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*Chairman: Mr. Pierre FORTHOMME
(Belgium).*

AGENDA ITEM 45

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources: report of the Secretary-General (*concluded*) (A/6018; E/3840; A/C.2/L.806/Rev.1, L.828 and Add.1, L.857)

1. Mr. SUAREZ (Philippines) said that draft resolutions (A/C.2/L.806/Rev.1; A/C.2/L.828 and Add.1) contained many valuable points and it was unfortunate that the Committee had had so little time for a subject requiring thorough consideration. Moreover, since major amendments had been submitted by one delegation (A/C.2/L.857) to draft resolution A/C.2/L.828 and Add.1, he believed that it would be best to defer further discussion of the matter until the twenty-first session and associated himself with the Chilean and other delegations which had made proposals to that effect.

2. Mr. M'BAYE (Guinea) said that his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.828 and thanked the representatives of Poland and the United Arab Republic for having succeeded in expressing the misgivings of his own Government on the matter. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources was linked to a State's very existence and was also explicitly recognized in Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. A State's independence implied full ownership of all resources and the State alone could decide on the measures to be taken for the exploitation of

its resources by foreign companies so as to ensure that such exploitation did not prejudice the perpetuity of its sovereign rights. It must be made clear, moreover, that in certain African countries subjected to foreign rule, such as South Africa and South West Africa, the exploitation of natural resources was an act of banditry by a usurping régime.

3. With that in mind, Guinea had adopted an investment code that could be called liberal; its provisions guaranteed every security for foreign capital, and that explained the influx of capital to Guinea. His delegation failed to understand why certain countries which had assisted the young African States to attain their independence now seemed bent on restricting their sovereignty over their natural resources by proposing the preparation of so-called standards and procedures under the auspices of United Nations bodies. There could be no real economic progress without full ownership of natural resources and control over their exploitation. If defence of that principle was indicative of communism, then it could be considered that Guinea was in favour of a doctrine which had, indeed, proved its worth in other countries.

4. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to make some further comments on draft resolution A/C.2/L.806/Rev.1 which the sponsors might bear in mind in revising their text. In order to bring the draft resolution into line with the points which should be covered under agenda item 45, his delegation proposed the following changes. The fourth, fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs should be deleted, the first two to be replaced by the following:

"Noting that there are still instances of the violation of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

"Considering that the consolidation of the sovereignty over natural resources is of great practical importance for the progress of the economy of developing countries and for the strengthening of their economic independence,".

The operative paragraph should be deleted and replaced by the following two paragraphs:

"1. Declares that the United Nations should exercise maximum concerted efforts aimed at the consolidation of the sovereignty of developing countries over their natural resources;

"2. Appeals to all States to refrain from actions, direct or indirect, preventing the exercise of the sovereign rights of a State with regard to its natural resources."

5. The Soviet delegation formally requested that its amendments should be recorded in the Committee's report. It hoped that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.806/Rev.1 and other delegations would find it possible to study them and bear them in mind when the subject was reopened.

6. Mr. BLUSZTAJN (Poland) welcomed the support given to draft resolution A/C.2/L.828 by a large number of delegations taking part in the discussion. Two delegations, however, had sought to impugn the motives that had prompted the sponsors of the proposal. That was a deplorable practice over which he did not want to open a controversy, although he did wish to answer the arguments put forward by those delegations. They had criticized the draft resolution for its "ideological slant". The text was, of course, based on the sponsors' convictions, but those convictions had not prevented the sponsors from supporting other draft resolutions which the Committee had been able to adopt despite the ideological differences between its members. They had also said that the draft resolution was biased in favour of the developing countries. That was perfectly true, but the advancement of those countries could not be achieved without such a bias, which had been the very essence of the Organization's work for some fifteen years.

7. Other delegations had accepted the draft resolution in principle while suggesting some constructive changes, and his delegation would be quite able to accept the amendments which Liberia, Iran and Senegal had suggested for the fourth preambular paragraph, Nigeria for operative paragraph 1 and France for operative paragraph 5. It had also received from the Indian delegation a revised version of operative paragraph 5, reading as follows:

"Urges the developed countries to make all possible efforts to enable the developing countries to acquire the necessary capital goods and technical know-how for the exploitation of their natural resources by their own means".

That text could probably have been combined with the original proposal and the French delegation's suggestion (1017th meeting).

