



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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President: Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 2

General discussion of international economic and social policy (E/4638, E/4674, E/4679, E/4687 and Add.1-3, E/4688, E/4695, E/4701; E/CN.11/878; E/CN.12/825 and Add.1; E/CN.14/435; E/ECE/741) (*continued*)

1. Mr. HUSAIN (India) said that his Government shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General in the statement read at the 1603rd meeting that, unless the basic problems of development were effectively dealt with, frustrating confrontations were bound to endanger peace and stability at the national as well as the international level. Although 1968 had witnessed an impressive recovery of the world economy after the recession of 1967 and the prospects for 1969 were encouraging, a purposeful international development strategy with the active participation of all countries and all groups of countries would be needed for the Second United Nations Development Decade. He hoped that it would be possible, before the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, to work out an arrangement whereby the socialist countries could be represented in the Preparatory Committee for the Second Development Decade, where their experience of planning and execution of development programmes would be valuable.

2. The Committee had rightly decided to concentrate on indicative targets for a few key variables and to emphasize the objective of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development. It had also recognized that the central problem was the totally inadequate progress made by many countries with a low *per capita* income. He suggested that the Committee should, at a future session, consider the possibility of adopting the objective of securing for the peoples of the developing countries a minimum *per capita* income consistent with human dignity.

3. There still seemed to be a wide divergence of views on the content of an international development strategy. It was not enough to proclaim broad objectives for the decade, or to enumerate actual needs, in the hope that individual countries would eventually assume unilateral commitments. Nor should the arrangements for reviewing the progress made in implementing the strategy be a reason for keeping the commitments so flexible as to render them meaningless. The main requirements for launching the Second United Nations Development Decade were: agreement on its objectives; agreement on the policy measures needed to attain those objectives; time-limits for the conclusion of negotiations and the application of negotiated measures in areas in which agreement could not be reached before the beginning of the decade; and provision for devising and applying new measures to make good shortfalls in the attainment of objectives. An over-all picture of requirements was needed from the outset, detailed for the initial years of the decade and progressively less detailed for the latter part to allow for any action which might prove necessary.

4. There had been a tendency, perhaps out of dissatisfaction with the achievements of the first decade, to shift emphasis from quantity to quality—from the economic to the social and from the physical to the institutional. Development was too complex and continuous a process to lend itself to drastic changes in approach. Its ultimate objective was undoubtedly to improve the quality of human life, but that improvement required quantitative economic and social progress. Quality and quantity should be complementary, not alternative aims.

5. The developing countries had a right to participate in the acquisition and extension of scientific and technical knowledge but, in spite of their considerable efforts to build up an infrastructure for assimilating advances in those fields, science and technology had so far only marginally affected their economic and social life. The agricultural breakthrough recently achieved in India had demonstrated the importance of applying science and technology to development problems. As their products faced competition from synthetics and substitutes, developing countries had to increase their efficiency, reduce costs, improve quality and find new uses for their products. There was great scope for further research in the major economic and social fields, especially food production and population. Such research was generally beyond the capability of developing countries and could well be conducted under United Nations auspices. The United Nations must assume increasing responsibility for co-ordinated world-wide research and should therefore be provided with suitable institutional machinery.

6. Referring to the co-ordination of the United Nations economic and social activities, he agreed with the Secretary-General that budgetary policies should be consistent with the expected contribution of the United Nations to world development and with the hopes and aspirations associated with the Second Development Decade. Excessive preoccupation with budgetary considerations in dealing with matters of co-ordination could weaken the role of the United Nations and make it less relevant to present-day problems. There was even some merit in not insisting that duplication should be avoided at all costs. To safeguard their present position, organizations were sometimes unwilling to reorient their activities or to participate in activities initiated on a new basis. In such cases, there should be no hesitation in adopting new measures to mobilize financial and scientific resources, even if that involved some duplication.

7. Despite noble affirmations, international economic co-operation was at a low ebb and a spirit of prosperous provincialism was pervading the affluent societies. There had been a general deterioration in the terms of assistance, an increasing proportion of which was tied, not only to projects and purchases from donor countries, but also to purchase of specific commodities. The rate of growth of the resources pledged to UNDP had slackened during the past two years and the resources available for regular technical assistance programmes within the United Nations system remained at a standstill. The decline in public support for economic aid programmes was attributed to the failure to produce quick results, but it should be borne in mind that the capacity of such assistance to stimulate economic development was considerably reduced by its inconsistency in quantity and quality. The aid to developing countries had been quite meagre compared with those countries' loss of foreign exchange through adverse terms of trade and exclusion from markets. The modernization of their economies required not only sustained national efforts, but also regional and international efforts to reorganize the entire world economic and trading system.

