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Chairman: Mr. Erik NETTEL (Austria).

AGENDA ITEM 49

World social situation: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/7203, chap. X, sect. A; A/7203/Add.1, chap. VI, sect. A; A/7248 and Corr.1, E/4590 and Corr.1, A/C.3/609, E/CN.5/417 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.2, E/CN.5/417/Summary)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. KOIRANEN (Finland) said that he was glad that the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/417 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.2, E/CN.5/417/Summary) was not merely a collection of statistics but sought to evaluate and interpret trends observed in different parts of the world. It was regrettable, however, that the United Nations lacked reliable information on the largest country in the world, China.

2. The report dealt with the problem of urbanization and industrialization, which was common to all countries; the population increase in the big cities of the developing countries had been particularly remarkable, and it was important to note that the rate of urbanization and industrialization was expected to be proportionately higher in developing than in developed countries. Those changes led to social disorganization, for example, the revolt of the young generation, which was a growing phenomenon throughout the world. Social security helped to facilitate the integration of the rural population into urban centres, and various forms of social security had been adopted by the newly independent countries, but there was still a need for the introduction of other social welfare services to help young people moving into overpopulated cities, where they lived in slum areas.

3. The report dealt with various aspects of the problem of underemployment among the rural agricultural population—which still constituted the bulk of the world's population—and discussed the need for manpower planning, the difficulties of agricultural extension programmes, general apathy and traditional ways of life which resisted change. The report stressed that for the great mass of the rural popula-

tion the concept of income security seemed to be more pertinent than that of social security and that the agricultural population needed protection against natural hazards. The disparity between agricultural areas and industrialized areas existed in the developed countries as well as in the rest of the world. The United Nations, in co-operation with FAO and the ILO, should ensure that a co-ordinated approach was taken to those problems.

4. The report also dealt with problems of social policy and planning. Matters relating to social welfare were dealt with only superficially, because they had been studied by the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare which had met at Headquarters in September 1968. Social welfare services should be considered in conjunction with existing social security systems and health services. They should be organized within the framework of a national social policy. The experience of Finland showed that a long-term social policy plan helped to establish priorities for social welfare and social security and to carry out a rational redistribution of national income. It was important to make a realistic evaluation of achievements so far, and he drew attention to the study published by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development entitled Inducing Social Change in Developing Communities,<sup>1/</sup> which gave an evaluation of methods used in different developing countries and demonstrated the need for competent personnel to lead development programmes. What was needed was to train personnel to develop long-term planning for all social services. Finland provided such training at the university level.

5. Social development was closely linked to many other problems, economic ones in particular. As the Finnish representative had pointed out at the 1219th meeting of the Second Committee held on 12 November 1968, all aspects of the problems to be resolved must be taken into account. For example, demographic problems must be considered in order to resolve nutrition problems, and attention must be given to the education and training of farmers in any attempt to increase food production. The General Assembly in resolution 2293 (XXII) and the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1139 (XLI) had recognized the interrelated character of social development and economic development and had stressed that the social aspects of development should be taken into account in the Second United Nations Development Decade.

6. His delegation was convinced that, if the world social situation was to be improved, those who were

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 67.IV.3 (cloth bound), 67.IV.4 (paper bound).

in a position to contribute to the solution of problems and those who were suffering from the existing situation must first be fully aware of the problems involved and have a desire to remedy them.

7. Miss KANAFANI (Syria) expressed concern at the slow pace of social development in the Third World and the increasing gap between per capita income in developed and developing countries. The situation was deteriorating, as was shown by the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation. While all countries, including the developed countries, had unresolved social problems, those problems were vital ones in the majority of developing countries. She hoped that the obstacles which had contributed to certain failures in the first United Nations Development Decade could be overcome and that international assistance to national efforts in economic and social development would take a constructive form and would not be limited to financial transactions that served only to aggravate the situation in the developing countries.

8. The report provided a useful basis for planning but would have been even more valuable if it had contained more specific suggestions and conclusions.