8. Some of the amendments proposed by the United States delegation (A/C.2/L.857) deserved close consideration and might have helped to improve the text. Among those which were unacceptable to his delegation were the first amendment, which would considerably weaken the text; the second amendment, which might be added to operative paragraph 1 but should not replace it, and which actually did not add anything to the text since the repeated mention of General Assembly resolutions gave them no additional weight; the third amendment, in which the notion of "the world investment and trading community" was not clear; and the fourth amendment, which seemed unnecessary.

9. In any event, his delegation realized that the question was a very important one which the Committee no longer had time to debate thoroughly, and it was prepared to accept the postponement of agenda item 45 as a whole to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would include in his report a brief sum-

mary of the preliminary discussion which had been held at the present session, pointing out that the Committee should organize its work the following year in such a way as to devote to the item all the time it deserved.

10. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of Poland for his important statement and was happy to note that, despite the divergent views expressed, there was a basic desire in the Committee to work jointly towards constructive results. He felt certain that the Committee, having settled a number of important issues at the current session, would be able at the twenty-first session to give more time to the question of sovereignty over natural resources.

11. Mr. Saad KHALIL (United Arab Republic) said that, in response to the Chilean representative's appeal, he was willing to accept a postponement of the item until the twenty-first session. He wished, nevertheless, to make some final comments on the debate. He was glad that the French delegation in fully supporting draft resolution A/C.2/L.828, subject to a minor change, had provided an example of a progressive attitude towards the problems of developing countries, an example which he hoped would be followed at the following session by other major countries that exported private capital. He had also been gratified to note the support given to the draft resolution by the representatives of developing countries, most of whom had found it completely objective and free from all ideological considerations. The debate had also revealed that the intentions of the delegations opposing the draft resolution were essentially in accord with the purport of the text. The United States amendments (A/C.2/L.857) would be hard for his delegation to accept, as they would destroy the spirit of the text, particularly by eliminating the idea of sovereignty in the matter of marketing, which was crucial for the developing countries. Lastly, the Iranian representative, who had expressed serious misgivings about the draft resolution, had nevertheless voiced his country's pride in being the first to apply the principle of sovereignty over natural resources. It was the very purpose of the draft resolution to enable other countries to do likewise.

12. He frankly believed that the two-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.806/Rev.1) was not a useful proposal, since the Bank had prepared a Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States which had already been signed by twenty-eight countries.

13. In conclusion, he wished to thank all the delegations which had supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.828 and expressed his delegation's hope that the Committee would give more time to sovereignty over natural resources at the twenty-first session.

14. Mr. SILVA (Chile) thanked the representatives of Poland and the United Arab Republic for having displayed, in response to his appeal, the same constructive spirit as that which had prompted their submission of draft resolution A/C.2/L.828. He also thanked the United States delegation for having so fully clarified its position the previous day (1017th meeting).

15. He unreservedly supported the Polish representative's proposal that the Committee's work should be so organized at the twenty-first session as to allow all the necessary time for the consideration of that important subject.

16. Mr. VAN DEN BOOGAART (Netherlands) pointed out that, in his earlier statements, he had not raised points of ideology but on the contrary had noted the encouraging atmosphere of co-operation prevailing in the Committee. The sponsors of the two draft resolutions were to be thanked for having generated a very valuable discussion and he welcomed the very wise decision just taken by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.828. The discussion had been valuable in showing the Committee's agreement on the community of interest of all Member States and the general desire to solve the problem of developing countries speedily.

17. Mr. POLIT ORTIZ (Ecuador) stated that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.806/Rev.1 agreed to defer the item until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly on account of the controversy that the question of foreign investment had engendered. He stressed that the draft resolution did not infringe in any way the principle of the sovereignty of the developing countries over their natural resources and was designed solely to draw attention to the need for the developing countries to turn to those countries desirous of exporting capital in order to accelerate their economic development and raise the standard of living of their populations.

18. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should postpone further consideration of agenda item 45 until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 43, 96 AND 100

Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations (A/5998):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (E/4075);
- (b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/6114)

Review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council (A/5920, A/6021, A/6109; E/4040, E/4052 and Add.1-16; A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1, L.853, L.858)

General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system (A/5965; A/C.2/L.814/Rev.1, L.856/Rev.1)

19. Mr. PARDO (Malta), referring to the general review of programmes and activities, said that, as everyone now recognized, economic and social problems were closely inter-related and development must proceed harmoniously in both sectors, if its effects were to be lasting; for example, for the elimination of illiteracy it was not enough to take steps to improve education alone; economic and social reforms were also essential.