8. Much could be done by encouraging co-operation among developing countries, especially at the regional and subregional level. The principle of self-reliance, which had become a matter of national pride and necessity in some developing countries, could lead to much-needed institutional and social changes in those countries, but over-emphasis on self-sufficiency could lead to the uneconomic application of resources. It was important to ensure that the economic development of the developing countries, while firmly based on the principle of self-reliance, took place within the context of effective international co-operation.

9. Mr. BENLER (Turkey) said it was paradoxical that, for all man's spectacular technological achievements, he had not yet eliminated the causes of poverty, disease, malnutrition and other ills besetting a large part of the human race. The remedy was economic and social development. The systematic and concerted efforts which

Governments and international organizations were planning for the Second Development Decade in order to achieve common world-wide economic and social objectives were unprecedented. Although substantial progress had been made in outlining a development strategy and some of the objectives for the Second Development Decade, there had been little progress towards agreement on policy measures in certain key areas within the purview of UNCTAD. The objectives would be difficult to attain unless there was broad agreement on those measures. However, if both developed and developing countries adopted a realistic and conciliatory attitude, a satisfactory measure of agreement would be possible. Since agreement on policy measures and commitments would need the support of national legislatures and public opinion, development strategy must be so designed as to mobilize that public support.

10. Most developing countries with stable populations or moderate population growth rates would be highly satisfied if they consistently achieved the 6 per cent average annual economic growth rate proposed by the Preparatory Committee for the Second Development Decade in its report (E/4624 and Add.1). Faced with relentless population pressures, many developing countries favoured even higher target growth rates, although they realized the difficulty of achieving them. Population growth was adding new elements of discontent to an already explosive social situation in many countries. The Director-General of the ILO had rightly emphasized that family planning measures must be regarded as a useful supplement to the drive to expand production and not as an alternative to it. In view of the difficulty of slowing down population growth, the competent United Nations bodies should develop family planning advisory services capable of helping countries needing such assistance. It was time developed countries with huge scientific research budgets reassessed their priorities and allocated adequate sums to research on human fertility. A breakthrough in that field could bring immeasurable benefits.

11. Developing countries would have to make a major effort to increase the supply of trained and educated manpower, without which sustained development was impossible. United Nations technical assistance in that field should be vigorously expanded to meet the developing countries' requirements, especially in regard to modern methods of mass education. The matter of enlisting the support of youth for development efforts should also be taken up in the United Nations. His delegation had supported the Iranian proposal, at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, concerning the establishment of an international corps of volunteers for development, and hoped that the Council would take appropriate action in the matter, in accordance with resolution 2460 (XXIII).

12. The problems of the developing countries were of such magnitude that they could rarely be resolved by action at the national level and greater international co-operation would be needed during the Second Development Decade. Co-operation for development among devel-

oping countries, which had been sadly neglected in the past, did not have to be restricted to trade, but could extend to such fields as transfer of technology, establishment of regional educational institutions and research centres, and joint operation of banking services, insurance and transport networks. Turkey had considerable experience of such co-operation at the bilateral level and also through multilateral arrangements with Iran and Pakistan.

13. Each organization in the United Nations system would have to gear its activities to the achievement of the common objectives of the development strategy for the Second Development Decade and the Council would be responsible for guiding and harmonizing those activities. The organizations were aware of the need to establish priorities among fields of activities and projects, to plan ahead and to relate budgets and programmes more rationally. He was confident that, with the assistance of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, ACC and other competent bodies, the Council would be able to integrate the efforts of all parts of the United Nations system into an efficient instrument of development.

14. Mr. MAHEU (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO's policy, formulated by means of special international or regional conferences, was becoming progressively clearer and stronger. Rather than paraphrase the report on UNESCO's principal activities in 1968 (E/4666), he would confine his remarks to four items of particular importance on the Council's agenda.