9. Syria, which faced many of the difficulties common to developing countries, had eliminated a system of feudal exploitation and had thus laid the foundations for a better future. Because social progress and economic progress were interrelated, it was at present giving priority to building its economy, by developing new industries and increasing agricultural production through the agrarian reform introduced a few years earlier. The second five-year plan, which was currently under way, was intended to increase the national income by 40 per cent. That was an ambitious target but not an impossible one, owing to certain factors in the plan and to specific conditions in Syria. Rapid and sustained evolution was radically transforming the whole structure of social life and was encouraged by the increase of the national income coupled with equitable distribution.

10. However, Syria was the victim of aggression and its social development was seriously hampered by Israel's occupation of part of its territory and by the increasing number of refugees, as could be seen from the summary<sup>2/</sup> of the publication entitled Studies on Selected Development Problems in Various Countries in the Middle East, 1968<sup>3/</sup> prepared by the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut.

11. Mr. MULONGO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) found it regrettable that only five meetings should be devoted to the world social situation. He noted with concern that that situation was still unsatisfactory and that the gap between the rich and the poor countries was steadily widening. Although appreciable progress had been made, there nevertheless remained much to be done. The developed countries should considerably increase their assistance to the economically under-privileged countries and should not confine themselves to statements of intention or vague promises. The developing countries, for their part, should not lose sight of the fact that they them-

selves were primarily responsible for dealing with their economic and social problems.

12. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had for three years been actively engaged in promoting voluntary participation by the people in the nation's development. The different social groups demonstrated a desire to create a national entity whose unity was based not just on the colonial past but on the principle of a common future. Peoples must realize the fact of their under-development before they could remedy it. The State should encourage the participation of all social groups through an appropriate social policy. The Congolese Government had created various organs for that purpose, such as the National Social Security Institute, the National Housing Office, the National Fund for Social Development and Welfare and various institutes for the training of social workers, and co-operated with benevolent and religious organizations.

13. The most effective method appeared to be community development, which involved actual participation by the persons concerned in creating the technical conditions for social progress. Care should be taken in the preparation of plans not to consider them solely from the economic or political viewpoint but also from the social viewpoint and to take account of the urgency of certain social problems.

14. The Third World must devise new methods and institutions to meet the needs of a constantly changing society. The main aim of development programmes should be human progress, not merely the increase of material wealth. Since the population of the Third World was mainly rural, preference should be given to self-help programmes and popular participation in general assistance programmes.

15. The representatives of Belgium (1607th meeting) and Iran (1606th meeting) had put forward some ideas in their statements which deserved careful study. He believed, like other representatives, that apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism constituted obstacles to economic and social progress. He hoped that countries would draw up social policies which would be followed by efficient implementation and that all countries, particularly the developed countries, would assist the United Nations in its efforts to relieve poverty.

16. Mr. CHABAFIMBI (Zambia) thought that the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation was an objective account of the set-backs and shortcomings encountered by most of the developing countries in their struggle against poverty, ignorance and disease. It was also an inquiry into the misfortunes which the former colonial Territories had inherited from their masters. It was regrettable that, for lack of trained manpower and other reasons, no social development plans had been implemented in certain developing countries. Persons in authority should not forget their responsibilities towards their peoples. At the same time, it was encouraging to find that the report was imbued with a feeling of sympathy; and there was further cause for satisfaction in the successes achieved in certain fields by countries which, in most cases, had achieved their independence barely ten years previously.

<sup>2/</sup> Document E/4511 (Summary), mimeographed.

<sup>3/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.II.C.4.

