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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 85: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 37/54 (continued)
- (b) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(continued)
- (c) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN
DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 88: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 89: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 87: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:
(continued)
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT
OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/460)

AGENDA ITEM 85: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 37/54 (continued) (A/C.3/38/4);
- (b) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/63, A/38/64 and Add.1);
- (c) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/338 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

AGENDA ITEM 88: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/339)

AGENDA ITEM 89: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/470)

AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/506)

AGENDA ITEM 87: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/C.3/38/L.6, L.7);
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/C.3/38/L.4, L.11);
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/C.3/38/L.5).

1. Mrs. BROSNKOVA (Czechoslovakia) said that the goals to which the efforts of United Nations bodies in the social field were directed were in many respects identical with the goals already achieved in the socialist countries. There was ample evidence to show that countries where the State took action designed to raise the standard of living of all citizens such as the nationalization of companies, planned development and the equitable distribution of wealth had made the most significant social progress. The role of the United Nations was to publicize the constructive economic and social development experiences of individual States.

2. The success of the International Youth Year would be measured by the results achieved at the national level - in other words, how Governments used the momentum

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(Mrs. Brosnakova, Czechoslovakia)

provided by the United Nations in order to intensify their efforts to solve youth problems. Czechoslovakian youth had made substantial contributions to economic scientific and cultural progress. Young people held positions of leadership in the economy and in social organizations. Nearly a third of all deputies and almost a quarter of all people's assessors were young people. Young people were active in the elaboration and implementation of pre-electoral programmes, the construction of towns and villages and the organization of cultural, sports and other activities. They participated to the fullest in the solution of all important social problems.

3. The regional meetings held in connection with the preparations for the International Youth Year had revealed that apart from the specific problems faced by the youth of some countries, young people all over the world were confronted with general problems. They should become actively involved in achieving disarmament, ending international conflicts and abolishing colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid. In Czechoslovakia, young people were fully aware of the active role that they were called upon to play in those fields. At the World Assembly for Peace and Life, against Nuclear War, held in Prague in June 1983, representatives of young people from virtually all countries of the world had called for an end to the danger of nuclear war and opposed the further deployment of long-range weapons in Europe.

4. Although preparations for the International Youth Year were in their final stage in Czechoslovakia, the close co-operation among State institutions and social organizations would continue. Party and state agencies constantly strove to ease the difficulties experienced by the young people as they matured and to ensure that they were healthy, educated and well prepared for life.

5. In the United Nations, Czechoslovakia took a keen interest in matters relating to youth, including education and the right to work. The national co-ordinating organs which had been established were sufficiently competent to handle the International Youth Year's activities; the creation of new bodies within the United Nations would be superfluous and would further burden the already inflated budget. All existing organizations should be used, including the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to ensure a successful International Youth Year.

6. Czechoslovakia had taken an active part in the 1982 World Assembly on Aging. As in many other countries, the aging population was steadily increasing in Czechoslovakia. The State care of the aging was designed to allow them to participate to the extent their health permitted, in productive labour, to pursue their own interests and to successfully overcome the problems connected with the aging process. The needs of the aging were not limited to material security or health but also involved housing, nourishment, culture, leisure, medical care and work. Czechoslovakia's future efforts would be directed primarily to satisfying the individual needs of the aging even more effectively, improving their physical and psychological situation, prolonging the period during which they were able to take care of themselves, ensuring that they had proper nourishment, medical care, assistance and services, modernizing their housing and fostering especially among youth, a sensitivity to their needs and problems.

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(Mrs. Brosnakova, Czechoslovakia)

7. Although throughout 1981 Czechoslovakia had had its won commission for the International Year of Disabled Persons, the country's concern for the disabled was not a one-time thing, but a long-term, systematic and general preoccupation. The International Year of Disabled Persons had stimulated Czechoslovakia's profound interest in the disabled and had promoted its efforts to bring about the full and equitable participation of the disabled in the development of Czechoslovakian society.

