

Remarks on the International
Economic Life

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Mr. Chairman,
Gentlemen,

I would like to express my particular interest for this meeting on the problems of the co-operation and the development in the world and, at the same time, the satisfaction for participating in its work. I am here as the representative of a country whose President, Mr. Nicolae Ceaușescu, acts constantly in favour of a genuine international dialogue which could lead to efficient solutions for the problems of the world economic stability.

Mr. Chairman,

The consequences of the present world economic crisis have a grave impact on all states, rich and poor. They touch particularly the developing countries whose economic situation grew worse and worse. The gaps between the economically advanced countries and the third world, already huge, continue to deepen. It is obvious that in an era of interdependence it is inconceivable to overcome the present difficulties and ensure the stability of the world economy, the economic and social progress of all nations, without finding proper solutions and answers to the problems of co-operation and international development.

In this regard, the development of a broad and equitable co-operation among all States, as equal partners, is of a very great importance. Romania, president Nicolae Ceaușescu have repeatedly expressed the conviction that, in order to be efficient and viable, such a co-operation must be based on the principles of independence and national sovereignty, the full equality in rights, non interference in the domestic affairs and the mutual advantage. The full respect of these principles is a sine qua non condition for the development of a new type of relations based on confidence and peaceful collaboration among all nations of the world with the view to a secure the progress, prosperity and tranquility of all peoples.

The economic and political stability of the world; the prosperity of the peoples all over the world are strongly dependent on the solution of the problems of the development. The liquidation of the underdevelopment and the establishment of the New International Economic Order, which facilitate the development of an equitable co-operation between the economically advanced countries and the developing ones, correspond to the interests of all states, irrespective of their level of development or their socio-economic system.

Taking into account the fact that all the peoples of the world are touched, in a way or another, by the world economic crisis, both industrialized and developing countries are equally interested in finding equitable solutions aimed at overcoming the effects of the world crisis. One can not forget that the underdevelopment, the difficulties of the thirld world will have, sooner or later, repercussions on all countries, those developed included.

In my view, in the present situation it is most urgent to adopt an immediate programme of action in the areas of trade, energy, raw materials, food, finance and monetary system. Such a programme could halt the further deterioration of the international economic situation, particularly that of the developing countries, and contribute to the resumption of the economic activity at the world level.

We consider that such an immediate programme should include measures aimed at :

1. The reduction of the burden that the external debt of the developing countries imposes on their economic development, by cancelling and rescheduling the debts, establishing a grace period during which no debt will be paid, cancelling the interest rates for the least developing countries and reducing the interest rates for the other developing countries, establishing a maximum ceiling for the interest rates;

2. Fighting the protectionism and neoprotectionism and all the trade restrictions, the setting up of a free and equitable trade, elliminating of all political or other conditions which obstruct the normal development of the international economic relations. Such measures could be included in an Antiprotectionist programme;

3. Securing the equitable access of the developing countries to the international credits;

4. The establishment of a genuine international co-operation between the energy producers and consumers;

5. Ensuring a just and equitable proportion between the prices of the raw materials and those of the manufactured goods;

6. Securing the free and unhindered access of all countries to the achievements of modern science and technology, to the industrial technologies necessary for their economic development;

7. Ensuring the functioning of the international financial and monetary system on new, equitable basis;

8. Supporting the efforts of the developing countries for training national specialists; halting the outflow of trained personnel from developing to the developed countries;

9. Adopting material and financial measures in favour of developing countries confronted with food difficulties;

10. Setting-up of a mechanism (fora) where immediate discussions and negotiations be initiated with a view to finding efficient and speedy solutions for the grave economic problems which could emerge in the economic relations of a country.

The adoption and implementation of an immediate programme of action should, in our view, ^{be} accompanied simultaneously, by the intensification of the efforts to launch the global negotiations, with a view to accelerating the long term restructuring of the international economic relations.

The launching of the global negotiations, with the full and active participation of all States, would create an adequate framework for the elaboration of equitable, and thus efficient and durable, solutions for the problems of the co-operation and international development, in accordance with the requirements of the New International Economic Order.

We hold the view that the United Nations Organization should play a greater role in the solution of the major problems confronting the mankind. In this order of thoughts, we propose the elaboration, within the United Nations Organization, of a code of the principles of the international relations. Such a code would promote equitable international economic collaboration and commercial exchanges. In our opinion, only sustained economic growth, the corner stone of the settlement of all the problems of the world economy, offers, the possibility of

building up an international economic structure in which all countries, big or small, developed or developing co-operate together as equal partners.

The history of development of many countries clearly demonstrates that the key factor in the economic growth of nations is represented by the national efforts, the efficient use of the material and human resources for their economic and social progress. This is the direction firmly followed by Romania which, based mainly on its own forces and resources, has built up a national economy in full process of development, an advanced industry and a strong agriculture. At the same time, my country has constantly promoted a policy of broad economic, technical and scientific co-operation with all States, irrespective of their social regime, has extended and diversified commercial exchanges with over 150 countries. This way, the international collaboration brings an important contribution in catalysing the national efforts and capacities. That is why it is imperative that the efforts of the third world countries be more substantially supported by a large international co-operation. Only following such a course, it will be possible to establish genuine equitable economic relations among countries and to avoid a more accentuated deterioration of the economic conditions of the developing and the further accumulation of new and huge debts of these countries.

Mr. Chairman,,

It is obvious that the reestablishment of the development processus and the relaunching of the economic activity are also influenced by other factors of the international life. In this framework, we consider that the settlement of the problems of disarmament would influence not only the international peace and security but would also facilitate the overcoming of the present difficulties confronting the world economy, particularly the developing countries, the nonaligned nations, the small and medium States. It is a fact that the huge military expenses diverts from economic productive process important material, financial, human, scientific and technical resources strongly needed for the economic and social development.

The escalation of the aberrant arms race, which has already reached unprecedented levels, has had a negative influence on the world economy contributing to the accentuated deterioration of the economic situation of all the countries of the world, to the present economic decay. Therefore, we consider that the recovery of the world economy is inconceivable without a real progress in the field of disarmament, first of all nuclear disarmament - decisive condition in order to build up a world without arms and wars, a world of peace and economic and social progress on our planet.

That is why, we could underline, as one of the conclusions of our exchange of views, that the reduction of arms is not only a mean to prevent the danger of a destroying war, but also a fundamental requirement for the reestablishment of a stable world economy.

Mr. Chairman,

The perpetuance and the deepening of the gaps between the developed and developing countries, the lack of a genuine international dialogue among these countries with a view to agree on realistic solutions for the problems of underdevelopment and the establishment of the New International Economic Order, amplify the contradiction between the developed countries and the third world, contradiction which becomes the fundamental contradiction of the contemporary era.

I consider that the statemen and politicians have the high duty to identify themselves with the fundamental aspirations at their peoples, of the mankind as a whole, to bring their full contribution to the identification of solutions for the problems at the world economy, of the collaboration, the co-operation and the peace in the world. This is, I am persuaded, the spirit which will guide our activity so that this meeting could bring a substantial contribution in order to come, in a short time, to negotiations and reach adequate agreements concerning the fundamental problems of the co-operation and international economic development.