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**AGENDA ITEMS 12, 28, 29 AND 30**

*Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters II, IV, V (sections II-V), VI (paragraph 489) and VIII (paragraphs 650 and 651)) (A/4820 and Corr.2, A/4911) (continued):*

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**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.2/L.554/REV.1) (continued)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the revised draft resolution on the United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/L.554/Rev.1) and drew its attention to the amendments in documents A/C.2/L.586-589 and A/C.2/L.591-595 and to the note by the Acting Secretary-General (A/C.2/L.590) transmitting the Soviet Union memorandum on measures to promote the speediest possible liquidation of the economic consequences of colonialism and the creation of conditions for the rapid growth of the national economies of the less developed countries.

2. Mr. FINGER (United States of America), introducing the revised text of the draft resolution, welcomed Afghanistan as the sixteenth co-sponsor. He said that in accordance with the suggestion made by the representative of the United Arab Republic, supported by the representative of Bulgaria (760th meeting), the sponsors had included in the fourth preambular paragraph a reference to General Assembly resolution 1515 (XV). With regard to

the United Arab Republic's proposal to incorporate in the draft resolution operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.555, the sponsors thought it would be more suitable to keep the paragraph, which dealt directly with the action to be taken by the Special Fund, in the other draft resolution. The idea contained in the first Czechoslovak amendment (A/C.2/L.586), to operative paragraph 2, had been included in operative paragraph 3 (a) of the revised text, which referred to diversification along lines suggested informally by the representative of Nigeria (761st meeting). The second Czechoslovak amendment, to operative paragraph 3 (b), had been incorporated in the revised draft in the form of the words "and to utilize resources offered by foreign sources".

3. In connexion with the second of the five-Power amendments (A/C.2/L.587), it should be emphasized that all the sponsors supported the idea of land reform. However, it was inappropriate in the draft resolution to give details of land reform and a reference to that subject had been included in paragraph 3 (b). Although the sponsors agreed that "feudal and out-of-date systems" should be eliminated, such systems existed only in certain places; consequently, the words "where appropriate" had been used. A reference to General Assembly resolution 1526 (XV), which dealt with the subject, had been included in the fourth preambular paragraph. The third five-Power amendment (A/C.2/L.587), proposing the inclusion of a new operative paragraph 3 (c), had been incorporated in the revised text as paragraph 3 (d), with the addition of the idea of alleviating hunger.

4. The sponsors had also taken into account the suggestions made by the United Kingdom representative (760th meeting). The introductory part of operative paragraph 3 had been reworded. The words "structure and" had been deleted from operative paragraph 3 (c). In operative paragraph 3 (f) of the revised draft, the words "The need to review facilities for the collection" replaced the words "The importance of the collection" in the old operative paragraph 3 (e). The words "for such a programme" had been inserted in operative paragraph 5 of the revised text, in order to take into account the remarks made by the representative of Madagascar at the 760th meeting. The proposal made by the representative of Ceylon at the same meeting had been incorporated as operative paragraph 2 (b).

5. The sponsors considered that the first Ukrainian amendment (A/C.2/L.588), to the effect that all relevant material should be circulated to the Governments of Member States, would involve technical difficulties because of the quantity of the material concerned. However, they had taken into account in the new operative paragraph 6 the need for consultation with Governments. Proposals for action in the field of economic and social development could best be studied in the first instance by the Economic and Social Council, rather than by a group of experts. In view of the nature of the proposals, which would concern action by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, it was difficult to envisage how they could suitably be studied by experts. It was thought that the timing proposed in the draft resolution reflected the consensus of opinion on that subject in the Committee.

6. The sponsors had not accepted the first Polish amendment (A/C.2/L.589), because they considered that the gap in levels of economic development and in per caput incomes between the under-developed and the industrially advanced countries was of less importance to the people in the under-developed countries than such questions as food, health, education and markets for their products. In any case, the idea was dealt with in draft resolution A/C.2/L.558, which would be considered by the Committee at a later stage. The study proposed in the second Polish amendment was already being undertaken in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1516 (XV). The results of the study would be transmitted to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session, when it would be possible to take decisions on the matter. The sponsors had added a reference to the resolution in the fourth preambular paragraph. The Polish amendment implied that no assistance could be provided to the under-developed countries without universal and complete disarmament. However, although it was hoped that disarmament would be complete, any saving resulting from disarmament would be desirable. The third Polish amendment had been inserted, in a revised form, as operative paragraph 4 of the revised draft. The Polish text appeared to prejudge the decision to be taken by the Economic and Social Council regarding the principles of international economic co-operation. However, that decision should be left to the Council and, until the principles had been adopted, it was impossible to say whether they would foster the improvement of world economic relations. The Council would consider the matter at its thirty-fourth session and would take appropriate action.

