



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 17 (a)

## **Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development**

### **Report of the Second Committee\***

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Theresah Chipulu Luswili **Chanda** (Zambia)

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 17 (see [A/72/418](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 24th, 25th and 27th meetings, on 1, 17 and 30 November 2017. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>

#### **II. Consideration of proposals**

##### **A. Draft resolution [A/C.2/72/L.7](#)**

2. At the 24th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries" ([A/C.2/72/L.7](#)).

3. At its 25th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/72/L.7](#) had no programme budget implications.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/72/L.7](#) by a recorded vote of 116 to 2, with 49 abstentions (see para. 13, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:<sup>2</sup>

\* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in seven parts, under the symbols [A/72/418](#), [A/72/418/Add.1](#), [A/72/418/Add.2](#), [A/72/418/Add.3](#), [A/72/418/Add.4](#), [A/72/418/Add.5](#) and [A/72/418/Add.6](#).

<sup>1</sup> [A/C.2/72/SR.24](#), [A/C.2/72/SR.25](#) and [A/C.2/72/SR.27](#).

<sup>2</sup> The delegation of Colombia subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.



*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

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

5. Also at the same meeting, after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Bulgaria (on behalf of the States members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the United States of America, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Syrian Arab Republic.

**B. Draft resolutions [A/C.2/72/L.17](#) and [A/C.2/72/L.17/Rev.1](#)**

7. At the 24th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International trade and development" ([A/C.2/72/L.17](#)).

8. At its 27th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "International trade and development" ([A/C.2/72/L.17/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of [A/C.2/72/L.17](#).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/72/L.17/Rev.1](#) had no programme budget implications.

10. Also at the same meeting, before the vote, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the United States of America.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/72/L.17/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 167 to 1 (see para. 13, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:<sup>3</sup>

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

*Against:*

United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

None.

12. Also at the same meeting, after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Bulgaria (on behalf of the member States members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Switzerland.

<sup>3</sup> The delegations of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Hungary and Montenegro subsequently informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

### III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

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

#### **Draft resolution I**

#### **Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>1</sup> which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

*Bearing in mind* the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

*Recalling* its resolutions [44/215](#) of 22 December 1989, [46/210](#) of 20 December 1991, [48/168](#) of 21 December 1993, [50/96](#) of 20 December 1995, [52/181](#) of 18 December 1997, [54/200](#) of 22 December 1999, [56/179](#) of 21 December 2001, [58/198](#) of 23 December 2003, [60/185](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/183](#) of 19 December 2007, [64/189](#) of 21 December 2009, [66/186](#) of 22 December 2011, [68/200](#) of 20 December 2013 and [70/185](#) of 22 December 2015,

*Gravely concerned* that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

*Recognizing* that such measures constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter, as well as the basic principles of the multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;
3. *Calls upon* the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the imposition of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion and to study the

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

<sup>2</sup> [A/72/307](#).

impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

## Draft resolution II

### International trade and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [56/178](#) of 21 December 2001, [57/235](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/197](#) of 23 December 2003, [63/203](#) of 19 December 2008, [66/185](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/196](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/199](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/205](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/187](#) of 22 December 2015 and [71/214](#) of 21 December 2016,

*Taking note* of its resolutions [59/221](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/184](#) of 22 December 2005, [61/186](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/184](#) of 19 December 2007, [64/188](#) of 21 December 2009 and [65/142](#) of 20 December 2010,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Sustainable Development Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

*Recommitting* to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty reduction and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for

<sup>1</sup> [A/72/15](#) (Parts I–IV).

<sup>2</sup> [A/72/274](#).

Development<sup>3</sup> in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development;

4. *Recommits* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Buenos Aires from 10 to 13 December 2017, looks forward to a successful outcome and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the meeting;

6. *Takes note* of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its outcome documents;

7. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and that affect in particular, but not exclusively, developing countries;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development", unless otherwise agreed.

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution [69/313](#), annex.