8. It was to be deplored that mankind was unable effectively to use its huge material and human potential to provide an adequate standard of living and instil social confidence in people. More and more resources were being wasted in the production of destructive weapons. The arms race, of which the military-industrial complex in the United States and other Western countries was the moving force, was a serious political threat and had adverse social and economic consequences. Expenditure on weapons had reached the astronomical sum of approximately \$2 billion a day, and in many countries resources destined for social needs were diverted for military purposes. The limitation of weapons production and the achievement of gradual disarmament, goals towards which the socialist countries were sincerely and systematically striving, would liberate vast resources which could then be used for curing the ills of the world economy. It had, moreover, been incontrovertibly proven that the reduction of weapons production and the demilitarization of industry would create new jobs, and as a result, unemployment would gradually be eliminated in those countries where it had reached exceptionally high levels. The difficulties of the most vulnerable groups of society, such as children, youth, women, the aging and the disabled, would then be alleviated. It should not be lost from view that the struggle to improve the situation of those groups could hardly be successful unless specific measures were adopted to achieve disarmament: all countries must therefore work to achieve that goal.

9. Miss DEFFON (Benin) said that although youth was the hope of the world, it was difficult to sustain that hope when young people in some parts of the world were oppressed and did not have the opportunity to express themselves. The young people of Palestine were victims of the Zionist policy of aggression, genocide and massacre by Israel, those of South Africa were sacrificed on the altar of apartheid by the Pretoria régime which, assured of the complicity of international imperialism, did not hesitate to massacre children and young people.

10. The People's Republic of Benin, living in the same difficult conditions as other developing countries, gave its youth a choice place in the building of a society of peace, justice and social progress. Beninese youth was made up of three basic groups: peasant youth, which had suffered from feudal, patriarchal, colonialist and imperialist exploitation, and which constituted the principal productive force in the country, was organizing itself into socialist agricultural co-operatives and effectively contributing to the quantitative and qualitative transformation of the rural areas; young workers, concentrated in the urban centres, were participating in the management of production; and intellectuals, including school and university students and young professionals in public and private administration, were involved primarily in the areas of culture and

(Miss Deffon, Benin)

leadership of the democratic structures of the revolutionary State. As the President of Benin had said, young people could play a capital role in the transformation of society because of their numbers and their willingness to demand change.

11. Independently of their enthusiastic participation in the preparation and adoption of the programme of national construction and new policy of national independence, Beninese youth had put all their ardour, combativity and spirit into the service of the Beninese people and their democratic and popular revolution. Beninese youth were organized in accordance with the principles of the unity of youth, taking into account the diversity of their socio-professional status, of the right to take revolutionary initiatives in the framework of organizational autonomy, of democratic centralism as a working method of youth organizations, of organizing youth on the basis of their specific problems, of eliminating the feudal and patriarchal exploitation system, of ending capitalist domination by strengthening and developing the co-operative movement, of eliminating ideologically-inspired obscurantism by strengthening and expanding literacy and of the early reduction of the rural exodus and unemployment by improving living conditions and reorganizing the rural labour system. To attain those established objectives of Beninese youth, several structures had been set up, most recently the constituent congress of the organization of revolutionary Beninese youth in August 1983.

12. It was obvious that development was only possible in times of peace. That was why the People's Republic of Benin was struggling for peace with the active assistance of its young people. Young people participated in literacy campaigns and headed village health units, revolutionary co-operative groups and village water projects.

13. The People's Republic of Benin had given high priority to the aging as the guarantors of the great moral values accumulated through the ages and the transmitters of experience to the young generations and was taking steps to guarantee their social security and well-being. The Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging (General Assembly resolution 37/51) was consistent with her country's aspirations.

14. Although the People's Republic of Benin had limited resources, the revolutionary State was sparing no effort to assure the well-being and harmonious development of disabled persons. A national rehabilitation centre for disabled persons was being constructed in Natitingou. She thanked all the international organizations and Governments of friendly countries which had helped her country and continued to help it, and she asked them to increase their aid so that disabled persons could participate equally in the development of the country.

15. She expressed her condolences to the delegations of the United States and France, whose young people had been cruelly struck down by the tragic events which had occurred the previous week-end in Lebanon.

