

other regions, particularly regions with countries having different economic and social systems.

44. Since the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, a new kind of international law was rapidly emerging, as was shown by the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. UNITAR could play an important role in familiarizing governmental officials and teachers with those dynamic developments in the area of international law.

45. The Project on the Future would play a useful role if it concentrated on a critical review of the premises, methodology and findings of studies on global long-term developments. The review should be based upon a truly global consensus on the future course of the world community, in particular of the developing countries.

46. His delegation found that UNITAR's approach to the relationship with the United Nations University was very constructive and felt that a proper and efficient division of functions between the two bodies should be worked out so

that they complemented each other in their research activities.

47. Lastly, regarding the financing of UNITAR's activities, his delegation hoped that in 1975 more countries would provide financial support that would enhance the research and training capacity of UNITAR. At the same time, it felt that the Board of Trustees should spare no effort in raising special purpose grants.

48. Mr. RAJAONARIVELO (Madagascar) proposed that the meeting should be adjourned to allow members of the Committee who wished to attend the meeting of non-aligned States to be held at 4.30 p.m. in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objection, he would assume that the Committee agreed to the proposal of the representative of Madagascar.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

1662nd meeting

Wednesday, 8 October 1975, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1662

AGENDA ITEM 57

United Nations Institute for Training and Research: report of the Executive Director (*continued*) (A/10014)

1. Mr. GORITZA (Romania) noted that, during the period covered by the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR (A/10014), efforts had been made to include in the Institute's programme activities relevant to the major concerns of the United Nations and its States Members, particularly the establishment of a new international economic order. That objective opened up many possibilities for the implementation of activities that would be useful to the Organization, such as studies defining the component elements of the concept of the new international economic order and the many problems involved in promoting them at the level of international relations. Such studies should indicate the central role of the United Nations and its capacity to contribute to the establishment of new relationships between States.

2. The activities of UNITAR relating to the Project on the Future should have the same objective. His delegation was pleased to note that, in connexion with the Project, the Institute was to carry out studies on such very topical subjects as energy, food and water resources. That approach could be broadened in the future to include within the scope of UNITAR's work new topical subjects of interest to Member States.

3. The seven topics discussed at the seventh special session of the General Assembly provided an important source of

inspiration in that regard; they were international trade, development financing, science and technology, industrialization, food and agriculture, co-operation among developing countries and restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. All those problems might be the subject of study and research in UNITAR, which could thereby help to implement the measures agreed upon at the seventh special session and lend support to the efforts of the international community to establish a new international economic order.

4. He announced that the Romanian authorities had approved a contribution of 30,000 lei to UNITAR for 1976 to be used in Romania for doctorate, research and specialization programmes or for any other UNITAR activity.

5. Mr. NANAYAKKARA (Sri Lanka) expressed appreciation to the Executive Director for his comprehensive report and his introductory statement, at the previous meeting, on the work of UNITAR. The training provided by UNITAR had been extremely useful and had helped to fill a gap in the training facilities available, particularly for the developing countries. The regular training programmes for United Nations delegates and diplomatic personnel had served a useful purpose; the proposed junior professional trainee programme should give special attention to the economic side of the work of the United Nations. Further seminars on United Nations documentation would be welcome, as they would enable governmental agencies dealing with United Nations matters to cope with the voluminous work involved. His delegation appreciated the

steps taken recently by UNITAR to hold some of its training programmes and seminars away from New York and Geneva and would urge the Executive Director to consider sponsoring a few programmes in the Asian region, in co-operation with the regional economic commission.

6. UNITAR showed a disturbing tendency to undertake research work covering a wide variety of unrelated fields of study. With a limited budget, greater attention should be paid to preventing its resources from being spread too thin. His delegation strongly urged that high priority should be given to the activities contemplated by UNITAR in response to General Assembly resolution 3217 (XXIX), particularly in its research programmes.

7. The United Nations University would be involved in research work in specific fields which had a direct bearing on the work of UNITAR. There should therefore be greater co-ordination and liaison between the two institutions so that they could work together without dispersing scarce resources. The General Assembly could then consider, at a future date, the possibility of merging UNITAR with the United Nations University.

8. Several speakers had referred to the serious financial position of UNITAR. His country had contributed to UNITAR regularly in the past, but currently had grave economic difficulties. However, it hoped that it would be able to participate fully in the UNITAR programme in the coming years.

9. Mr. KHALLAF (Egypt) stressed the growing importance of UNITAR in the establishment of a new international economic order and its role within the United Nations system. With regard to the report of the Executive Director, he noted that some developing countries had not participated in the training programmes. It was important to eradicate financial or other barriers so that all developing countries could participate in UNITAR's programmes, which should be expanded for the benefit of those countries, including the three new Members of the United Nations, and other States which were about to achieve their independence.