17. Zambia's first national development plan had been prepared with a view to raising the level of living for all citizens. Special emphasis was being placed on rural areas, which had in the past been neglected. All developing countries were trying to transform the economic and social structures inherited from the colonial era. The report showed that the standards of nutrition, health, education and housing in the developing countries were below acceptable levels. In Zambia itself, the problems of famine and disease did not exist to the same extent as in other countries. But, under the economic system which it had inherited, all economic activity was in the hands of a small privileged minority. The national development plan was designed to increase employment, to raise the per capita income, to maintain price stability, to remedy the imbalance between the urban and rural sectors, to improve education, to provide more and better living accommodation, to develop communications, energy sources and transport and to diversify the economy so that the copper industry would no longer be the main source of employment. Some measures had recently been taken to enable the Zambians themselves to play a more active part in the economy by providing them with better investment opportunities. Youth had not been neglected. Young men and women were being taught agricultural skills. Young men were being trained in carpentry, brick-laying and other trades, and young women were being taught home economics, child care, cooking, needlework, etc. In the field of health, too, considerable progress had been made. The number of hospitals and health centres both in urban and rural areas had greatly increased and large numbers of health workers had been trained.

18. The developed countries should come to the aid of the developing countries in their struggle against famine, ignorance, poverty, disease and the other evils which afflicted vast areas of the world.

19. Mrs. MENGOME (Gabon) said that her country's development policy was designed solely to serve the interests of the human being. No effort had been spared to raise the level of living of the population and a considerable proportion of Gabon's budgetary resources were devoted to education, health and social welfare. In particular, her Government was trying to improve the quality of education and adapt it to the surrounding society. As a result, education had over the past ten years or so developed considerably at all levels—primary, secondary and higher. Enrolment had doubled in primary education, and had increased appreciably in secondary, technical and higher education. In primary education, the school attendance rate was 95 per cent, a record figure for Africa. Two interregional university-type institutions were now in operation, one at Libreville and the other at Cap Estérias. The first was designed to provide courses in science and modern technology, and the second to produce highly skilled forestry experts, timber being one of the country's most important resources. Most of the national cadres were at present trained in schools and universities in Europe and America. A campaign had been organized for the abolition of illiteracy among adults, who had been provided with educational programmes on radio and television and with instruction books and libraries.

In the field of health, a campaign had been launched against endemic and epidemic diseases with permanent and mobile health services, which were responsible for disease detection, preventive care and the transport of sick persons to large towns for hospitalization. As a result of those efforts, diseases such as trypanosomiasis and yellow fever were now practically extinct. With WHO assistance, her Government was trying to eradicate malaria, which was still taking a high toll. In short, the health situation in Gabon was fairly encouraging. The economic situation of the workers was also constantly improving. The guaranteed minimum wage had recently been increased by 8.2 per cent from 42,5 to 46 CFA frs. per hour. Family allowances had been increased by 20 per cent from 1,000 to 1,200 CFA frs. per month per child irrespective of the number. Family allowances, old age pensions and allowances awarded for accidents at work or occupational diseases were paid by a semi-autonomous organization known as the Caisse de prévoyance sociale. Finally, her Government had in 1962 established the National Organization of Gabonese Women to accelerate the emancipation of Gabonese women by helping them to shake off the fetters of tradition.

20. In spite of all those achievements, her delegation was fully aware of the economic and social problems still facing the developing countries, and would support any resolution likely to improve the world social situation.

21. Mr. REYES VEGA (Cuba) thought that the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation was particularly important for the countries of the Third World since it drew attention to the situation prevailing in those countries, which, in his delegation's view, required a revolutionary transformation of their present systems. His own country was at present taking the necessary economic and social measures to escape completely from under-development. In spite of the United States policy of imperialist aggression it had, since the triumph of the revolution in 1959, succeeded in solving most of the problems mentioned in the report.