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16. Mr. ZAYAS QUIALA (Cuba) said that the attention given by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba to young people and children was consistent with the ideals of their heroes, José Martí and "Che" Guevara, and with the very essence of the revolution which had brought about the second and definitive independence of the Cuban people. In the nearly 25 years since the revolution, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba had reliably demonstrated its commitments to those principles and ideals by promoting the active participation of youth in the solution of the problems of its society and guaranteeing them access to all levels of education, health, employment, recreation, culture, sports as well as participation in co-operation with countries which were still suffering from the consequences of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Young people were also participants in the study and solution of the most important international problems, such as the struggle for national independence and self-determination, the implementation of a more just and equitable new international economic order and the struggle to maintain peace. The importance which Cuba placed on the celebration of a International Youth Year had been expressed from the beginning in its support and co-sponsorship of the various relevant resolutions promoted in recent years.

17. Educational advances in Cuba had made it possible to improve results at all levels and in all types of teaching. One out of every 2.83 inhabitants was studying, in contrast with the situation in pre-revolutionary Cuba, where there were a million illiterates, more than 600,000 children out of school and higher education was available only to a minority. The linking of study with work, in all types of education, was an important achievement in the training of the new generations. Working habits began to be incorporated early, while at the same time young people were obtaining practical knowledge related to their studies. The application of that principle was a contribution of the Cuban revolution to revolutionary pedagogy and a characteristic feature of Cuban education. In the building of the technical-material base of Cuban society, more than 780,000 young workers, or practically one third of the active labour force of the country, participated.

18. In the field of health, the mortality rate of children under one year had decreased from 27.5 per thousand live births in 1975 to 17.3 in 1982. Many infectious diseases had been conquered in Cuba, a demonstration of the quality and efficiency of Cuba's medical services. Life expectancy at birth continued to rise and was now 73.5 years. In response to the Government's call for more medical students, 13,798 students had shown their willingness to dedicate themselves to that noble profession.

19. In Cuba all young people had the chance to decide their future in accordance with their interests, capacities and aspirations. Young people had learned to adjust their personal interests to social needs, fitting them into their own aspirations. Most of the new jobs created were filled by young people arriving at working age or graduating from the educational centres of the country. Complex jobs were undertaken by them in directing and developing large factories, workshops and programmes. The physical and aesthetic education of children was an ongoing concern of his Government. Artistic movements and brigades were promoting activities and exchanges of experience, including films, radio, television and

(Mr. Zayas Quiala, Cuba)

theatre arts. In sports and recreation, Cuba had made considerable progress and was attempting to expand the possibilities for young people.

20. The work of the revolution had made it possible to cultivate in the young generation values, standards and principles which characterized their moral outlook and differentiated it from previous generations. Young Cubans were participating in internationalist co-operation programmes in education, construction, defence, etc., thus demonstrating genuine revolutionary altruism. It was an imperative of the times for young people to participate, not only in programmes of co-operation but also in the study and solution of the major problems of the contemporary world. Those problems could only be resolved through the programmes of activities and measures adopted at the national level and a proliferation of new regional or international agencies and organizations should be avoided.

21. His delegation reiterated its concern about the proposal to hold a world conference on youth in 1985, a year for which several important events had already been planned. It felt that another world conference would be too much for 1985. Meetings could be held on the subject during the fortieth session of the General Assembly, and periodic evaluations could be made at meetings of the existing organizations concerned with youth. The holding of a regional conference for Latin America in 1985 would be subject to the final decision adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America, the competent body in such matters.

22. Referring briefly to agenda items 89 and 90, his delegation expressed its support of any decisions, recommendations or resolutions which would promote the most effective implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the World Assembly on Aging. Cuba was willing to collaborate with other countries and specialized agencies in the study and quest for solutions to the problems of the aging. Cuba also supported the need for as much progress as possible in the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, with emphasis on the least developed countries, including exchange of experience in the technology of rehabilitation, prevention of the principal causes of physical handicaps, and medical and social care.

23. Cuba denounced the new aggression by the Government of the United States, which had just attacked Grenada, adding to a long and sad history of invasions, interventions and all kinds of aggressions against the peoples of America. According to the latest news, there had been an unspecified number of persons killed or wounded, among them young Cuban workers who were lending their fraternal collaboration to Grenada as doctors, teachers and construction workers, shedding their blood in defence of their independence and sovereignty.

24. Mr. POLICHTCHOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation fully supported international efforts to solve the problems of young people and welcomed the decision to declare 1985 the International Youth Year. The threefold goals of participation, development and peace were closely linked and required a unified approach in the preparations for the Year and during the Year itself.