10. The term of office of the current Board of Trustees would expire in 1976. He hoped that the Secretary-General would select the new members of the Board with due regard for geographical and cultural considerations as well as competence. Egypt welcomed the new orientation of UNITAR's activities and the efforts to make greater use of all the working languages. Financial contributions to the Institute were obviously needed, especially from the developed countries, as well as technical facilities, equipment and information. In chapter VI of the Executive Director's report, concerning the relationship with the United Nations University, a distinction was drawn between the two institutions but it was clear that UNITAR wished to co-operate with the University.

11. Among the other activities which could be dealt with by UNITAR during the coming year, he mentioned the establishment of a new international economic order, the establishment of denuclearized zones, the role of the President of the General Assembly, transnational corporations, the role of the mass media, the need for an

international information agency and the organization of United Nations conferences. With regard to the establishment of a new international economic order, his delegation particularly appreciated UNITAR's efforts to implement General Assembly resolution 3217 (XXIX) and hoped that it would deal in the future with matters such as international trade, the transfer of technology, food problems and the population explosion. He commended the Institute for its Project on the Future and suggested that the studies carried out under that Project should be made available to Member States.

12. Miss COURSON (France) thanked the Executive Director for his introductory statement and report and fully endorsed the reorganization of the Institute, particularly the importance accorded to the Project on the Future.

13. Her delegation had stated, on several occasions, that UNITAR had an important role to play in the field of training. It therefore welcomed the training seminars and programmes aimed at improving the knowledge and output of those employed by the United Nations system and would encourage the Executive Director to organize seminars which would help to strengthen interagency co-operation in training. The seminars for new members of delegations to the General Assembly were also very useful.

14. In view of the limited resources available to the Institute, its research role should be defined in such a way as to make an original contribution. Its studies should be limited and there should be a global rather than a sectoral approach to research on such problems as the new international economic order, natural resources, energy, food, the environment and population. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 3217 (XXIX) had led UNITAR to refocus its activities on studies conducted with a long-term perspective and on research of a kind which it would be difficult to include in the programme budget of the United Nations because it required a future-oriented view. UNITAR could play an important part in the science of the future, but its main task should be not to undertake original research, but to try to reduce to order all the studies already existing in that area and, on the basis of the research already carried out, to determine what measures could usefully be taken at the international level by the United Nations and at the national level by States. UNITAR should be responsible for informing Governments of the results of global studies carried out elsewhere. Her delegation welcomed the Executive Director's intention of publishing twice a year, in collaboration with other organizations, a "Chronicle" reviewing the major trends and thinking on problems of the future. The approach should, of course, be selective and be oriented towards the major problems dealt with in the United Nations and the requirements of international co-operation. Such a review would meet the needs of both governmental and private bodies. Furthermore, a concise periodic bulletin on subjects of importance for the future would draw attention to new techniques and stimulate the expression of ideas. Her delegation hoped that it would appear in all the working languages of the United Nations.

15. In conclusion, she said that her delegation supported the new orientation of UNITAR.

16. Mrs. FORRESTER (Australia) said that her Government acknowledged the value of the activities carried out by UNITAR and planned to continue to support it financially. Her delegation particularly appreciated UNITAR's activities in the area of peaceful settlement of international disputes. It commended the Institute for the forthcoming study on the United Nations role in the maintenance of international peace and security, which provided much-needed background information in the field of peaceful settlements. Her delegation looked forward to the study on dispute settlement procedures in the field of ocean resources, which would be helpful to those who would have to deal with such issues at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. UNITAR was concerning itself with areas of interest and benefit to both developed and developing countries. Her delegation welcomed the fact that the Institute had attempted to relate some of its activities to the debate on the new international economic order, which was of special importance to the developing countries. More could probably be achieved by UNITAR in the area of energy, trade and development and sharing of world resources. The consensus reached at the seventh special session provided a greater impetus for UNITAR to relate its training and research to economic problems. However, in so doing, it must co-ordinate with other relevant bodies to avoid any duplication of activities.

17. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the report of the Executive Director reflected an encouraging change from the previous year. With the reorganization of its structural set-up and the updating of its programme of work to meet modern requirements, UNITAR appeared to be entering a new phase of development. The programme of work was chiefly concerned with questions relating to future problems, such as those arising from the relationship between population growth, economic growth, environmental protection and scarcity of resources. The Department of Research had regained its independence and had at last assumed its proper place in a new order of priorities, which meant that its work programme would, like the training programme, be oriented more to existing and future problems. However, UNITAR should not yield to the temptation to tackle problems which fell within the competence of other bodies, but should concentrate on training and research.