22. The population problems referred to in chapter I of the report were due to the fact that Governments had not taken enough effective measures to prevent exploitation of the rural masses. In Cuba, development policy was at present concentrated on agricultural output, with a massive investment programme and an agriculture-oriented educational system. Problems arising in the field of public health could not be solved by the countries of the Third World in their present situation. In his delegation's view, the State should assume total responsibility for health services, which should be entirely free and easily accessible. Though a large number of doctors, attracted by the advantages which the imperialist Government of the United States had offered them, had left Cuba between 1959 and 1965, the Government had made considerable progress in the field of health. Most doctors spent a period of probationary service in rural areas, and the State was investing 26.75 pesos per inhabitant in health services. The Government had also built many hospitals and increased the number of beds available. As a result, Cuba had succeeded in ten years in

entirely or partially eradicating certain diseases. Polionmyelitis was non-existent, typhoid fever was on the wane and malaria had practically disappeared.

23. With regard to the problem of food supplies and nutrition, 10,000 people were dying of hunger every day in the contemporary world. For the developing countries, the only solution was a radical transformation of agricultural production. The success of their agricultural development would, in the last analysis, depend on them alone. In spite of economic aggression by the United States, Cuba was implementing its agricultural programmes successfully. Results of that kind could be obtained only if the people were prepared to take a direct part in agricultural work, and only if the latest technical developments were applied to agriculture.

24. In the field of housing, building and planning, Cuba was at present implementing a policy concentrated on those areas which had in the past been most neglected, particularly the rural areas. As stated in chapter V of the report "the Government is presently building 40,000 units a year by means of prefabrication plants conveniently located in various sections of the country .... The programme aims at gradually increasing production to reach 100,000 dwellings annually by 1970. Policy objectives give the greatest emphasis to the provision of complete neighbourhood units with all required public utilities and complete community facilities in the rural areas, and reduce construction in urban areas in order to discourage migration to large cities". In Cuba there were no more ghettos, since the first task of the revolution had been to improve the lamentable housing conditions of certain sectors of the population. In some areas, the Government had built centres, including housing and schools, for rural families. In addition, it should be pointed out that from 1970 onwards housing in Cuba would be provided absolutely free of charge.

25. Education was one of the most important concerns of the developing countries where schooling was not available to all. The report indicated that the training of technical and professional personnel was urgently necessary for the economic development of those countries. Yet as long as exploitation persisted and the existing systems were not transformed, the situation could not change. It was to be regretted that the chapter of the report concerning education made no mention of the success achieved by his Government in that field. For example, it was not stated that Cuba had undertaken a mass literacy campaign in 1961 which had enabled it to wipe out illiteracy in one year. Yet that achievement had been recognized by UNESCO. While the country had been engaged in the task it had been invaded, on 17 April 1961, by men trained by the imperialist Government of the United States; but those who had gone out as volunteers to teach the people to read and to write had also taken up arms and had succeeded in expelling the invaders in three days. The aggression had not ended there and a number of young volunteers engaged in promoting the cause of literacy had been murdered by the imperialists. When that campaign had been successfully completed the Government had organized programmes to educate the workers and peasants, the

main goals being "the winning of the sixth grade certificate" and the continuing advancement of the workers. Education at all levels was free and many scholarships were granted. Education was linked to the development of the individual and to the non-academic activities which contributed to that process. Many new teaching posts had been created, barracks had been converted into schools, modern equipment had been acquired and books had been published in millions of copies. Expenditure by the State in that field, which had totalled 12 pesos per capita in 1958, had risen to 43 pesos in 1965.

26. Finally, unemployment no longer existed in Cuba. Every citizen was assured of permanent employment and had access, under Act No. 1100 of 1963 and Act No. 1165 of 1964, to social benefits much more substantial than those provided prior to the revolution. Moreover, women were now participating, through their work, in the building of society, and crèches, kindergartens and boarding schools had been established for the children of working women. Certain activities which might be detrimental to the health of women workers were barred to them by the Ministry of Labour, but other types of employment were reserved for them. It was as a result of the revolution, which had transformed the economic structure of the country, that all citizens were assured of employment.