20. Most countries had realized the necessity of co-ordinating and in some cases even integrating the activities of their different ministries and, in many cases, of setting up central co-ordinating bodies whose members were selected for the over-all view they could take of development plans, a view based on the advice of experts in the various sectors. On the other hand, United Nations bodies as a whole had evolved in such a way that co-ordination had become extremely difficult, with respect to both the determination of objectives and their attainment. Economic, social and technical co-operation programmes had proliferated as a result of isolated proposals rather than on the basis of a concerted plan. Financial resources were accordingly spread more and more widely and an effort had then to be made to co-ordinate all such programmes. Unless the international organizations were carefully reorganized and simplified, it would be impossible to concentrate resources in such a way as to provide Governments with effective help.

21. Whatever the method used to bring about such reorganization and simplification, it was essential that Governments should first have a precise idea of existing programmes as a whole, which was impossible so long as the relevant information was spread over too great a volume of documentation. It was therefore necessary to undertake a comprehensive study which would provide an over-all picture of the activities of the United Nations system, allowing unnecessary ones to be discontinued and the really useful ones to be redirected.

22. The six-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.814/Rev.1) provided for the establishment of a small committee to undertake such a study; the sponsors believed that was the right method to adopt, particularly as the Economic and Social Council itself, as the co-ordinating agency for United Nations economic and social activities, was to carry out a review of its role and functions. The sponsors did not, however, urge that the draft resolution should be put to the vote, since they were prepared to leave it to the Economic and Social Council itself to carry out the over-all study, if it could do so during the coming year. Furthermore, it would be advisable for that study to be undertaken in the light of the over-all objectives set for the United Nations Development Decade, regarding which the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the regional economic commissions were to report jointly, in accordance with the draft resolution on the Decade adopted by the Second Committee (1004th meeting), in connexion with agenda item 12 (A/C.2/L.832/Rev.1).

23. He was also glad to note the French delegation's praiseworthy initiative, which had resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, of resolution 2049 (XX), providing for the setting-up of a special committee whose work would doubtless help to detect any overlapping.

24. Thus his delegation hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1, postponing consideration of the item until the twenty-first session and drawing the attention of the Economic and Social Council and of

the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to that resolution, would be adopted unanimously.

25. Mrs. SOLOMON (Trinidad and Tobago) said that she believed that the year 1965 would be a landmark in the history of the United Nations because of the desire shown to improve the efficiency of the Organization's methods in the political, social and economic sectors; that desire testified to the conviction that the United Nations was irreplaceable and that it was for all Member States to ensure its efficient operation. The United Nations was waging a relentless war against under-development, a war which, like any other, demanded a spirit of sacrifice and the taking of an inventory of human and financial resources with a view to their optimum utilization. If the United Nations was unable, through lack of the required co-ordination, to form a precise idea of the means at its disposal, then the aid it could give to the developing countries would certainly suffer.

26. It was with that object in view that her delegation had joined that of Malta in requesting the inclusion in the agenda of an item dealing with the general review of programmes and activities, and she was pleased to note the favourable reaction that request had elicited from many delegations. In submitting draft resolution A/C.2/L.814/Rev.1, its sponsors had been motivated by the principles that the United Nations had to do vitally important work with limited means; although the developed countries provided most of the compulsory and voluntary contributions, such contributions were nevertheless proportionately a much heavier burden on the developing countries; in 1964, the contributions of Trinidad and Tobago to the international organizations had been equivalent to \$1.30 per head of population, which was a very high figure for a country in its position. It was thus the primary responsibility of the developed countries to ensure the most effective possible use of resources. The sponsors of the draft resolution had also felt that the complex nature of the programmes and machinery, the result of twenty years' evolution, necessitated a study wider in scope than was provided by the co-ordinating function of the Economic and Social Council. In any case, the elimination of programmes launched by the decision of Member States, even if the programmes were useless, did not lie within the competence of the Council, and it would therefore be unable properly to perform its co-ordinating function until the General Assembly, following an objective examination, had reorganized the programmes. The operative part of the draft resolution defined the objective and scope of the proposed examination, which, while ambitious, was nevertheless necessary.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.859/Rev.1 rightly stressed that the question merited a thorough discussion. Without prejudging the effectiveness of the steps already taken and mentioned in the second preambular paragraph, it was only fair to await their result and that of the work of the Economic and Social Council, which would henceforth be much more representative and must be able to express its opinion. The third preambular paragraph rightly mentioned draft resolution A/C.2/L.814/Rev.1, which, although its sponsors did not insist on its being put to the