18. In his delegation's view, the Project on the Future was now based on realistic concepts. The aim of the Project was to collect and evaluate the research data provided by eminent experts and other research institutes in order to provide the United Nations with clear and convincing analyses. Another objective would be to communicate and comment on conflicting views on intricate global problems. If those activities were undertaken with the necessary expertise, the project could make an imaginative and original contribution. It was to be hoped that UNITAR would avoid any overlapping of the work of its Department of Research with that of the Project on the Future. It should also draw a reasonable line between its own functions and those of the United Nations University.

19. The organizational and conceptual improvement in UNITAR's activities would be thoroughly satisfactory if its financial situation were not so discouraging. The fact that

the Institute had carried forward a sizable deficit into 1976 called for a thorough examination of ways to economize, particularly on administrative expenses, without prejudice to the necessary research and training programmes. UNITAR should seek to share its burdens through co-operation with institutes outside the United Nations system which might contribute to its research work and its budget. It must do everything possible to make up deficits before financial resources other than voluntary contributions by Member States could be considered. Despite major budgetary constraints and drastic cuts in other sectors, the Federal Republic of Germany had again contributed to UNITAR in 1975 DM 600,000, or approximately \$240,000. It would be helpful if Member States would revise their position towards contributing more to the budget of the Institute, now that it had assumed a more promising profile.

20. Mr. MASSONET (Belgium) said that his country, which had contributed to the activities of UNITAR in the past and would continue to do so in the future, intended to increase its contribution for 1976. In accordance with its mandate, the Institute had concentrated its research activities in three priority areas: the Project on the Future, including economic and social trends and developments in science and technology; peace and security and international law; and international organization. The Institute had chosen to consider problems which required a multi-disciplinary approach. In his delegation's view, the priority given to programmes concerning international organization was particularly timely. The studies dealing with the effect of *ad hoc* conferences on the administration of United Nations economic and social activities and with the international civil service and the functional secretariat in the United Nations should provide useful material for reflection.

21. Furthermore, the seminars organized by UNITAR had been devised in such a way as to contribute to a better understanding of international questions and to prepare representatives for specific conferences. He referred in particular to the briefing/teaching seminar on law of the sea issues, the briefing seminar on the Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the briefing seminar on remote sensing and development. His delegation welcomed the effort made by UNITAR to increase collaboration with institutions throughout the world carrying out research on the maintenance of peace and security and on the promotion of co-operation between countries having different economic and social systems.

22. Finally, his delegation was glad to note the growing interest in UNITAR's activities and the new impetus which was being given to them.

23. Mr. HAUGH (United States of America) thanked the Executive Director for his statement and observed that, in view of the small amount of money involved, the work of UNITAR in both training and research, and particularly its new research programme, had been surprisingly comprehensive during the period under review. UNITAR was making important contributions to the wider dissemination of education and information. His Government had consistently supported UNITAR and had made voluntary

financial contributions, and it urged all Member States to give financial support consonant with the changing economic values of the day, in order to maintain UNITAR's activities. It was particularly encouraging that the Executive Director had asked the Administrative Management Service of the United Nations Secretariat to undertake a review of UNITAR's administrative structure and costs, as a result of which the proportion of expenditures devoted to substantive operations had increased significantly in 1974.

24. The United States fully shared the view that UNITAR's role involved activities designed to improve the structure and functioning of the United Nations and problems of special interest to developing countries in the area of economic and social development. Furthermore, the Institute's activities should closely reflect the pluralistic approach to analysis and problem-solving inherent in the United Nations Charter. In his Government's view, UNITAR had been more imaginative and innovative in its research activities than in its training programmes. That was not to belittle the training programmes, most of which were of long standing and had proved their utility. He would appreciate further information on the results of the discussions and *ad hoc* meetings on the organization of interagency-based training programmes for international officials referred to in paragraph 8 of the report (A/10014), as well as on the consultative machinery envisaged for such training programmes.

25. His Government was particularly pleased that UNITAR's research activities had been reoriented towards studies which could be completed and used within approximately one year. A more direct link between the Institute's research activities and their impact on Governments and the United Nations system appeared desirable. In that connexion, his delegation looked forward to the results of the project on the effect of *ad hoc* conferences, the analysis of the seventh special session of the General Assembly, the publication of a report entitled *Brain Drain and Study Abroad* and UNITAR's activities in the area of international economic co-operation. His delegation welcomed Mr. de Seynes as Director of the Project on the Future and looked forward both to realistic identification of evolving global problems and to proposals for timely, imaginative research by the United Nations system, in co-operation with national Governments as well as scholarly, scientific and business institutions around the world.

26. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) said that, through its links with the academic world, UNITAR could transform the achievements of science and technology for application in United Nations practice, thus improving the performance of United Nations bodies. In the field of research, his delegation was especially gratified that UNITAR was giving increased attention to the role of the United Nations in promoting co-operation between countries having different economic and social systems; studies such as that on the role of existing United Nations bodies in the area of all-European co-operation in the context of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe should be continued (see A/10014, para. 71).