7. The sponsors had accepted the suggestion made by the representative of Nigeria (761st meeting) for an amendment to operative paragraph 3 (a). They intended to discuss with the Nigerian delegation the proposed target for the rate of growth of the national income, to be mentioned in operative paragraph 1. Although the United Nations should help the under-developed countries to work towards an increased rate of growth of their incomes, it should perhaps be left to the countries concerned to set their own targets.

8. The sponsors had taken into account the informal suggestion made by the representative of Argentina concerning the words "a co-ordinated plan of action" which appeared in the original text of the draft; the introductory part of operative paragraph 3 had been altered accordingly. In order to emphasize that countries were entitled, if they so desired, to plan their development without external assistance, the words "at their request" had been added in paragraph 3 (b).

9. Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia) stated that his delegation was satisfied with the formulation of its second amendment (A/C.2/L.586) which the sponsors had included in their revised text.

10. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) wished to maintain the amendments submitted by his delegation (A/C.2/L.588). It was essential that the Governments of Member States should have all the necessary documentation in order to study the question of the Development Decade. Operative paragraph 6 of the revised draft resolution did not cover that point. It was unnecessary to recommend

that the Economic and Social Council should transmit the Secretary-General's recommendations to Member States, since it was also specified that those recommendations would be transmitted to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session, at which all Member States were represented. Furthermore, the transmission of information did not imply that any action would be taken. It was essential that Member States, and not officials in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, should make proposals regarding the action to be taken.

11. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) explained that, under the terms of operative paragraph 6, the relevant documentation would be transmitted to the Governments five or six months before the General Assembly session, which would ensure the consultation requested by the Ukrainian delegation in its amendment.

12. Mr. NATORF (Poland) thought that the idea contained in the first Polish amendment (A/C.2/L.589) was relevant to the question at issue. The objections just raised by the United States representative appeared to contradict references made by his delegation to the "revolution of rising expectations". It was a fact that the gap in levels of economic development and in income was widening, and that fact should be taken into account. The populations of the under-developed countries were able to compare their situation with that in other regions. The question of the use of the funds released through disarmament was not sufficiently covered by the reference in the fourth preambular paragraph to General Assembly resolution 1516 (XV). A draft resolution should not merely consist of an enumeration of previous resolutions. It was not true to say that the third Polish amendment prejudged the decision to be taken by the Economic and Social Council. His delegation hoped that the decision would be a positive one and it was obvious that the Council would not adopt principles contrary to the interests of the under-developed countries.

13. The procedure proposed in the first Ukrainian amendment (A/C.2/L.588), involving the assistance of a group of experts, was in accordance with that which had been followed by the Economic and Social Council in drawing up its Five-Year Perspective, 1960-1964.<sup>1/</sup> In that case, a plan for work in the economic and social fields had been studied by a committee of five experts, had later been adopted by the Council and was at present working satisfactorily.

14. Mr. LOKMAN (Mauritania) said that his delegation still maintained its amendment (A/C.2/L.591) to the draft resolution because it was essential, in planning a decade of development, to consult the countries affected in order to achieve practical and effective results. All Member States had their own economic plans of varying duration and all had differing economic systems. If those States were to benefit from international co-operation, their Governments must be consulted so that they could incorporate the ideas expressed in the draft resolution in their own economic plans. The first Ukrainian amendment (A/C.2/L.588) should also be studied by the sponsors because it stressed the importance of "taking into account the Governments' replies". Operative paragraph 6 as reworded made

no allowance for the views of Governments, although it was difficult to see how those views could be ignored if the concerted action advocated in the last preambular paragraph was to be effective. For those reasons, the Mauritanian amendment deserved careful consideration by the sponsors.

