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address the areas of weakness in its implementation;

“3. *Stresses* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

“4. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the

United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to engage the United Nations Development Group, consistent with the respective mandates of its members, in the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action;

*“5. Decides:*

*“(a) To convene a high-level meeting on the comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be preceded by a meeting of experts lasting five working days; the high-level meeting will carry out the mid-term comprehensive global review, consider new measures as necessary and report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action;*

*“(b) To organize, prior to the comprehensive global review, regional meetings of the relevant United Nations regional commissions, with a view to improving and strengthening existing cooperation arrangements at the subregional and regional levels and providing appropriate inputs to the high-level meeting;*

*“6. Emphasizes that the comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action is of particular significance as it will provide an opportunity to the international community to set out new and corrective measures, including strengthened external support to the least developed countries in all areas, in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade;*

*“7. Requests the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where commitments have remained unfulfilled, and to make proposals for new measures as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the comprehensive global review, and in this regard affirms that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;*

*“8. Recognizes the importance of the contribution of civil society actors in the preparatory process, and in this regard requests the President of the General Assembly to organize informal interactive hearings in July 2006 in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as an input to the preparatory process of the comprehensive global review;*

*“9. Calls upon all Member States to take a positive interest in the preparation of the comprehensive global review and to be represented at a high level in the plenary meeting of the review, with a view to reaching a successful outcome;*

“10. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the comprehensive global review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome;

“11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation;

“12. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the comprehensive global review, in particular at the country level, including the preparation of national reports;

“13. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from all possible sources in order to cover the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the process of the high-level meeting on the comprehensive global review;

“14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, a comprehensive report on the preparation of the comprehensive global review;

“15. *Welcomes* the pledges already made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the preparatory process, and calls upon Member States, other multilateral development partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004;

“16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives, to enhance public awareness in favour of the comprehensive global review;

“17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.”

3. At its 37th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010” (A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32.

4. Also at its 37th meeting, the Committee had before it a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.2/60/L.52) submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it an amendment (A/C.2/60/L.69) to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev. 1, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), by which operative paragraph 6, which read:

“6. *Decides also* to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, preferably on 4, 5 and 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”

would be replaced by the following paragraph:

“6. *Decides also* to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, preferably on 4, 5 and 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and invites Member States to consider the adoption of a short declaration aimed at reaffirming and expressing recommitment to the full implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, including by giving due consideration to the comprehensive midterm review report of the Secretary-General”

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment to operative paragraph 6 (A/C.2/60/L.69) by a recorded vote of 112 to 45, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

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

*Against:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Abstaining:*

Armenia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Norway.

7. A statement in explanation of vote was made before the vote by the representative of the United States of America.

8. A statement in explanation of vote was made after the vote by the representative of Norway.

9. Also at its 37th meeting, the Committee retained operative paragraph 6 by a recorded vote of 117 to 1, with 45 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. A statement in explanation of vote was made before the vote by the representative of the United States.

11. A statement in explanation of vote was made after the vote by the representative the United Kingdom (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1 as a whole without a vote (see para. 13).

### III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>2</sup> and its resolutions 57/276 of 20 December 2002, 58/228 of 23 December 2003 and 59/244 of 22 December 2004 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

*Recognizing* the importance of the review of the progress achieved towards meeting the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as they address the special needs of the least developed countries,

*Taking note* of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2004 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/244, in which it decided to hold the midterm comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, and paragraph 6 of the same resolution, in which it decided to consider at its sixtieth session the modalities for conducting such a midterm comprehensive review,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/44 of 27 July 2005 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

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<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., chap. II.

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/59/3)*, chap. III, para. 49.

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>4</sup>

*Taking note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>5</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries, and urges all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the insufficient implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address the areas of weakness in its implementation;

3. *Stresses* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

4. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to engage the United Nations Development Group, consistent with the respective mandates of its members, in the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Decides* to convene a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly;

6. *Decides also* to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, preferably on 4, 5 and 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

7. *Stresses* that the midterm comprehensive global review should assess the progress made in the implementation of commitments and provide the occasion to reaffirm the goals and objectives agreed upon at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for the further implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

<sup>4</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>5</sup> A/60/81-E/2005/68.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration by Member States, a note on the organizational aspects of the high-level meeting;

9. *Requests* the regional commissions to assist the least developed countries in undertaking regional reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action in their respective regions in preparation for the midterm comprehensive review in 2006 by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

10. *Emphasizes* that the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action is of particular significance as it will provide an opportunity for the international community, in particular the least developed countries and their development partners, to discuss the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action with a view to ensuring support for the least developed countries in all areas, in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade;

11. *Requests* the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the comprehensive global review, and in this regard affirms that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors in the preparatory process, and in this regard requests the President of the General Assembly to organize, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as an input to the midterm comprehensive global review;

13. *Calls upon* all Member States to take a positive interest in the preparation of the midterm comprehensive global review and to be represented at a high level in the plenary meeting of the review, with a view to reaching a successful outcome;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and in this context calls upon the least developed countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation;

15. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the midterm comprehensive global review, in particular at the country level, including the preparation of national reports;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, a comprehensive report for the midterm comprehensive global review;

17. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the midterm comprehensive review of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the process of the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review;

18. *Welcomes* the pledges already made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the preparatory process, and calls upon Member States and invites other multilateral development partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the midterm comprehensive global review;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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