vote, could serve delegations as a basis for study. The second part of the operative part of the draft resolution was very important, since, although there was little likelihood of the Economic and Social Council and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination being able to undertake the proposed examination in addition to all their other work, it was right to allow them a period of one year for that purpose. She hoped that the draft resolution A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1 would be adopted unanimously.

28. Mr. MACLAREN (Canada), introducing, on behalf of its sponsors, draft resolution (A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1) concerning the review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council, gave a brief historical outline of the subject and recalled that, in resolutions 1091 (XXXIX), 1092 (XXXIX) and 1093 (XXXIX), the Council had taken certain measures so as to be better able to meet its responsibilities resulting from the increase in the range and type of work of the United Nations family of organizations in the economic and social fields. In particular, it had decided to reorganize and enlarge its Special Committee on Co-ordination and to establish new relations with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. It had also decided to strengthen the effectiveness of the evaluation of technical assistance programmes, to reduce documentation to more manageable proportions, to provide secretariat services for the ACC and to establish a more meaningful relationship between budgetary resources and programmes.

29. The draft resolution noted the useful comments submitted so far by Member States and by the Secretary-General. On that sure foundation, the Council, at its forty-first session, could proceed with the review of its role and functions and provide the General Assembly, at its twenty-first session, with the material for an examination of the matter, if it decided to undertake one. The operative paragraph would enable the Council to take advantage of detailed proposals by the Secretary-General, who would, of course, have taken into account the views of Member States (A/5920) and the observations of the Third Committee, referred to in document A/C.2/L.853. The Secretary-General would also have consulted the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, pursuant to the recent decision of the Fifth Committee, referred to in document A/C.2/L.858. In addition, it was to be hoped that many of the Member States which had not yet submitted their views would do so before the Council's forty-first session.

30. As the Second Committee had not had an opportunity to consider the matter, the sponsors of the draft resolution had endeavoured to consult informally as many members as possible. Those consultations had led the sponsors to modify certain passages and they hoped that that would ensure the adoption of their draft resolution. Some delegations had felt that the sixth preambular paragraph should be omitted, as the Committee had not been able to consider the question. The sponsors would be prepared to delete that paragraph, if it was the general feeling that that should be done.

31. Mr. CHADHA (India) said that thanks were due to the representatives of Malta and Trinidad and Tobago for having brought the matter referred to in agenda item 100 to the attention of the General Assembly at its twentieth session. The General Assembly had unanimously adopted resolution 2049 (XX) based on a draft sponsored by France which gave practical effect to the provisions of Article 17, paragraph 3 of the United Nations Charter. The question now was whether the proposed budgetary co-ordination would not also involve some co-ordination of programmes and projects. The activities of the various United Nations organs in the economic and social field and certain aspects of the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development necessarily affected part of the work, the projects and the programmes of the specialized agencies. Furthermore, without prejudicing the autonomy of the specialized agencies, several bodies such as the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the International Civil Service Advisory Board and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had sought progressively to improve co-ordination over the preceding ten years. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that the delegations of Malta and Trinidad and Tobago and other delegations motivated by the same concern had decided to bring the problem to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and the ACC before the General Assembly took any decision. However, his delegation recommended that caution should be exercised in order to avoid destroying the fragile structure which had taken so much care and expenditure over so many years to erect.