15. In connexion with the preparations for the Second United Nations Development Decade, the General Conference of UNESCO had adopted two resolutions. Under the first, he was invited to analyse the activities carried out during the first Development Decade and evaluate the results obtained, and to prepare a draft programme for UNESCO's contribution to the second decade, taking into account the need for more balanced economic, social, educational, scientific and cultural development. Under the second, States members of UNESCO were invited to attach greater importance, in their national programmes, to the development of human resources and to education and training, and to co-operate with UNESCO and other United Nations organizations in concerted action to promote and assist the efforts of member States, in particular in the developing countries.

16. An over-all plan for the Second Development Decade was clearly essential, and UNESCO was well aware that only within such a context could its own contribution be fully effective. One of the reasons why the first Development Decade had proved disappointing was that it had been launched as a slogan rather than as a properly planned undertaking. The lesson of that experience had been so well learned that there might indeed be a danger of too much planning for the Second Development Decade, and the risk of discrepancies arising among the recommendations of the Committee for Development

Planning (E/4682), the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, the UNDP Capacity Study and the IBRD Commission on International Development was disturbing. In the matter of co-ordination, the work of the Preparatory Committee must be of primary importance. A valuable exchange of views had already taken place between that committee and a number of executive heads of specialized agencies.

17. One major result of the first Development Decade was increasing recognition of the fact that development must embrace both economic and social aspects and that human resources were a primary consideration. It would be unfortunate if that essential truth was disputed or lost sight of during the preparations for the Second Development Decade. It was therefore distressing that up to a few months earlier the activities of the United Nations Secretariat seemed to have stressed quantity at the expense of quality and that social factors appeared to have been regarded, if not as marginal, as difficult to integrate into the excessively econometric planning models selected. Fortunately, an effort had been made to correct that trend.

18. One remaining problem was that of integrating in the general strategy the long-term sectoral plans being prepared by some of the specialized agencies. No less than the general outlines, those plans were an expression of the considered views of Governments. In the case of UNESCO, the needs and objectives of Governments were decided on by the respective member States themselves, especially on the basis of the regional conferences at the ministerial level, periodically convened for the purpose, with the collaboration of the regional economic commissions. Those conferences had given rise to indicative long-term plans for the regions, such as that for the development of education in Africa, adopted in 1961, and that for the development of science and the utilization of scientific and technical personnel in Asia, adopted in 1968. Difficult as the task of the United Nations in ensuring over-all integrated planning might be, due account must be taken of the conclusions arrived at by Governments with regard to certain key sectors of development.

19. With regard to the subject of man and his environment, an intergovernmental conference of experts on the scientific bases of the rational use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere had been held in 1968, under the auspices of UNESCO, with the participation of the United Nations, FAO and WHO, and with the collaboration of non-governmental international organizations. The conference had drawn attention to the problem of protecting resources and natural processes against heavy consumption and harmful pollution, and had emphasized certain facts, trends and possible, indeed essential, practical measures. In the wake of the considerable publicity that the conference had received, the UNESCO General Conference had, in general, supported its recommendations and had requested him to submit to its sixteenth session, in 1970, a draft long-term intergovernmental and

interdisciplinary programme on the rational use and conservation of the natural environment and its resources, with particular reference to the scientific, technical and educational aspects of the problems involved. He had also been invited to ensure the effective participation of UNESCO in any action undertaken by the General Assembly in connexion with the international conference on problems of the human environment to be held in 1972. The General Conference had also recommended that he should ensure the interdisciplinary co-ordination of a programme of action concerning man and his environment, which would become one of UNESCO's major concerns, and to convene a meeting of experts to draft a co-ordinated long-term plan of action for submission to the Executive Board. Close co-operation was being maintained with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations, and the intergovernmental interdisciplinary programme would contribute directly towards determining and attaining the general objectives of the 1972 conference. Arrangements had been made with the United Nations Secretariat to co-ordinate the two sets of preparations as closely as possible.

20. Turning to the application of science and technology to development, he paid a tribute to the enterprise which was now taking man to the lunar soil and expressed the hope that the barriers dividing and separating mankind might be as effectively overcome as had the distances of the universe. He then reported that the General Conference had approved UNESCO's participation, with FAO and the ILO, in the preparation of a world conference on agricultural education and training and had requested him to submit to the working party formed by those three organizations a suggestion that an international decade of agricultural education, research and training should be organized in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade. He had also been requested to study, in consultation with UNIDO, the possibility of encouraging the establishment or specialization of industries producing scientific instruments for education and research.