27. UNITAR should devote more attention to problems relating to the establishment of a new international economic order, in accordance with the guidelines laid

down in the relevant decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Studies on the long-term economic development of particular regions would be welcome.

28. The studies being undertaken by UNITAR on the effectiveness and capacity of the United Nations system and on decision-making in the Economic and Social Council would prove useful for discussions on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Co-operation between UNITAR and a Polish institute which developed similar studies could facilitate the solution of that difficult problem. Lastly, his delegation urged UNITAR to develop wider contacts with eminent scientists throughout the world in order to enhance the effectiveness of its activities.

29. Mr. AMIRDIVANI (Iran) said that his delegation had supported the efforts of UNITAR since its inception and particularly welcomed the fruitful discussions which the Executive Director had had with his Government in order to promote closer co-operation between UNITAR and similar Iranian institutions.

30. He hoped that, in planning, organizing and evaluating its programmes, the Institute would continue its consultations with permanent representatives, national officials and senior officials of the United Nations and other interested institutions.

31. With regard to training, he welcomed the re-establishment of the Department of Training and the expansion of training courses for members of permanent missions. In view of the intensive nature of those courses, they should last longer than the customary two or three days. The training programme in coastal zone management for developing States would be particularly valuable, for it would improve the training of nationals of developing countries and facilitate the development of coastal zones with the use of modern technology.

32. Where research activities were concerned, UNITAR was preparing very useful studies relating to international organization, peace and security and development and resource problems. One which merited attention was the study of the effect of *ad hoc* conferences on the administration of United Nations economic and social activities. His delegation welcomed in particular the completion of the report entitled *Brain Drain and Study Abroad*, and believed that in its future work on the subject UNITAR should give priority to the objectives established at the seventh special session of the General Assembly with a view to avoiding the brain drain and obviating its adverse effects. His Government, which was keenly aware of the importance of human resources for economic development, had used various means to encourage Iranians who had studied abroad to return to Iran.

33. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the department concerned with the Project on the Future. Studies on the distant future should be expanded to enable all Member States to address themselves to the most controversial problems on a continuing basis, through international symposia. The proposed symposium on Africa

and the Future and the specific studies on non-renewable resources would greatly benefit future national planning efforts. The study on energy resources should focus on the search for new sources of energy.

34. Lastly, it was very encouraging that UNITAR had been able to reduce the cost of its publication and dissemination operation while increasing its effectiveness. His delegation hoped that that reduction would make it easier for UNITAR to expand its scope of action.

35. Mr. STRASSER (Austria) said that the report of the Executive Director was a perfect illustration of how efficiently a United Nations organization could operate with limited financial means, provided that it had highly competent leadership and a qualified staff. Thanks were due to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Deputy Executive Director, both of whom were leaving UNITAR, for their outstanding contributions to the Institute.

36. Over the past few years, co-operation between Austria and UNITAR had developed most satisfactorily. His delegation attached particular importance to the annual Schloss Hernstein conferences, which were distinguished by the timeliness of their topics, the high qualifications of the participants, an atmosphere which was conducive to productive dialogue and the excellent reports which derived from the discussions. The 1975 conference, which had been devoted to the potential of non-governmental organizations in economic and social development, had focused on new forms of participation of such organizations in *ad hoc* conferences and new aspects of the three-sided dialogue between non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies and Governments. He was pleased that the topic had been pursued at a UNITAR colloquium in New York on 6 October. He commended the final report—which would be published shortly—to all Member States. Austria welcomed UNITAR's intention to hold another Schloss Hernstein conference, on the situation of women; the Colloquium on the Situation of Women in the United Nations, held in July 1972, and the resulting report¹ had been particularly successful and relevant.

37. His Government believed that UNITAR had succeeded in discharging its tasks as defined in its Statute. Many useful initiatives, in the field of economic and social development as well as other fields, had been conceived within the framework of its research and training programme. His delegation was particularly gratified that the Institute had just completed a major reassessment of its priorities and had made the necessary administrative arrangements to enable it to carry out its new work programme. It also welcomed the emphasis given to future studies, as clearly demonstrated by the establishment of the Project on the Future. UNITAR could assume a major role in providing United Nations policy-makers with relevant studies, particularly in the areas of energy, raw materials, natural resources and nutrition. UNITAR and the United Nations University were complementary institutions, each serving particular needs, and his Government was confident that a very fruitful relationship between them would evolve gradually, especially since the Executive Director of

UNITAR was an *ex officio* member of the University Council.