27. Mr. BABAA (Libya) said that the time had come for all countries to realize that it was in their interest and in the interest of international peace and security to improve the world social situation by helping the developing countries to raise their levels of living. The report showed that that situation was still disquieting and that the gap between rich and poor countries was continuing to widen. However, the report also justified some optimism, for the gains achieved in education and health were quite encouraging. In Libya, as in other developing countries, great progress had been made in those fields, particularly education. More than 13 per cent of Libya's total investment had been allocated to education and estimated expenditures in that field had doubled in the past two years. As a result, school enrolment had increased from 45,000 in 1951 to 300,000 in 1968, which represented 90 per cent of the school-age population, and the rate of illiteracy had fallen from 81 per cent to 65 per cent in ten years. Vocational training in particular had been developed. Great strides had also been made in health; medical treatment was provided to all citizens free of charge and a number of diseases had been completely eradicated. Seventy per cent of all oil revenues were allocated to economic and social development. National income had also risen and average per capita income now exceeded \$800 per year, as compared with \$40 per year during the 1950s. However, Libya had many problems to face, particularly the lack of skilled manpower, which obliged it to import foreign labour, and the movement of rural population to urban areas, which it was trying to combat by granting allowances to farmers to enable them to modernize their farming methods and improve their living conditions. His Government had also accorded high priority to social welfare services, housing programmes, community development and other social services.



28. He agreed with the Director of the Social Development Division that the problem of youth was a serious one and warranted special attention, for youth, owing to the position which it occupied in modern society, was called upon to play an increasingly important role in the process of economic and social development. He therefore supported the United States delegation's suggestion that a special study of the question should be undertaken at the international level with a view to directing the energies of young people towards more constructive purposes. In Libya the young people had been the first to feel the effects of the rapid social changes which the country had undergone, and the Government had recently established a Ministry of Youth and Sports to set up programmes for youth and thus combat juvenile delinquency. Those programmes were aimed at encouraging the participation of youth in the process of modernization and in the economic and social development of the country, and at developing in them an awareness of their responsibilities to society.

29. He too thought that the need to solve the protein problem was urgent and he was glad to note that the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee were going to discuss the matter in detail. Libya was establishing a centre for the production of protein from petroleum and was carrying out further research on that vital aspect of nutrition.

30. His delegation was satisfied with the results achieved by the recent International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, in which his country had participated, and it hoped that the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference (see E/4590 and Corr.1, paras. 11-66) would help to improve social conditions throughout the world. It also hoped that similar conferences would be held at the same level to discuss other matters, such as housing, youth problems, and urbanization. He noted in that connexion that the Economic and Social Council, at its forty-fourth session, had already endorsed the idea of holding a conference on housing at the regional and interregional levels. He welcomed that initiative and wished to stress the importance of regional co-operation in that field. A conference of Ministers of Labour and Social Welfare of the Arab countries had been held in Libya during the current month under the auspices of the Arab League, which played an important role in the region. That conference had discussed, *inter alia*, the status of Arab women and their contribution to social and economic development, the establishment of vocational training centres and a cultural and social research centre, and the organization of workers' movements.

31. In conclusion, he observed that while the developed countries were engaging in a race to the moon and in an armaments race, millions of human beings were still suffering from hunger, disease and ignorance. He hoped that the day would come when the developed countries, which had enriched themselves at the expense of other peoples, would recognize their responsibilities with regard to the economic and social problems now confronting mankind and that science and technology would be placed at the service of all peoples and would be used to promote social justice.

32. Miss HLASS (Jordan) said that in order to understand the situation prevailing in her country it was necessary to recall certain facts. In 1966 Jordan had had 2.1 million inhabitants, 47 per cent of them living on the West Bank of the Jordan; it had had an area of 97,000 sq. kilometres, including 20,900 sq. kilometres on the West Bank. However, the total cultivable area had been only 12,500 sq. kilometres, of which 3,200 sq. kilometres on the West Bank had accounted for 38 per cent of the gross domestic product. It could thus be seen that the occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan had given rise to enormous problems: the execution of plans had been jeopardized, resources intended for development were being used to feed the refugees, and certain countries had withdrawn their aid. The whole Jordanian infrastructure had been impaired. Families had been broken up and obliged to abandon their homes. Yet no reference to those problems was made in the documentation on the agenda item which the Committee was discussing. She hoped, however, that the Committee would view the situation realistically and make positive suggestions with regard to Jordan's social development.