15. Mr. CLEOFAS (Brazil) said that his delegation was deeply interested in, and fully supported, the United States proposal to designate the current decade as a United Nations Decade of Development. Brazil had always supported the principle of international co-operation aimed at accelerating the execution of basic programmes for the development of the under-developed countries. Since 1953 the Brazilian Government had forged ahead with its plans for economic development by such measures as the establishment of the National Bank for Economic Development, the modification of the exchange system, the encouragement of national industry and land reform.

16. One of Brazil's most urgent problems was to strengthen its agrarian structure and to protect the rural masses by a variety of governmental measures. The people were aware of the serious gap between the rate of expansion in agriculture and that in other sectors of the economy. The land reform measures begun in 1946 had received a new impetus in 1961 when the Government had promulgated Act No. 2613 establishing a rural social service and had set up a national land reform commission. The Congress had since adopted a number of other laws concerned with agricultural settlement, farm insurance, the development of North-East Brazil and land tenure. The Brazilian programme of land reform was aimed at improving human conditions in the rural areas and increasing agricultural productivity. There was no doubt that the Brazilian agrarian structure was out of date and that a speedy redistribution of land must be effected for the benefit of the rural population. In pursuing that aim, Brazil was counting on technical and financial assistance from the United Nations.

17. His delegation was convinced that the next ten years would be vital in the struggle to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities in the world distribution of income and ensure the economic health of the two-thirds of the world's population which still lived in backward conditions. That aim could not be attained without a massive and co-ordinated offensive by the international community for the purpose of rationalizing the agrarian structure of the under-developed countries. Without such rationalization, the disequilibrium between agriculture and industry would tend to increase; the supply of food-stuffs could no longer meet the growing demand and the process of industrialization would inevitably be retarded. On the other hand, by tackling promptly and firmly the problems of agricultural productivity and agrarian structure, the United Nations would make a valuable contribution towards the success of the Development Decade.

18. Mr. VIAUD (France), recalling the remarks he had made on the subject in the general debate (734th meeting), said that, should the General Assembly adopt a resolution on a United Nations Development Decade, the French Government would not await developments needed to put the expressed intentions into effect before taking steps to intensify its long-standing policies of expanding France's

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.IV.14.



economy and of assisting the under-developed areas of the world. The project should present an opportunity for giving added impetus to the efforts of all countries towards the common objective of world economic growth. And while, in that sense, it might rightly incite Governments to emulation, it would be regrettable if it should lead to cold war rivalries in the economic and social sphere. The last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution expressed to perfection his delegation's ideas on the essential objective of such a development decade.

19. Any draft resolution on the subject must lay down the objectives to be pursued and make provision for the means—or at least a study of the means—for their achievement. The objectives, as set out in operative paragraph 2, were incomplete. Sub-paragraph (a) should be supplemented by incorporating the further idea contained in General Assembly resolution 1515 (XV), from which it was taken, that ways and means of eliminating excessive fluctuations in primary commodity trade should be found and applied. Likewise, sub-paragraph (b) should be expanded. First, reference should be made to the need for maintaining a high level of economic activity in both the under-developed and the industrialized countries and for pursuing policies of economic expansion, such as most countries had already adopted. Because of the economic interdependence of the world, the economic growth of the developed countries was an essential condition for the economic growth of the under-developed countries. That consideration had led the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development recently to decide that efforts in its member countries should be focused in the next decade on increasing their gross national product by 50 per cent, as a means of facilitating the harmonious development of the world economy, of promoting liberalization of trade and, even, if enabling greater assistance to be extended to the under-developed countries. The draft resolution might therefore set a target for over-all economic growth of say, 5 per cent per annum over the next ten years, as the representative of Nigeria had suggested.

20. Secondly, the objective of liberalizing trade policies to the utmost extent should be included, in view of the fact that the world was becoming increasingly dependent on economic planning. In other words, the next ten years should be used to seek a type of economic organization which would combine the advantages of liberalized trade and of forecasting economic trends. A third objective to be incorporated was that of eradicating illiteracy and ignorance, including the need for training administrative, scientific and technical cadres to undertake national planning in the under-developed countries.