38. In keeping with its past practice, his Government planned, subject to parliamentary approval, to increase its contribution to UNITAR for the year 1976. The additional funds should help the Institute in its future work relating to the implementation of the decisions of the seventh special session of the General Assembly.

39. Mr. OCOKOLJIĆ (Yugoslavia) noted with satisfaction that UNITAR's activities in the field of training and research had been expanding from year to year and that, where training was concerned, emphasis continued to be placed on programmes and seminars which enabled the participants to gain useful knowledge about the United Nations system and its activities as well as other international activities. His delegation considered it vital that the subjects of training programmes be carefully chosen so that the participants could derive a greater understanding of different aspects of the action being taken by the United Nations in order to attain the objectives of the new international economic order. It was desirable to continue that practice while broadening the range of subjects, updating programmes and including larger numbers of participants, particularly from developing countries.

40. With regard to UNITAR's research activities, he noted that progress had been achieved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3217 (XXIX), and emphasized that UNITAR should focus on improving the structure and functioning of the United Nations, on problems of special interest to developing countries in the area of economic and social development, and on research and studies which would assist the United Nations in the analysis of the problems related to the establishment of a new international economic order. Notwithstanding the important work undertaken thus far, his delegation was not fully satisfied with the results achieved; the activity of the Institute had yet to reflect adequately the basic preoccupations of the international community as expressed in the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations. In addition to the activities mentioned in the report of the Executive Director, UNITAR should expand its studies to many other fields of relevance to international economic relations, particularly in the light of the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly.

41. Mr. NDIRIMBIE (United Republic of Cameroon) said it was gratifying to note that UNITAR had deployed considerable efforts to implement the decisions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 3217 (XXIX). He welcomed the increased effectiveness of the Institute in the discharge of its responsibilities, the reorganization of its work to promote economic and social development taking into account the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, its new initiatives, the greater emphasis on subjects of practical value, the expansion of programmes to cover topics relating to the United Nations and current issues of common interest to the international community, the identification of priorities in specific areas, and closer co-ordination with other units of the United Nations system to avoid duplication and waste. Equally important was the organization, in co-operation with other institu-

¹ UNITAR/RR/18.

tions and international organizations, of programmes aimed at accomplishing UNITAR's major goals in keeping with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Statute of the Institute. His country had been among those which had benefited from the regional training courses in international law, for African lawyers, held in Sierra Leone and Zaïre earlier in the year, which were mentioned in paragraph 35 of the Executive Director's report (A/10014).

42. His delegation had also noted with great satisfaction the interest which UNITAR took in the special problems of the developing countries and its determination to adapt its programmes to the changing needs of the Organization. The decision to hold a symposium on Africa and the Future early in 1976 and to undertake the other projects mentioned in paragraph 101 of the Executive Director's report was a promising sign that Africa would receive the attention it deserved. Indeed, his delegation would have wished to see a more dynamic programme for Africa, a continent which had been accorded very low priority by the industrialized countries and was still combating the last vestiges of colonialism and neo-colonialism. He did not, of course, wish to blame all of Africa's problems on its colonial past.

43. The Executive Director's pledge that UNITAR would take the conclusions of the seventh special session of the General Assembly very seriously was most welcome.

44. He wondered whether UNITAR had the machinery to monitor or influence the use of the studies it published for individual countries or groups of countries. Furthermore, while he did not wish to minimize the usefulness of UNITAR's publications, he cautioned against producing masses of paper intended only for the archives.

45. He welcomed UNITAR's policy of training and recruiting at all levels and from a wide range of countries. The attention devoted to youth programmes also merited mention.

46. His Government attached great importance to training and research as essential instruments of economic, social and cultural development and hoped that UNITAR would continue to discharge its lofty responsibilities despite its financial difficulties.

47. Mr. AHEER (Pakistan) said that his Government would continue to support the work of UNITAR, as it had done since its establishment, and noted that Pakistan had also been making a modest contribution to its finances in keeping with the country's total resources.

48. As a developing country, Pakistan must assess UNITAR's work in the light of its contribution to the over-all process of development. His delegation was pleased to note that, in keeping with the General Assembly's invitation to the Institute, in its resolution 3217 (XXIX), to organize its work taking full account of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, progress had been made in identifying topics in the field of development as potential research projects. It would also be appropriate for the Institute to undertake research projects on specific areas that had formed the basis of the decisions taken during the seventh special session of the General Assembly, at which

broad agreement had been reached on several important aspects of development. Possible topics included various aspects of trade, monetary issues and transfer of resources, the transfer of technology to developing countries, food and agriculture, industrialization and regional and inter-regional co-operation among developing countries. In undertaking such activities, UNITAR would be fulfilling the task assigned to it at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly and would also be increasing its contribution to the foremost responsibility facing the United Nations system, that of accelerating the development of developing countries. UNITAR's role would be strengthened if it kept pace with the conceptual and philosophical changes in the United Nations that were part of the dynamic process of development.