33. In the circumstances, one could scarcely speak of progress. However, mention should be made of the seven-year development plan providing for integrated social and economic development in both the public and private sectors in accordance with an established list of priorities. The plan was aimed at increasing per capita income as rapidly as possible, reducing the deficit in the balance of trade, reducing unemployment, developing education and expanding social welfare services. A large number of co-operatives had been established and youth centres set up so that young people could play a part in the development of their country. Jordan had expected to become self-supporting within a period of seven years, but the occupation of part of its territory had upset those plans. Yet despite the almost insurmountable difficulties confronting it, Jordan would continue to respect the principles of the United Nations and try to carry out its social and economic development plans.

34. Miss LOPEZ (Venezuela) said that the Director of the Social Development Division had painted a discouraging picture of the world social situation, which was a matter of grave concern to her delegation. A comprehensive approach should be adopted in an urgent quest for solutions to the existing problems. While the rate of population growth was alarming in some parts of the world, in Venezuela it was a factor for development. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's suggestions (see A/7248 and Corr.1, para. 5), in which stress was laid on the importance of providing aid to Governments in improving knowledge of population trends, so that decisions for planning in the field of economic and social development could be based on reliable information. FAO, WHO, the ILO and UNESCO, among others, could play an important role in that regard. Consideration should also be given to health, food and nutrition programmes, and the suggestions made by the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare should be taken into account.

35. The solution of many social problems depended on concerted international action, but national efforts by the countries concerned were of crucial importance. He recalled, in that connexion, Economic and Social Council resolution 1320 (XLIV), in which the Council recognized that the success of the next decade would depend on the degree to which its goals were incorporated and implemented in national development plans and called upon the Committee for Development Planning to take into account, in formulating its proposals for the goals and programmes of the next decade, the close relationship and interaction between the economic and social aspects of development and the need for coherent and integrated national development policies as well as the importance of taking account of the needs of each region and giving particular attention to the necessity of structural and institutional changes.

36. In her delegation's view, those problems should be brought to the attention of the United Nations organ concerned with the financing of social programmes, for otherwise all efforts were doomed to failure.

37. Mrs. ROQUET (Canada) said that despite the reservations expressed by some delegations concerning the presentation of the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation and despite the pessimistic tone of the report, her delegation felt that the preparation of such a report marked an important advance in the General Assembly's efforts to ensure social progress and development in every part of the world. Any effective action in the social field and any national or international planning must necessarily be based on up-to-date information, rigorous scientific research and carefully controlled and evaluated experiments. In that regard, the report had created a necessary awareness of the most urgent needs in social development. In Canada, special commissions of inquiry, Government departments and universities had undertaken intensive studies in education, public health and social welfare which always included an analysis of the situation and recommendations for short- and long-term plans of action. Canada had also taken an interest in the studies and experiments conducted by a number of other countries and had adapted to its own needs the approaches adopted in those countries. Her delegation therefore felt that measures for assembling information on the social situation from the various countries of the world and sharing the results of research and experiments should be encouraged by the United Nations as an essential condition and, in a sense, a prerequisite for effective action.

38. She regarded education as a key to social development, and that conviction had just been strengthened by the report. It was clear from every section of the report that appreciable and steady progress would be made, for example, in the fields of health, agriculture, employment and food provided that it was possible, firstly, to train competent staff at every level of activity and, secondly, to inform the public and alert it to the need to co-operate with the proper Government services. Even relatively small advances in those fields would have a great impact if the public was kept informed about them,

whereas advances of truly impressive magnitude would lose much of their significance if not given wide publicity. A broad range of methods adapted to extremely varied populations was therefore needed. In addition to educational services for school-age children, Canada was developing an extensive system of continuing education employing every modern technique: radio, television, films, discussion groups and community leadership. Governments, non-governmental organizations and commercial and industrial enterprises were co-operating in various programmes aimed at broad groups: young adults who wished to complete their secondary or university education, workers whose jobs were changing or disappearing, technicians and professional workers taking refresher courses in order to keep up with technical and scientific developments, families with new socio-economic problems to solve in the context of modern society. One of those programmes aimed at all social groups in a large area of the province of Quebec that was suffering from economic stagnation was being brought to more than 20,000 adults daily by radio and television.