21. Hydrology was another field in which there was close co-operation between UNESCO and other United Nations bodies. The International Hydrological Decade was in full swing, and the General Conference had authorized him to convene an international conference on the practical and scientific results of that decade and on international co-operation in hydrology. He hoped that that conference would help to overcome the differences of opinion between UNESCO and WMO with regard to national and international institutional structures for hydrological research.

22. With regard to oceanography, he had submitted to the Executive Board proposals for the purpose of assisting the heads of organizations with competence in that area in co-ordinating their programmes and strengthening their joint support for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's work. The Executive Board had approved

the proposals and the means for implementing them were now under discussion.

23. He had a number of reservations on the Secretary-General's report on arrangements for the transfer of operative technology to the developing countries (E/4633 and Add.1 and Corr.1); those reservations were set out in detail in document E/4722.

24. In the first place, the title was misleading: the report actually dealt with the completely different subject of the institutional mechanisms relating to science and technology in general within the United Nations system.

25. Secondly, the concept of the transfer of operative technology had been insufficiently analysed. It contained important non-scientific elements of a social, cultural, legal and commercial nature, and one of its most important aspects—that of patents and licences—was not studied in sufficient depth. Above all, a general distinction should be made between "horizontal" and "vertical" transfer. The former—from one country or industrial sector to another—could take place only if the conditions necessary for the assimilation of the technology in question were established in the receiving country, which implied an adequate general level of education and the existence of enough specialists capable of benefiting from the knowledge they obtained. Indeed, the training of scientists, engineers and technicians was in itself a transfer of technology. "Vertical" transfer—the passing of ideas along the research-development-technological innovation chain—was a matter of national scientific policy depending on governmental decisions.

26. His third criticism was that the report had not made the best use of the extensive and varied experience of the United Nations system in the transfer of technology.

27. Finally, scientific and technological assistance to the developing countries was too often reduced to a simple transfer of knowledge accompanied by a certain amount of equipment. Experience showed that, although such an approach was of immediate practical benefit, its effects were neither lasting nor profound. UNESCO's primary concern was to create the intellectual and social conditions for technological progress by means of long-term action which would enable science and technology to take root in the social and cultural environment of the developing countries. It was regrettable that those considerations were not covered in the report.

28. With regard to the different question of the co-ordination of United Nations activities in science and technology, he supported the suggestion made for the establishment of a sessional committee of the Council to deal with all aspects of science and technology. He hoped that the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development would be able to continue its excellent work and agreed that its reorganization might provide an opportunity to review the whole matter of the advisory mechanisms needed by the Council

in order to guide and co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies. It was clear that the Advisory Committee should have no operational duties and that its work should neither overlap nor compete with the activities of the specialized agencies.

29. The fourth point which he wished to mention concerned the International Education Year. Young people continued to protest against a society and a way of life which did not meet their demands for justice and peace, and their dissatisfaction showed the extent and urgency of the changes required in education. Their rejection of the education provided was not simply a revolt against authoritarianism; it derived from their refusal to accept the organization and standards of conduct which contemporary education aimed at imposing on them. In order to avoid a disastrous conflict of generations on the purpose of education and the aims of society, a spiritual transformation accompanied by appropriate social changes was necessary.

30. Mankind must realize that it was involved in an unprecedented process of demographic, technological, intellectual and moral change, in which the problem of the radical transformation of education was of central importance. General Assembly resolution 2412 (XXIII), adopted on the recommendation of the UNESCO General Conference, and providing that 1970 should be celebrated as International Education Year, was therefore extremely welcome. The essential purpose of that year would be to stimulate a critical approach to education and to encourage the mobilization of energies towards specific objectives. Recognition of the fact that education must be transformed did not mean that everything in it was bad or that everything should be changed, but rather that every aspect of it should be reviewed, especially its overall conception and its objectives. Education could not make a decisive contribution to the technological revolution in the developing countries unless there was a radical change in its techniques; on the other hand, successful and forward-looking education was possible only in a society engaged in a process of self-renewal. It was his hope that International Education Year would make all Governments and international organizations realize that, just as man was the ultimate objective of development, so education was its driving force.