(Mr. Polichtchouk, Ukrainian SSR)

25. The world was now witnessing a sharp deterioration in the international situation as a result of the militaristic course pursued by the ruling circles in the United States. In the circumstances, it was especially important that the International Youth Year should serve to intensify efforts to preserve peace, prevent nuclear war and curb the arms race. During the Year, special attention should be given to the struggle for peace and for the establishment of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

26. The continuing arms race not only increased the threat of nuclear war, but also had a catastrophic effect on social development. The diversion of massive resources from the civilian to the military sector hit young people the hardest: reduced spending on education, rising unemployment and inflation had a particularly adverse impact on them. In the capitalist countries, unemployment among young people had risen to a new high - around 10 to 15 per cent; the figure was 22.8 per cent in the United States, while the unemployment rate for young American blacks was 48.1 per cent.

27. The lack of opportunities to apply their skills and the lack of faith in the future led to moral alienation among young people and provided fertile ground for such social evils as drug addiction and crime, which were characteristic of capitalism. With massive unemployment and the militaristic, anti-communist hysteria which prevailed, some young people were falling under the influence of fascism and neo-nazism, which appealed to the lowest instincts - misanthropy, chauvinism and violence - and were making headway in the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and other Western countries.

28. The situation of young people in countries under racist and colonial domination was a source of deep concern, while in the developing countries, the improvement of their situation was complicated by the economic backwardness resulting from the years of colonial rule. The Ukrainian SSR supported the efforts of those countries to achieve economic and social development and gave them assistance where it could, in the training of cadres, for example: 22,500 students from 91 Asian, African and Latin American countries were now studying in the Ukrainian SSR.

29. The solution of the problems facing the developing countries depended on efforts at the national level. Consequently, the main goal of the national co-ordinating committees should be not merely to organize activities during the International Youth Year but to engage in purposeful, long-term work to satisfy the needs and interests of youth at the national level. His delegation hoped that during the Year, sufficient attention would be given to the participation of young people in the social and economic development of their countries, the safeguarding of their right to employment and education, the provision of health care and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them. The Ukrainian SSR was convinced that the Year would become a new stage in the development of co-operation among social organizations to solve the problems of young people.

(Mr. Polichtchouk, Ukrainian SSR)

30. Young people participated in virtually all spheres of social, economic, political and cultural life in the Ukrainian SSR. Nearly 80 per cent of all people aged 14 to 17 were actively involved in various forms of social action. The largest and most authoritative social organization for young people was the Komsomol which, under the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, had the right to propose legislation through its governing bodies. Nearly one million youth representatives were elected to trade unions. One hundred five thousand young people were deputies to local Soviets, and there were 86 young people in the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR.

31. Young people made up almost half of those employed in industry, construction and agriculture. There were some sectors in which young people predominated, including radioelectronics, precision instrument, chemical industry and capital construction. Almost every other teacher, doctor and engineer was under 30 years of age.

32. All young workers had the right to improve their qualifications and to receive professional training free of charge. Each year, over 700,000 people studied in 1,200 technical institutions, and over 1,600,000 young men and women studied in specialized secondary and higher educational institutions. Individuals who had completed the courses in such institutions were guaranteed by law work corresponding to their specialization and qualifications. Much attention was given to the organization of leisure time for young people and the development of physical education and sports.

33. Ukrainian youth was very much involved in the peace movement and had made a significant contribution to the development and consolidation of the international democratic youth movement. Through co-operation in the struggle for peace, détente, disarmament, social progress and justice, Ukrainian youth organizations had made contact with hundreds of regional and international youth and student organizations. Ukrainian young people were taking full advantage of opportunities to apply their energies and to participate actively in the public, political, social and economic life of the country, thus demonstrating their confidence and making a major contribution to their own development. His delegation was convinced that the International Youth Year would provide new impetus for uniting young people in the struggle for peace and social progress and against the threat of nuclear war and the arms race and would help to safeguard the inalienable rights of young people, primarily the rights to life, employment and education.

34. Miss CARTA (France) said that the problems of social development were more relevant than ever because the current crisis was both economic and social. The countries of the North, for their part, had to fight unemployment, try to avoid a decline in buying power, solve the economic and social problems resulting from the obsolescence of certain industries, and find ways to provide social institutions with the resources necessary to finance their helping activities. To cope with those problems, new social policies had to be invented and economic and social development had to be promoted parallelly.