49. Mr. DHARAT (Libyan Arab Republic) expressed satisfaction at the substantial training programme conducted by UNITAR, in particular the seminars for members of permanent missions, which had dealt with the United Nations itself and with issues before the Organization. Those seminars, which were extremely useful to newcomers, should continue to be offered and should be of longer duration. He emphasized the need for additional regional training programmes such as the courses in international law which had been organized in Africa early in 1975. He welcomed the plan to organize a programme of seminars for United Nations depository librarians.

50. With regard to research, he noted with interest the study of the effect of *ad hoc* conferences on the administration of United Nations economic and social activities. His delegation would have welcomed a study and seminars on the results of the sixth special session of the General Assembly and looked forward to a study on the outcome of the seventh special session, the problems of establishing the new international economic order and the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. His Government was particularly interested in the work of UNITAR on the brain drain and its impact on developing countries. His delegation had translated one of UNITAR's reports on the subject into Arabic and it hoped that in the future the Institute would publish similar studies in Arabic—now an official language of the United Nations—in order to ensure the wide dissemination which was crucial to the achievement of UNITAR's goals. His delegation awaited with interest the report entitled *Brain Drain and Study Abroad*. Also useful would be a report on the impact of multinational corporations in developing countries and the economic and social effects of their activities.

51. He noted the Executive Director's expression of concern regarding the financial situation of UNITAR in paragraph 12 of his report (A/10014) and said that the Libyan Government would announce a pledge to the Institute shortly. He endorsed the Swedish representative's suggestion that funds should be made available to UNITAR in the United Nations regular budget. The Institute required funding on a regular basis in order to ensure the continuity of its activities.

52. Mr. TARZI (Afghanistan) said that his delegation had great admiration for the UNITAR programme but felt apprehensive that the Institute might be extending itself beyond its budgetary, personnel, financial and admin-

istrative capacities. The ambitious programme covered a vast array of topics ranging from the training of diplomats to the new international economic order. The main issue was not so much what UNITAR attempted to achieve but what it could achieve. The Institute's own analysis of its achievement to date was timely and should enable it to avoid duplicating the work of other United Nations agencies and to concentrate on areas in which it had a comparative advantage, namely, specific research and training projects.

53. His delegation was impressed with UNITAR's academic connexions with the United Nations University and with other bodies. Research related to the urgent economic problems of the developing countries combined with analytical studies of the sixth and seventh special sessions and a pragmatic training programme would go a long way to alleviating those problems. With regard to such practical topics as water management, agro-industries, project and management development, financial development, insurance, and technical assistance in the textile industries, UNITAR might confer with the relevant United Nations agencies with a view to dovetailing its activities with their work.

54. It was clear from the statement by the Executive Director that UNITAR's financial resources had not kept pace with the expansion of its programme. Remedial measures must be adopted: in the short term, the financial crisis might be alleviated by increased voluntary contributions from countries in a position to make them; in the long term, voluntary contributions could not solve the problem. A firm financial basis must therefore be worked out. Otherwise, UNITAR would have no choice but to limit its activities to the most important developmental issues, in order to ensure that the quality of its work was not diluted owing to financial difficulties.

55. It would be very helpful if UNITAR could hold more regional seminars and training programmes, with special emphasis on the problems of the land-locked developing countries.

56. Mrs. RAY (India) said her delegation was happy to note that UNITAR's training and research work had been of better quality. Among the training courses organized in 1974, the seminars on law of the sea issues, on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and on remote sensing had been of particular interest. A number of developing countries had also benefited from UNITAR fellowships. The subject studies and research reports issued by UNITAR were also of current interest, notably those on the peaceful settlement of disputes, the role of the United Nations in promoting co-operation between countries having different economic and social systems, dispute settlement procedures in the field of ocean resources, measures in regard to arms controls and the energy problem.

57. Her delegation was glad that the Institute proposed to continue existing programmes and to devote more attention to future-oriented questions such as natural resources, the relationship between population, environment and development, and ocean and water resources. Work on such projects must of course be co-ordinated with that of other United Nations bodies.

58. Her delegation thought that UNITAR's financial difficulties could be overcome by increasing resources and curtailing expenditure. India had been making a modest contribution to the Institute from the outset. Most countries benefited from UNITAR's programmes, and financial support from those which had not so far contributed would go a long way towards solving the problem. Savings might also be made by establishing priorities and reducing administrative and overhead costs. Since the whole United Nations system benefited from UNITAR's work, it was reasonable to expect that other organizations would support the Institute not only by means of joint programmes but also with financial assistance. Her delegation hoped that the Secretary-General and the executive heads of other organizations would give suitable assignments to UNITAR, together with the necessary financial resources.