31. Mr. VRATUŠA (Yugoslavia) said that, at a time when a major technological breakthrough was taking place which showed what man's intellect and heroism could do, there was good reason to hope that human genius would lead to equal success in resolving problems on earth. National efforts, international co-operation of various kinds and ever-intensified activity by the United Nations to promote development had already produced tangible results and had widened the opportunities for the world community to develop further and to prosper. The recent positive trends in the world economy still persisted, thus providing an opportunity for a more dynamic approach to development problems.

32. The developing countries had spared no effort to achieve the goals they had set themselves and had imposed enormous obligations on their own peoples. Some remarkable progress had been made and the expansion of agricultural output had been achieved through land reforms and the application of modern technology. As a result, not only had the threat of famine been removed from entire regions, but the door had also been opened to accelerated industrialization. The diversification of national economies was making a major contribution to the promotion of trade and the expansion of service facilities. Such processes, although still in their infancy, had paved the way for mutual co-operation and various forms of integration among the developing countries themselves.

33. Co-operation in science and technology and their application to development had also shown some results. If those fields were neglected, there would be a serious risk of a setback in the world's economic potential, with the risk of technological and consequent economic stagnation in all countries, whatever their level of development. Science and technology, as the keys of the future, most undoubtedly occupied a prominent place in the Council's work, particularly in the programme for the Second Development Decade. The transfer of technology, which would undoubtedly gain ground during the coming decade, was a very complex venture requiring considerable investment in human resources and supporting facilities. It should therefore be dealt with as an integral part of international co-operation and as a specific aspect of the responsibility of industrially developed countries.

34. A little over one year had elapsed since the second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Although some progress had since been made in the recognition of UNCTAD's aims, the implementation of the Conference's recommendations was still not satisfactory. Hardly any headway had been made in tariff liberalization for exports of interest to developing countries. Most such products also continued to be faced with various non-tariff barriers. The conclusion of the International Sugar Agreement in October 1968 was a step in the right direction but would not be fully successful unless universally applied. Other similar commodity agreements were required. Such agreements were of particular importance since trade in agricultural products was in constant jeopardy from the protectionist policy practised by some industrially developed countries and regional economic groupings. That policy kept the developing countries in a state of uncertainty concerning their agricultural production and threatened the level of living of farmers whose products could not compete on the international market in a climate of agricultural protectionism.

35. Yugoslavia had liberalized its foreign trade and foreign exchange arrangements; such measures, together with profound changes in the monetary, credit, customs and taxation systems, had adapted its economy for integration in the world economy. Those measures could not produce

their full effects, however, while trade barriers continued to subsist. A considerable increase in agricultural output had been achieved, but restrictive import policies and similar impediments imposed by developed countries, and particularly by EEC, had seriously affected agricultural exports and had cast a shadow on Yugoslavia's agricultural prospects. That could not be regarded as an isolated case; many other developing countries were faced with similar problems with respect to both agricultural and industrial exports. The conclusion of commodity agreements was of the highest importance.

36. The developing countries were faced with unexpected difficulties in respect of preferences, in spite of the fact that, at its second session, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had unanimously recommended, in its resolution 21 (II), the adoption of a system of preferences.¹ The monetary and balance of payments problems facing a number of market-economy countries had considerably upset world economy trends and endangered the position of the developing countries. The target of 1 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries set under decision 27 (II)² for transfer to the developing countries was still by no means achieved. Balance of payments difficulties were often referred to in that connexion, but the Committee for Development Planning had stated in its report that there were many other ways of making adjustments in the balance of payments when required and that such considerations should have no part in decisions concerning the volume and terms of aid to be provided. The rise in the reverse flow of debt service indicated that an aid crisis would occur if sufficient resources were not set aside to provide the necessary expansion in gross transfers.

37. The point had been reached at which permanent machinery for eliminating weak spots in the world economy should be established, machinery which did not depend on temporary market fluctuations or other similar factors and which should be internationally accepted and respected.

38. It was gratifying to see that the United Nations system was moving towards a more comprehensive assessment of problems and towards global solutions to the problem of assisting the developing countries. Intensive studies of world economic problems had culminated in what was called the international development strategy. Collaterally with the progress made in devising a concept of development strategy, new institutions and organs had been established within the United Nations system. With the establishment of UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, a global approach to the problems of development had become more realistic. The older specialized agencies had simultaneously extended their activities in the same direction. IBRD had

recently taken steps to mobilize international financial resources for development on a larger scale. A parallel expansion of the activities of UNDP was certainly needed and therefore the decision of its Administrator to double the UNDP resources for pre-investment activities and to start the so-called "third window", or capital development fund operations deserved full support.