(Miss Carta, France)

35. The interdependence of economic and social development had been noted in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.5/1983/3), and France supported its conclusions on the whole. The report had rightly emphasized that the general economic and social deterioration had particularly affected the developing countries, disrupting their development efforts. The report had concluded that disarmament would make it possible to divert resources which could be used in the development of the developing countries, and contribute to the well-being and prosperity of all. Following that line of thinking, the President of France, in his address to the General Assembly, had proposed a two-stage programme with a view to reaching an agreement on transfers of resources for development.

36. Speaking on agenda item 85, she said that it was clear from the documents that the concept of popular participation had not been well defined and that it did not have the same meaning for all delegations. Her delegation wished to stress that popular participation could not be understood to apply to the economic field alone and was not solely the responsibility of Governments. The study of the concept of popular participation should also extend to the participation of citizens in political affairs at the international, regional and local levels. The concept of popular participation made sense only under certain conditions. First, the persons called on to participate must have a real choice when they elected leaders or took a stand on policies. Second, certain basic rights must be respected, such as the right to form unions and the right of assembly and free expression. Often it was not so much the people who associated themselves with initiatives taken by others, but rather Governments which were called upon to support the initiatives of the citizens themselves.

37. Her delegation had joined in the consensus in favour of various resolutions on popular participation, indicating that France believed it to be useful to study the question. It was, however, a complex question, and the study of the subject and definition and concept should be undertaken without haste and with due deliberation.

38. Mrs. YAMAZAKI (Japan), referring to agenda items 84 and 88 on youth, said that Member States' activities in preparation for International Youth Year, as reported in document A/38/460, were evidence of the keen interest of the world community. Her delegation believed that the Year would promote the ideals of peace and international understanding, which were essential not only for youth but for all mankind. It noted with regret, however, that in certain international forums discussions on the theme of peace were becoming excessively political. Japan was ready to co-operate with the United Nations in every way possible to make the Year a success.

39. The Specific Programme of Measures and Activities adopted at the first session of the Advisory Committee and the recommendations adopted at its second session contained valuable suggestions and her delegation considered that efforts should be focused on making the Specific Programme acceptable to all. Japan was not completely satisfied with it and she reminded members of the Committee that in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 36/28 "continued review and revision of the Programme should be carried out in the coming years".

(Mrs. Yamazaki, Japan)

40. As repeatedly stated at meetings of the Advisory Committee and elsewhere, Japan considered that if International Youth Year was to be really worthwhile, a wide range of serious activities should be undertaken. In spite of the difficulties to which she had referred, her delegation supported the main objectives of the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities and was pleased to note the emphasis on action at the national level. Any larger-scale meeting, such as a world conference, would be inappropriate. Her delegation was also unable to support any organizational expansion of the United Nations system in connection with the preparations for and the observance of International Youth Year.

41. In that connection, she drew attention to paragraph 21 of the guidelines in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 which stated: "The proclamation of international years and activities connected with them should not lead to a proliferation of posts in the United Nations Secretariat or in the secretariats of other international organizations; furthermore, expenditures should normally be met from existing resources in the regular budget."

42. Despite the emphasis on national activity, the importance of regional support activities should not be overlooked. The Regional Meeting on International Youth Year for Asia and the Pacific held in July 1983 had been extremely useful in furthering understanding of how young people lived in the countries of the region, in helping to identify their problems, and in exchanging information on supporting structures for youth and measures to enable young people to participate in development. She was pleased to note that the Regional Plan of Action for International Youth Year and Beyond adopted at the ESCAP meeting provided for flexibility of implementation, each Government being free to determine the period of its observance of the Year, according to its needs. In her own country preparations were already under way. A national committee was shortly to be established; non-governmental organizations would have an important role to play; and Japanese non-governmental youth organizations had already established a council for International Youth Year. Those organizations had been represented in the Japanese delegation to the Regional Preparatory Meeting.