39. Since the economic development of a country was an essential factor in the establishment of a social welfare programme, many developing countries or regions necessarily had to direct their efforts towards creating a functional social welfare system, that is, one based on priorities which reflected their needs and resources. One of the universal priorities involved a country's human resources, for worker productivity was an essential factor in economic progress; it required widespread education, technical training courses and adequate measures for public health and for employment and income security. Her delegation welcomed the general advances made in health services. In the field of employment and income, it particularly supported the recommendations relating to minimum wages for workers and fair pay for women. It was also very gratified at the work that the ILO, in co-operation with a number of other agencies, was preparing to do as part of the World Employment Programme, which was to be launched in 1969. If the benefits of social progress were to be made available to the greatest possible number of people, all those able and willing to work must have an opportunity to do so; that was why the fight against unemployment was so important. However, the social problems caused by unemployment among heads of families were more serious than those among young men under twenty-five, and she had some misgivings about the disproportionate amount of attention which the report gave to unemployment among very young workers. She welcomed the ILO's efforts to find new solutions to the problems of social welfare in the developing countries with a view to providing larger segments of the population with an elementary welfare system as a part of rural development programmes. Canada was keenly interested in such studies, since the rural population was usually the most deprived in every field of social development. The report also mentioned protection against natural risks to crops and cattle. The cost of a crop insurance programme might seem exorbitant to many countries, but such a system, to the extent that it encouraged a kind of saving and the accumulation of substantial amounts of capital, often

made it possible to allocate funds for the benefit of high-priority sectors of national activity. Canada would be happy to share with all countries, particularly those which were concerned about rural development, the results of research and experiments conducted in western Canada and elsewhere, with a view to promoting the establishment of a suitable social welfare programme. With regard to the question of medical services in rural areas, it might be useful to mention the experience of two Canadian provinces, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, which had taken effective action to provide health services and medical care for the scattered and isolated elements of the population. At the international level, great hopes had been aroused by the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, in which more than ninety countries had participated. Her delegation, while regretting that the Conference had made so few concrete recommendations, was gratified that it had provided an opportunity for an exchange of views, which, she hoped, would lead to greater international co-operation in that field. The Canadian delegation to the Conference, which had included Ministers and high officials of the Federal Government and several provincial governments, had endorsed its conclusions and recommendations. She felt that social welfare programmes, whose objectives still remained to be defined and evaluated, should in the future be integrated into a comprehensive social development programme and would require suitable legislative measures and adequate administrative services.

40. With regard to the problems of young people, she noted that there was an increasing tendency in Canada to integrate the services designed for mal-adjusted and delinquent young people into the general youth services. The preventive programmes emphasized in the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation depended largely on general social prevention services aimed at gradually eliminating the existing imbalance and inequalities between the various sectors of society, which were the main cause of crime and juvenile delinquency. Canada firmly believed that young workers and university students could play an important role in the social development of their own and other countries and that volunteer help programmes would offer young people who sought responsibility a chance to participate actively in social development. Her delegation hoped that the United Nations, together with the countries concerned, would carefully study ways to enable a growing number of young volunteers eager to serve the international community to participate in the various multilateral programmes of the United Nations.