21. Next, there was economic poverty and stagnation, which called for the adoption of economic and financial policies that would provide for maximum national investment in the basic structural institutions and industry. National and international financing must be combined.

22. Lastly, emphasis should be laid on the need for adjusting the economic and social structure of the under-developed countries to eliminate out-of-date social systems that were impeding development, such as obsolete agrarian systems.

23. As to ways and means, it was apparently the intention of the sponsors of the draft resolution, and reasonably so, that the specific programme should be left to be formulated in the course of the next year. It would be desirable in the draft resolution, however, to recognize the distinction between government action, whether unilateral or regional, for the planning of which they alone were responsible, and joint action to be undertaken by the United Nations. Secondly, there should be no attempt to list in the draft resolution all possible means of action, many of which had already been covered by earlier General Assembly resolutions; that would merely serve to weaken it. Mention might rightly be made, however, of the current study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament, the results of which would have a bearing on the programme.

24. He was not making any formal proposals for amendment, but would be glad if the sponsors of the draft resolution found it possible to redraft operative paragraph 2 on the lines he had suggested.

25. Mr. EL-MUTWALLI (Iraq), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the amendments contained in document A/C.2/L.587, withdrew the third amendment in favour of the new operative paragraph 3 (d). He did not fully agree with the interpretation the United States representative had placed on the second amendment. The draft resolution dealt with matters of interest to the under-developed countries, whose economies rested mainly on agriculture, and was not intended to apply to the industrialized countries. Hence, the reference to elimination of feudal and out-of-date land tenure systems was entirely applicable. But, in a spirit of accommodation and in view of the fact that references had been inserted in the fourth preambular paragraph to General Assembly resolution 1526 (XV) and in operative paragraph 3 (b) to land reform, he would withdraw that amendment as well. Since the sponsors attached particular importance to the first amendment, which now applied to operative paragraph 2 (a), they wished to maintain it.

26. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia), while welcoming the idea underlying the draft resolution, nevertheless believed it ran the risk of becoming a dead letter unless it were made more specific by including the additional objectives outlined by a number of delegations. Nothing new had been suggested and the draft resolution, to be effective, must in fact be a synthesis of all the long-term economic development objectives already affirmed by the General Assembly. Only then would it become a development charter for the guidance of national, regional and international economic development policies in the years ahead.

27. Such a charter might lay down as a minimum target an increase of 5 per cent in national income over the period, as Nigeria had suggested. Secondly, the economic and social structure within which the long-term plans and policies would have to be developed would need to be defined and for that the under-developed countries would have to be given the maximum information and assistance. Those plans would have to form an integrated whole, if balanced development in all sectors was to be achieved. That objective was covered by operative paragraph 3 (b) of the original draft resolution, although the wording of the last phrase was not

entirely satisfactory. Once the general programme was evolved, the component parts would have to be defined. First, accelerated industrialization in the under-developed countries should be promoted; secondly, diversification of agriculture should be brought about through, *inter alia*, effective land reform policies; and thirdly, measures should be taken to increase income and, hence, resources for capital investment. To that end there should be a liberalization of terms of trade for the primary producing countries, including stabilization of prices at remunerative levels, expansion of markets and elimination of restrictive practices; establishment of a United Nations economic development fund; increasing flow of private capital into the under-developed countries under the safeguard of appropriate national and international legislation; and intensified measures to combat illiteracy and to train national planning cadres.

28. The means for executing such a programme should include reform of certain United Nations institutions, decentralization of its economic and social activities to give, in particular, more re-

sponsibility to the regional economic commissions, establishment of a programming centre, an industrial development centre, a development insurance fund for trade, and an international insurance fund for capital investment. Those measures could have been contemplated within the framework of operative paragraph 3 (c) of the original draft. Intensified research and the collection and dissemination of information were also basic to such a programme.

29. Mr. CALAMARI (Panama) wished to bring to the notice of the sponsors of the draft resolution, for their guidance in considering his delegation's amendment (A/C.2/L.592), that the term "general education", as used in the proposed new paragraph 3 (f), embraced elementary, secondary and higher education, including university training for the liberal professions, whereas the term "vocational and technical training" covered the training of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workmen, including technicians.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.