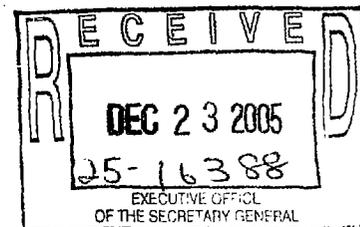


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### Note for the Secretary-General

Subject: Outcome of the Second Committee

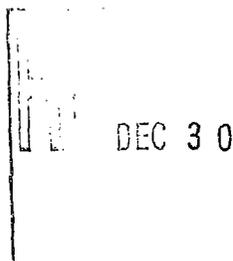
The current session of the Second Committee, which concluded on 19 December, succeeded in setting the stage for two high-level events next year. It adopted resolutions on the modalities and preparations for the high-level dialogue on Migration and Development and for the five year review of the Brussels Programme of Action to be held in September 2006. The Committee also decided on the convening of a conference in Doha to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus sometime between 2008 and 2009.

Considering that the current session was held immediately after a major Summit which dealt extensively with development issues, the Committee, expectedly, did not break new ground on ODA, external debt or poverty eradication. On two other major issues on the Committee agenda, trade and climate change, an additional constraint was the holding, at the same time as the session, of the Sixth WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong and of the Conference of States Parties to UNFCCC (COP11) in Montreal: delegations, and the EU and the US in particular, did not want to seriously engage in negotiations or agree to any action that could prejudice the outcome of these two conferences. A resolution on trade was nevertheless adopted by 109 votes in favor to 1 against (US) with 48 abstentions.

The Committee's work was also significantly affected by the on-going discussions on the budget and overall reform of the UN. Issues of budgetary allocations and PBIs led the Committee, which normally operates by consensus, to resort to voting in several instances. Out of the 41 resolutions adopted by the Committee, 9 were subject to voting, including individual paragraphs of some of the more important resolutions, such as the one on Least Developed Countries. Most of the votes were requested by the United States, which was joined by Japan, and were intended to oppose any increase in the budget, and also allocations from the regular UN budget for meetings of treaty bodies, like the environmental conventions.

In an effort to enrich the deliberations, the Department organized a keynote address by Professor Dani Rodrik on economic policy and the challenges faced by developing countries to effectively integrate into the global economy, as well as several panel discussions on specific issues, including on debt, energy, remittances and natural disasters, which were generally well received.

Despite these difficulties, the Committee's debates and actions showed that delegations remain engaged on key issues, particularly the UN role on migration and the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus.



*Jose*  
 José Antonio Ocampo  
 22 December 2005

HJB  
 cc: YM

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