39. Economic development and an improvement in human well-being were both end-products and instruments of international co-operation for peace. Postponement of the solution of economic problems, therefore, would directly endanger efforts to maintain world peace. The Secretary-General had warned a conference on the Second United Nations Development Decade that, if a global partnership were not forged within the next decade, there was reason to fear that problems would have reached such staggering proportions as to be uncontrollable.

40. Preparations for the Second Development Decade had been formally initiated by General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) but they had in fact started long before. Every step towards the institutional strengthening of the United Nations system and towards recognition of the need for joint action was a preparation for the launching of the Second Development Decade. That decade should make use of all the experience gained during the first. There was still a tendency to make use of the developing countries' need for assistance to impose upon them the will of foreign Governments. On the other hand, domestic instability in new countries, which was largely due to underdevelopment, could affect international relations and the maintenance of world peace. The multifarious pressures exerted against the sovereignty and independence of States resulted in a high proportion of national budgets being allocated to armaments. It was distressing that the issue of converting the resources released by disarmament to peaceful purposes had hardly been discussed. As the Secretary-General had stated in his preliminary speech, a slight reduction in armaments expenditure would be sufficient to release the external resources required to resolve some of the gravest economic and social problems facing the world.

41. The recent consultative meeting of fifty-one non-aligned countries in Belgrade had emphasized the need for an urgent increase in development activities and, more particularly, for joint action to prepare for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Those countries had supported the proposal of OAU that a meeting should be held of ministers of developing countries members of the Group of 77.

42. The Development Decade represented a broad and long-term endeavour in which each country should take its rightful place and contribute within the limits of its own possibilities. Although the international development strategy should produce economic results and achieve its economic and social objectives, its main goals should be to ensure national independence, the autonomous development of each country, promotion of friendly co-

¹ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Second Session, vol. I: Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.II.D.14), p. 38.

² *Ibid.*

operation among countries on a basis of equality, and the gradual elimination of power politics, interference and discrimination of all kinds.

43. The Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade had made considerable progress towards formulating the strategy. Almost unanimous agreement had been reached in that body on the strategy and on key areas of international co-operation for development. It had been recognized that a target for over-all growth in the gross production of developing countries should be established together with quantitative targets in a number of important fields.

44. The major remaining difficulties were those connected with policy measures. If the existing uncertainty continued, it could have serious consequences for the Second Development Decade and for the future in general. The matter was all the more urgent in that only two months remained to prepare the preliminary draft of the international development strategy for submission to the General Assembly. The whole international community, and the developed countries in particular, would have to assume precise and meaningful commitments in regard to policy measures.

45. It was to be hoped, therefore, that the Trade and Development Board, at its forthcoming session, would be able to reach agreement on UNCTAD's contribution to the Second Development Decade and that the difficulties facing the Preparatory Committee would be gradually overcome. Valuable contributions were also expected from the regional economic commissions, particularly ECE, as representing the most industrialized region, and from the specialized agencies. His delegation fully endorsed the Iranian proposal, which had been unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2460 (XXIII), providing for the study of the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development.

46. It was universally agreed that the ultimate purpose of development efforts was the welfare and dignity of mankind. The demographic problem could not, therefore, be effectively tackled if it was not regarded as an integral part of development. Education too could be productive only if visualized as an integral part of economic and social development. An "educational explosion" unconnected with the provision of new working opportunities would lead directly to unemployment and other well-known phenomena.

47. Participation in decision-making depended directly on the opportunities available to people to influence decisions by their own economic and social positions in the community. A contribution along those lines would help to enlarge the basis for genuine solidarity and provide the best prospect for the younger generation which were seeking to play an active part in decision-making at both the national and international levels. The genuine integrity of man and the achievement of his human and

civil rights could be secured only in a dynamic and prospering community.

48. The United Nations had a special responsibility and wide opportunities to play its full part in that common endeavour. The successful completion of the preparatory work for the Second Development Decade and its timely submission to the General Assembly would be the best present that could be offered to the United Nations on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

49. Mr. KENNAN (Ireland) said that no one laboured under any illusions concerning the magnitude and complexity of the basic problems before the Council. Although there were no grounds for complacency, there was reason to believe that the international community, conscious of its obligations, would shoulder the task of mobilizing the political will and the political means to meet the challenge of the coming decade.