59. Mr. TUKAN (Jordan) welcomed the clarity of purpose that characterized UNITAR's activities. His delegation took note of chapter VI of the report, concerning UNITAR's relationship with the United Nations University, and endorsed the view that the different objectives of the two institutions should not reflect adversely on the co-operation between them. Their essentially complementary roles would be enhanced by closer co-operation.

60. UNITAR had played an important role in training, and members of his delegation, both in New York and at Geneva, had participated in some of the very useful training programmes. It therefore endorsed the expansion and diversification of the training programme.

61. Paragraph 9 of the report stated that the main focus of UNITAR's research had been on the need to improve the structure and functioning of the United Nations and problems of special interest to developing countries, while paragraph 61 spoke of the need to examine the institutional capability and task performance of the United Nations system. The importance of that focus was demonstrated by the wealth of information and scholarly work available to the international community on all aspects of human life. His country was particularly concerned about the problem of the brain drain, and he endorsed the comments made by the representatives of Iran and the Libyan Arab Republic. His delegation welcomed UNITAR's project on the problem, which had become a major obstacle to the implementation of Jordan's development plan. His delegation also welcomed the statement in paragraph 74 of the report concerning the relationships between United Nations and non-United Nations regional organizations, and it was naturally interested in the proposed study on relations between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. It hoped that UNITAR publications might appear in Arabic. His delegation noted the list, in paragraph 101, of activities forming part of the Project on the Future; it was confident that the Project would be valuable.

62. He paid a tribute to the Executive Director and his staff for the work they had been able to accomplish despite the shortage of financial and human resources.

63. Mr. AL-SAFFAR (Iraq) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Executive Director, which was of great value in explaining UNITAR's programme. The programme must respond to the needs of the developing

countries, and his delegation hoped to become better acquainted with UNITAR's activities by participating in seminars and supporting the Institute's work. He stressed the need for co-ordination of UNITAR's work with that of the United Nations University. Representatives of the developing countries needed more opportunities, on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, to benefit from UNITAR seminars and publications so that they could keep their Governments adequately informed.

64. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) said that his Government had been able to appreciate UNITAR's work in recent years because it had included in its national and international policies those same objectives of training and research which were essential for the planning of the future. His Government's contacts with the Institute had been rewarding, and it had been able to contribute by translating and publishing in Spanish three UNITAR publications. The UNITAR training courses and the seminars on the structure and functioning of international diplomatic relations had been very useful for new members of his country's foreign service. The emphasis which his delegation had placed in previous years on the importance of co-ordination and co-operation among various organizations engaged in research work had been reflected in the report of the Executive Director. The Institute had also published a report² identifying the main obstacles to order and coherence in the United Nations system, in which shortcomings were attributed not so much to a lack of co-ordination and co-operation as to the fragmentation of authority and the changing focuses under which the system had to function. The report in question, and the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System,³ clearly stated the need to establish more effective direction and co-ordination of the system under the authority of the General Assembly. Those considerations, together with the decisions of the seventh special session, which had been based on the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, indicated that research should be carried out into a better utilization of technical and human resources, with a view to providing a basis for the work of the United Nations bodies referred to in resolution 3362 (S-VII). The concept of development and international economic co-operation should include all the work being done by UNITAR to improve the functioning of international relations. Clearly, the studies on peace and security, international organization and development and resource problems must focus on the establishment of the new international economic order which the overwhelming majority of the international community so much desired.

65. His delegation viewed with satisfaction the character which the United Nations University was assuming and the way in which UNITAR was co-operating with it. His delegation was glad to note that the University would be carrying out research of world interest, as distinct from the immediate and practical programmes which constituted the major part of UNITAR's work. That research could best complement UNITAR's own studies by reflecting needs and

their solutions within the framework of the changes required for the establishment of a just international order. He observed that the newly-formed University of the Third World, which was situated at Mexico City, intended to complement rather than duplicate the work already being carried out in its field. However, it was endeavouring to produce studies that would make clear the reality into which the present world must be transformed if future generations were to have a fruitful existence.

66. Mr. DE SEYNES (Director, Project on the Future, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that, while the Project on the Future contained elements of necessity and of chance, it did have an underlying organizational principle. The main constraint was financial. The Project had been established as a separate unit, and it must operate at a meaningful level if it were to attract contributions. Most of the work envisaged would be possible only if more funds were made available by Governments. Otherwise, the programme must be reduced drastically. The various projects must therefore take account of the particular interests of Governments or institutions.