43. She also stressed the importance of international youth exchange as an essential means of promoting friendship, goodwill and mutual understanding and contributing to the establishment of an enduring world peace. It was essential for young people, who were the core of future society, to acquire first-hand knowledge of other countries, so as to broaden their international horizon and cultivate an international outlook. Japan sponsored a number of programmes which were carried out at all levels by the national Government, local government and non-governmental organizations. Her delegation proposed that greater emphasis should be given to the promotion and encouragement of international youth exchange in the Specific Programme and in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

44. Mr. ERLICH-ADAM (Austria), speaking on agenda item 85, said that the conclusions of the Commission for Social Development on the 1982 Report on the World Social Situation, contained in the report on its twenty-eighth session (E/1983/14) represented a pertinent and balanced opinion and would, he hoped, be

(Mr. Erlich-Adam, Austria)

adopted by the General Assembly. His delegation did not share in the criticisms that had been made during discussion of the report in the Commission and the Council. On the contrary, his delegation considered that it was an exceptionally good report on which the Secretariat should be commended. His delegation doubted whether the inclusion of new chapters in the report on topics which were already the subject of acrimonious debate in other organs of the United Nations system would improve a document which was supposed to deal solely with social problems and was, moreover, a reference document. Despite glimmers of optimism about the deterioration in the world economy, there was no sign of any alleviation of the adverse effects of the economy on the social situation and the Secretariat's periodic report on the world social situation was increasingly important. Hence the need to ensure that it was limited to the social sector.

45. One of the great merits of the report was that it provided up-to-date information. It was important, therefore, that it should be discussed by the Commission on Social Development, the competent subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, as soon as possible. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 34/152 in 1979, the report had appeared every three instead of every four years, and with the Commission on Social Development meeting every two years, alternate reports on the world social situation would have to wait one and a half years or even longer to be considered by the Commission. In that connection he recalled the proposal made at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1983 that the report should be issued every four years but that there should also be a short interim half-term report. That procedure would have the advantage of keeping Member States up to date on important developments without placing too great a burden on the Secretariat and of giving the Secretariat more time to prepare the main report.

46. Referring to agenda item 84 on youth, in the absence of any response from the Secretariat, he repeated the question he had put at the 19th meeting on the possibility of issuing summaries of the proceedings and conclusions of the five regional meetings on International Youth Year.

47. Mr. VAGLIANI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), referring to General Assembly resolutions 36/17 on channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations and 37/48 on International Youth Year, both of which contained specific reference to UNESCO, said that his organization had co-operated closely with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to co-ordinate efforts and strengthen common action. It had attended the five regional meetings and submitted a working paper at each one; and a number of its reports, including the results of the Round Table on Youth in the 1980s held in Costinesti, Romania, in 1982 and the analysis on the world youth situation "Youth in the 1980s" published by UNESCO in 1981, had provided useful background material.

48. As far as UNESCO was concerned, there was no such thing as a problem - or problems - specific to young people: their problems could not be dealt with independently of those confronting society as a whole. Young people were therefore

(Mr. Vagliani, UNESCO)

a special target group for UNESCO's activities and action on behalf of young people was at the heart of all programmes proposed in the 1984-1985 programme and budget. Activities with special emphasis on International Youth Year included sports, youth voluntary service and research on youth.

49. In view of the widespread ignorance of the real role of young people and the consequent limitation rather than encouragement of young people's participation in social life, UNESCO believed that one of the major tasks for International Youth Year was to promote fuller information about young people among the public at large and among young people themselves. To that end it was planning to organize a World Congress on Youth in 1985 which would complement the activities of the United Nations and review the situation and role of youth in society in UNESCO's field of competence. The Congress was intended as a central event of International Youth Year and UNESCO would co-operate with the United Nations and the International Youth Year secretariat in its preparation.

50. Other measures taken by UNESCO to disseminate information and promote youth action during International Youth Year included the involvement of the 2,500 UNESCO clubs at the World Congress of UNESCO Clubs due to be held in Tokyo in 1984; preparation of a travelling photographic exhibition on youth for 1985; the subject of the 1985 UNESCO poster calendar to be International Youth Year; production of UNESCO films and radio programmes on International Youth Year and youth issues; a special issue of the UNESCO Courier to be devoted to youth in 1985; the work of young architects on human settlements and the environment to be displayed at the world exhibition to be organized by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects in 1985; and the production of International Youth Year postage stamps. All those activities would be carried out in close co-operation with UNESCO national commissions and youth organizations UNESCO having already established a system of reciprocal and systematic consultation with the latter.

51. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic) said that youth represented an important element in strengthening development and international co-operation and a springboard to the future. They must therefore be ensured a sound education. His Government had taken important measures to protect youth, including the establishment of the association of revolutionary youth under Decree 112 of 1978, the organization of leisure activities, creative training, the development of spiritual and intellectual values, scientific and technical training and sports activities.

52. At the international level the struggle against racial discrimination in all its forms had to be pursued, including the unmasking of the Zionist movement, its plans and its organic links with colonialism.

53. The question of youth was being debated at all levels in Syria and being given attention by planners in all areas. Secondary and university education were being developed, camps were being established for productive work, and exchanges of visits and information were being arranged between youth in Arab countries and other friendly States.

54. Youth organizations were represented in the Syrian Assembly at all levels of political and economic and social decision-making. Youth were also being

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(Mr. Arnouss, Syrian Arab Republic)

instructed in the principles of human rights and in the work of the United Nations in various fields.

55. With regard to the question of aging, special legislation had been enacted by the Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour for the protection of the aged. Homes for the elderly were being established in various parts of the country and old people were provided with free services.

56. With regard to disabled persons, a special symposium had been held in Damascus on the protection of handicapped people and special legislation had been adopted to ensure their employment. In addition to the efforts of charitable organizations, the State made every effort to improve their situation. His Government considered that the developed countries should give all possible help to the developing countries for the training and treatment of disabled persons. In that respect the United Nations was playing a valuable role in exchange of experience and in aid to ensure that disabled persons could participate fully in social life in the same conditions as and on an equal footing with other citizens.

57. Mr. SCHLINGEMANN (Netherlands) said that a request had been made by the representatives of Austria to the Secretariat for a summary of the regional meetings for International Youth Year. His delegation supported that request and wished to know when those summaries would be available.

58. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that his delegation also supported the requests made by the representatives of Austria and the Netherlands for a summary of the regional meetings for IYY.

59. Mr. SHARIF (Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that a summary of the five regional meetings had been prepared and the Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was currently negotiating with the Department of Conference Services for their publication. He would inform the Committee at a later date, of the results of those negotiations.

AGENDA ITEM 87: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
 - (i) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (continued) (A/C.3/38/L.6 and L.7)
 - (ii) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/38/L.4 and L.11)
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/38/L.5)

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.4

60. Ms. BORGES (Uruguay), introducing document A/C.3/38/L.11 which contained proposed amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.4, said that on 3 December 1982,

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(Mrs. Borges, Uruguay)

Senegal had deposited with the Secretary-General the declaration requested of States under article 14 of the Convention. That had ensured the entry into force of the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to accept and to examine communications from persons or groups of persons under article 14 of the Convention. Her proposed amendment was intended to express satisfaction with the entry into force and to call upon the States parties to consider the possibility of making the declaration.

61. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.4 requested a vote on the proposed amendments contained in document A/C.3/38/L.11.

62. The proposed amendments in document A/C.3/38/L.11 were adopted by 58 votes to 3, with 54 abstentions.

63. Mr. AL-KALBASH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he wished to have it recorded that his delegation had abstained during the vote.

64. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.4, as amended, without a vote.

65. Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.4, as amended, was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5

66. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Cape Verde, Iraq, Madagascar and Mozambique had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

67. The CHAIRMAN said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5.

68. The results of the vote were as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka,

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Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Comoros, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

69. Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 was adopted by 107 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.6

70. Mr. THWAITES (Australia) said that when his delegation had introduced draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.6 at the 18th meeting of the Committee, he had made it clear that the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus. The purpose of the draft resolution was to prepare the way for a more general discussion within the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on action taken by States parties. The sponsors had felt that the General Assembly could take a broad view of the matter and it was for that reason that they had included operative paragraph 3. However, some delegations had doubts on the appropriateness of dealing with the issue in a general way. Accordingly, in the interest of obtaining a consensus, the sponsors had agreed to delete operative paragraph 3. A revised text of the draft resolution would be prepared in time for the next meeting and he suggested that the Committee take up the matter then.

71. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee agreed to consider a revised version of the draft resolution at the following meeting.

72. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.7

73. Miss RADIC (Yugoslavia) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.7 had received proposals for amendments to the draft. However, no decision had as yet been reached and, accordingly, she would suggest that consideration of the draft resolution be postponed until the following meeting.

74. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.