32. With reference to agenda item 96, he observed that the need for a review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council had increased since the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its subsidiary organs. From the precise description of the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council, in Chapter X of the Charter, one could conclude that the Economic and Social Council, although it was a "principal organ" of the United Nations, nevertheless remained under the authority of the General Assembly and that its field of activity was unlimited as far as economic and social questions were concerned. However, being unable to carry on simultaneously all the activities within its competence, the Economic and Social Council had gradually come to be satisfied with giving a legal character to the decisions, recommendations and resolutions adopted by its innumerable commissions and functional committees and by the specialized agencies. Furthermore, it had increasingly given the appearance of being a formal gathering at which tributes—no doubt well merited—were paid to the heads of all the specialized agencies. Being unable to examine in detail the many complex problems placed before it, the Council had naturally had to set up an increasingly large number of subsidiary organs to which it had delegated certain of its powers. However, it had jealously retained the role of intermediary between those organs and the General Assembly and considered itself the essential instrument for co-ordination of all the activities undertaken, although the only progress achieved to date was the result of the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

33. Since the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic and Social Council was no longer alone concerned with economic questions. It was therefore necessary to define the role it should play henceforth, in order to avoid any duplication between its activities and those of the Conference. It appeared inevitable that the Council would increasingly have to concern itself mainly with activities in the social and human rights fields, leaving responsibility for economic matters to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. It was also necessary to define accurately the relations to be established between the Conference and the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council if maximum co-ordination and efficiency were to be achieved.

34. For all those reasons, his delegation believed that it was urgently necessary to undertake a review and full reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council. In its general statement (957th meeting), it had proposed that a group of experts should be appointed to consider that question and to make recommendations. However, the Secretary-General having expressed in his report (A/6109) the opinion that the group of experts would have a clearer picture after the Council's 1966 sessions, the Indian delegation was prepared to accept that view and had therefore joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1 which requested the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals on the basis of which the General Assembly could take a final decision at its twenty-first session. The draft resolution contained no controversial provision and he hoped that the Committee could adopt it unanimously.

35. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said it was unfortunate that the Committee did not have time so late in the session to consider the question which the Maltese representative had so admirably outlined. It might be compared with a most interesting proposal made at the thirty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council by the French representative, who had urged that an over-all balance sheet of the finances of the United Nations and its specialized agencies should be drawn up with a view to rationalizing activities of those organizations. Moreover, the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2049 (XX) which established an *ad hoc* Committee of Experts to examine the finances of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, gave formal approval to that proposal of which the question raised by Malta appeared to be an essential complement. He fully shared the views expressed by the representatives of India and Canada concerning agenda items 96 and 100, but thought that it might be useful to rebuild the fragile structure mentioned by the Indian representative. There was a close correlation between items 43, 96 and 100 and the consideration of any one of them inevitably would touch upon the two others. All efforts to rationalize the over-all United Nations system had hitherto come from outside and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had always sought to maintain the *status quo*. He therefore believed that no major changes could be expected if that Committee were entrusted with the task of considering the matter to which agenda item 100 referred. He hoped that

constructive proposals would be submitted at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly when the latter would resume consideration of items 43, 96 and 100.

36. Mr. NOURI (Iraq) referring to agenda item 96, said that it was clear that the Economic and Social Council had been unable to carry out the important tasks entrusted to it by the Charter and had not even been able to perform its three main functions. Moreover, a number of important decisions of the General Assembly, such as the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the establishment of the United Nations Development Programme and the setting up of an organization for industrial development would certainly affect the future work of the Council. The latter had already taken certain initiatives, and, in particular, that of reorganizing the Special Committee on Co-ordination which would henceforth hold joint meetings with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Those decisions constituted undeniable progress, but much still remained to be done. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the primary aim should be to seek out practical ways, at the level both of policy and procedure, of enhancing the effectiveness of the Council in discharging its heavy responsibilities. It also endorsed the views put forward in paragraph 13 of the Secretary-General's report (A/6109), to the effect that the major policy decisions of the Organization should be adopted by the General Assembly itself, the Council's role being more that of defining, at the preparatory stage, the principal alternatives.

37. The question of review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Council was a most important one from the point of view of all delegations and could not be dealt with in one meeting or a few meetings. The General Assembly should be able to study it thoroughly so that a constructive formula might be accepted by all the parties concerned without, however, departing from the primary objectives laid down in the Charter. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1, with the changes proposed by the Canadian representative, did not give rise to any controversy and the Committee should be able to adopt it without a formal vote.

38. Mr. CHANG (China) observed that the Economic and Social Council had a special responsibility in making policy decisions and in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields. As a policy decision organ, it should devote more attention to questions of policy and leave technical details to its subsidiary organs and to the specialized agencies.