67. There was no particular order of priorities in the programme, but it was not haphazard. When the Leontieff Study (see A/10014, para. 95) had been completed, the Project on the Future would consider what contribution UNITAR could make to the follow-up work on the problems of global interrelationships. It might study the possibility of reducing the inequalities among nations and propose some working hypotheses which might themselves be the source for new projects. Much work had already been carried out on world economic models and Governments should be kept informed, through UNITAR, of the main trends as they emerged. It was for that reason that the Project proposed to publish a "Chronicle". Since most world economic models postulated a change in cultural and ethical value systems, ideas on the problem must be drawn from all parts of the world and not merely from those countries which were capable of carrying out global work. The Project had accordingly given priority to African studies.

68. There was a need for empirical studies which would provide a better understanding of causal relationships and a body of basic empirical data. The processing of such data required sophisticated computer technology.

69. The studies carried out under the Project should be seen in the context of the new international economic order. That implied a long-term view, since the new order amounted to a fundamental law governing international affairs for many decades to come. Studies would be needed in many additional areas—the World Population Conference, for example, had demonstrated how little certain causal relationships were understood. Natural resources were a particularly important topic for study, because the possible depletion of resources was the basis for the "catastrophic" school of thought. The problems of nutrition and desertification also required attention.

70. If the Project on the Future obtained the necessary funds, its programme could be carried out within 18 months, after which new orientations could be established for 1977.

² UNITAR/RR/20.

³ E/AC.62/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.7).

71. Mr. NICOL (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) thanked the members of the Committee for their constructive statements and encouraging words. He would be contacting, either in writing or in person, those delegations which had raised specific questions. Members of delegations were most welcome to visit the Institute, and UNITAR representatives would attend the Second Committee meetings throughout the current session. With regard to interagency training, UNITAR had sent a representative to Europe to confer

with the training officers of various agencies. It was hoped that interagency training activities would commence in 1976. He assured the Committee that the consensus underlying the proposed new international economic order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the decisions taken at the seventh special session would be reflected in UNITAR's work.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

1663rd meeting

Thursday, 9 October 1975, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1663

AGENDA ITEM 60

Food problems (A/10003, chap. VI, sect. C):

(a) Report of the World Food Council (A/10019);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Executive Director of the World Food Council to introduce the Council's report (A/10019) and also to present, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the report called for under General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), paragraph 12. In that connexion, he understood that the Secretary-General had convened a meeting of interested countries in relation to the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development, to be held at Rome from 27 to 31 October. It was quite possible that the participating countries would reach conclusions requiring action by the General Assembly, and he therefore intended to leave the item open to enable the Second Committee to take such actions as might be proposed after that meeting had been held.

2. Mr. HANNAH (Executive Director, World Food Council) said that the World Food Conference at Rome (5-16 November 1974) had been attended by high-level representatives of 133 nations and had agreed on a strategy for dealing with hunger by putting emphasis on increasing food production in the developing countries, especially the food deficit countries. Other areas of emphasis had included the assurance of the availability of food aid of at least 10 million tons of food grains per year for each of the coming three years, greater food security through the establishment of adequate food reserves to overcome the effects of crop failures and through better management of world food supplies, and encouragement of trade to enable developing countries, through markets for their products, to provide food more effectively for their own people. The Secretary-General of the Conference, who was now President of the World Food Council, had put great emphasis on the creation of an effective follow-up mechanism. The General Assembly had established the World Food Council for that purpose, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had taken prompt action to establish a secretariat to it prepare for the first session of the Council, assigning to it

specific responsibility for the follow-up of resolution XIII of the World Food Conference,¹ on the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

3. At its first session, from 23 to 27 June 1975, the Council had examined the food needs of the most seriously affected countries. It had recognized that the import requirements of those countries during the latter part of the 1975/76 season would depend on the outcome of the autumn rice crops, and it had recommended that FAO should continue to monitor the over-all supply/demand position and should consult as necessary with Governments and aid-giving agencies to devise ways of meeting the urgent requirements of the most seriously affected countries. The Council had been concerned that the 1975/76 minimum food aid target of 10 million tons of grains set by the Conference in resolution XVIII¹ had not been reached in spite of generous action taken, in particular, by Canada, Australia, Sweden and the United States, and that it would be achieved only if additional commitments were made by other aid-giving countries. The President and Executive Director of the Council were engaged in consultations with potential donors that had not yet been fully responsive. The Council had also recommended that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should, at its first session, consider establishing minimum food aid targets for various products and keep under review the progress made in implementing the World Food Conference's recommendations relating to food aid. The Council had examined the steps necessary to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security endorsed by the Conference in resolution XVII¹ and had urged Governments to give their full support to its objectives, policies and guidelines. It had emphasized the need to assist developing countries in building up food reserves and constructing storage capacity and other infrastructure, and the importance of getting all major food producing and consuming countries to participate in the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture recommended by the Conference in resolution XVI.¹ The Council had affirmed

¹ See E/CONF.65/20 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. II.