50. A striking advance had taken place in recent years in the attitudes of policy-makers and decision-makers throughout the world. There was general acceptance of the fact that human rights and obligations transcended all national, regional and ideological boundaries, while the existence of poverty, disease and illiteracy anywhere in the world was regarded as an affront to man's conscience.

51. The aim of the Second Development Decade was to find practical ways and means of achieving agreed objectives. Its success would be crucially influenced by the intensive effort of all Members of the United Nations, rich and poor, large and small. However, the aims and targets set had to be reasonably capable of achievement. High aims fostered high hopes, but over-ambitious targets carried the danger of serious psychological and even political consequences if performance failed to match expectations.

52. Economic growth was not an end in itself: its ultimate fulfilment was human well-being. Social objectives, therefore, were of paramount importance. Hence, it was a matter of some satisfaction to find that the report of the Committee for Development Planning emphasized that the ultimate purpose of development was to provide opportunities for a better life for all peoples. The report drew attention to the need to eliminate poverty and injustice and to reduce inequalities in income and wealth wherever they occurred. New employment opportunities, improved food supplies, better health facilities and increasing educational opportunities were essential elements in development strategy. Although his delegation might not be able to endorse fully all the Committee's recommendations, it certainly agreed with its basic conclusions.

53. As the Committee stated in its report, high priority had to be given to the problem of employment. The ILO had taken a most important initiative in formulating the World Employment Programme and, in doing so, was fulfilling one of its fundamental objectives.

54. His delegation welcomed and fully supported the General Assembly's decision to designate 1970 as International Education Year. It shared the view and the hope that the activities of the year would not be confined to pious resolutions but would include programmes of practical action. In that connexion, the adoption of measures aimed at substantially increasing the international exchange of students would give immediate and general results. It was to be hoped that, as part of the arrangements for the coming year, a special stimulus would be given to such activities.

55. Freedom to travel was a fundamental freedom recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Travel and tourism helped to establish friendly relations and understanding between peoples. It was therefore a matter for satisfaction that international tourism had been steadily expanding over the past twenty years and had become a major factor in world trade, particularly that of the less wealthy countries. He welcomed, therefore, the fact that the Council's agenda afforded an opportunity to examine the issues involved in tourism. At the Inter-governmental Conference on Tourism, held in May 1969, it had been suggested that yet another non-governmental organization should be set up on tourism, but the proliferation of international organizations and committees placed a grievous burden on the Governments of small countries and every thousand pounds spent on international meetings was a thousand pounds less for the real needs of the developing areas.

56. The ultimate aim of international economic endeavours was to hasten the day when developing countries would no longer need any special aid and would be able to stand on their own feet economically. To do so, they must be enabled to make the most of their own resources, both human and material. The appropriate application of science and technology was essential and the discussions to be held on that subject would undoubtedly be of great value. A practical measure which might be considered in that connexion was the establishment of research institutions, as required, in the developing countries. Those institutions would not be concerned with

theoretical exercises but with practical projects. Many countries, both small and large, which had reached an advanced stage of development, could attribute their progress not so much to a rich endowment of natural resources, geographical situation or climate, as to the care and diligence they had applied to the analysis of their own special problems and to making the most of their resources. In order to progress economically, a country required research and development facilities appropriate to its needs. Research information and know-how could, of course, be acquired from others, but the fact remained that each country had its own special and technological needs and ought to be able to deal with them on a systematic and continuing basis.

57. Although Ireland was a small country and its contribution to the solutions of the world's ills could be only a modest one, it had specifically and formally recognized its obligation to help less favoured nations according to its capacity. It had been a substantial contributor to WFP since its inception and subscribed to IBRD, IDA and IFC. It provided training facilities in a wide variety of fields and professional and technical personnel to serve in the developing countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Many thousands of Irish voluntary workers, with the necessary professional and technical qualifications, spent their lives in developing countries helping to establish and operate schools, training colleges, hospitals and similar institutions.

58. Ireland's balance of trade with the developing countries was very much in their favour. Its imports from them were more than three times as great as its exports to them. Imports from all sources were equivalent to over 40 per cent of Ireland's gross national product—a very high figure by any standards.

59. The agenda before the Council was a formidable one and included many major issues which could not be commented upon in a general statement. He hoped to deal with some of them at the committee stage.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.