41. Mrs. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) said that the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation was a source of useful information which was, however, difficult to use in its present form. She therefore suggested that some suitable body, such as the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, should analyse that information in the light of modern sociology and economics and draw conclusions which would be of more immediate use. With regard to the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, she noted that the term "social welfare" had been given different meanings depending on whether

it was applied to developed or developing countries. For the developed countries, social welfare was the culmination of social and economic development, whereas for the developing countries it was only the starting point. Hence, the developing countries could under no circumstances restrict themselves to a social welfare policy in the sense in which the term was understood by the developed countries, for they were concerned with laying the very foundations of economic and social development, i.e. with combating hunger, disease, ignorance and unemployment. In undertaking that tremendous task, they had to keep two aims in view: the building of a nation and the fulfilment of the individual. Her delegation hoped that the affluent countries would leave behind their present ignorance, indifference and selfishness and make the concepts of international co-operation and human solidarity truly meaningful. The United Nations was duty-bound to promote social justice, which was the basis of all social progress, by helping people to bridge the gap which separated the rich from the poor, both in individual nations and in the international community.

42. At the present time, social development and economic development were no longer regarded as separate. In the developing countries, that interdependence often led to a kind of vicious circle from which it was difficult to escape. Most African countries, including Mauritania, had begun by giving priority to economic development but had subsequently recognized the importance of utilizing human resources. As the Mauritanian Head of State had said before the National Economic Commission, development required the participation of the masses and should not be merely the superimposing of a booming modern economy on a traditional subsistence economy; he had added that in view of the present socio-economic condition of the country, foreign aid was still essential but would have no effect unless each Mauritanian knew how to "make the most of it by means of his labour and his constant participation in the economic and political life of the nation". One of the tasks of the Third Committee and of the Commission for Social Development was to strengthen and at the same time give a more accurate focus to that new awareness of the need to evolve a real policy of social development in the developing countries. Furthermore, each African State, in its task of building a nation, had to make a great leap forward through history and time. That was the case with Mauritania, where the most modern mining techniques and the nomadic way of life existed side by side. In such countries, the end result of social development should be the creation of a new African, a man richly endowed with the virtues of his ancestors but not a slave to ossified and outdated traditions, a man who possessed the scientific and technical knowledge necessary in order to understand and profit from his environment but who was neither uprooted nor dehumanized by his new learning. Mauritania was keenly aware of the sociological problems involved in the African's adaptation to the modern world and in the change, without a transitional stage, from one type of society to another, and it did not want its industrial future to rob it of its personality as an African nation, the melting-pot of the Islamic Arab-

Berber civilization and of the civilization of the Negro peoples.

43. She noted once again the growing gap between the rich and the poor countries and observed that almost \$200,000 million were spent on armaments each year while transfers of capital from the rich to the poor countries totalled less than \$10,000 million. She hoped therefore that the rivalry among the great Powers, and in particular between the two greatest, would manifest itself first and foremost in the area of peaceful activities and that scientific research would serve to improve the lot of all men of every kind. She drew attention also to the fate of the thousands of people, victims of war, aggression and racial discrimination and segregation, who suffered wrongs affecting not only their most basic needs but also their dignity and freedom.

44. Her own country of Mauritania, which had the good fortune not to be overpopulated, was on the way to establishing a balanced economy with mining in the north and agriculture and stock-raising in the south, had adopted a financial policy of strict austerity and was beginning to make strides in economic and social matters, ever conscious, however, of the multitude

of problems still to be solved and of the vastness of the task still to be accomplished. In the area of economic and social development, although the Mauritanian people sought foreign aid on a bilateral and multilateral basis and considered it to be necessary, they believed that they must put their trust in themselves in the first instance and be prepared to make the largest sacrifices. Hence the policy of austerity and strict financial control, which naturally meant that priorities had to be established. In the principal areas of social development, namely health, nutrition, education and labour, the Government of Mauritania had decided to give priority to children and young people, who stood for the future. At the individual level, the Government was giving priority to basic needs—health, nutrition, housing and education.

45. In the social sector as in others, Government action was strongly backed by political education, for it was above all the good citizenship of each individual, testifying to the involvement of an entire people, that was essential to and decisive in the development of every country.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*