39. In that connexion, the Canadian delegation had made several points which deserved attention. It had referred, *inter alia*, to the need to ensure a closer relation between financial resources and needs. Some progress had been made in that direction when the Council had decided, at its thirty-ninth session, to invite the Special Committee on Co-ordination to develop a work programme whose budgetary implications would be commensurate with the total resources likely to be made available. That would, of course, be done in consultation with the Secretary-General

and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Council, for its part, must endeavour to assist the General Assembly in concentrating its activities on essential priority areas, within the limits of available resources.

40. The Canadian Government had also expressed the view that techniques for evaluating past and present performance should be further developed and some standards of comparability and effectiveness established (E/4052). His delegation fully endorsed that observation. At the mid-point of the United Nations Development Decade, evaluation of major work programmes was indeed most useful for guiding policy decisions in the future.

41. The Chinese delegation also approved the proposal made at the meeting of the officers of the Council and ACC in July 1965, that the Council should, at each spring session, define in advance one or two specific issues of major importance for consideration in depth at the expense of less important or less urgent questions.

42. The second important function of the Council was to co-ordinate the activities of United Nations bodies. However, in order to do so, it must have an over-all survey of the economic and social programmes of the United Nations. The decision, taken by the Council at its thirty-ninth session to reorganize the Special Committee on Co-ordination (resolution 1090 G (XXXIX)) would certainly help to promote co-ordination within the United Nations system.

43. With regard to the relations which should be established between the Council and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, some guidelines had been laid down in General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX). Furthermore, since international trade had a direct bearing upon economic and social development, the promotion of trade was closely related to the work of the regional economic commissions. Particular attention must therefore be paid to the relationship between the newly established Conference and its Board on the one hand, and the Economic and Social Council and its regional economic commissions, on the other. The Council, in consultation with the Trade and Development Board, should formulate certain fundamental principles as the basis for future co-operation between the two organs. The Council should also promote closer co-operation between the Secretariat of the Conference and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with a view to avoiding duplication as far as possible.

44. Lastly, the Council should always keep in mind the interrelationship of economic and social development. Economic development had no meaning if it did not promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

45. In conclusion, he announced that his delegation would support draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1.

46. Mr. VIAUD (France) said he was pleased to announce that his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolutions A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1. His delegation noted with satisfaction

that the important subject of item 100 would be placed on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1 would permit, over the years to come, a reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council as part of a general review of United Nations activities undertaken by other organs of the General Assembly. It was, of course, regrettable that the General Assembly had not had time to discuss the role of the Economic and Social Council in the United Nations system. However, the continuation of the item was doubtless the wisest decision that the Committee could make at the present stage of the work. His delegation would have liked to join the sponsors of the draft resolution, but did not wish to upset the geographical balance which the composition of the group of sponsors reflected. With regard to the Council's role, there was no question, of course, of a complete revision of its functions as fixed by the Charter; what was prepared was a reappraisal of the methods and procedures followed by the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The General Assembly would be assisted in that task by the replies from Governments (E/4052 and Add.1-16). In that connexion, he drew the attention to the fact that his Government had sent a detailed memorandum on the subject (E/4052/Add.8). The instruments for the review would be the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Special Committee on Co-ordination. Joint meetings of those bodies would constitute an interesting innovation, for a direct confrontation of government and administration representatives could not fail to produce positive results.

47. The Economic and Social Council should regard itself as the servant, the technical organ, of the General Assembly whose directions it carried out. In return, the General Assembly should place full confidence in the Council. He was sure that the enlargement of the membership of the Council would facilitate harmonious collaboration between those two organs. Moreover, the review of the Council's methods and procedure should logically lead to a reappraisal of the working methods of the General Assembly itself and of its committees.

48. His Government had stressed in its reply that the Council certainly had to submit to the political authority of the General Assembly but that it would be dangerous to appeal the Council's decisions to the Assembly. The Assembly could do much to enhance the Council's prestige, not only by the confidence it showed in the Council but also by the manner in which it directed the Council's activities. The Assembly should delegate some of its powers to the Council, reserving to itself the more important decisions. It would thus be possible to avoid adoption by the Assembly of many inadequately prepared or unnecessary resolutions which added nothing to the Council's own decisions.

49. Mr. WILMOT (Ghana) observed that agenda item 43, concerning decentralization, was closely connected with item 100. If that review revealed the need to merge certain programmes and separate others, the resulting institutional arrangements would necessarily affect the process of decentralization.

50. He therefore proposed that item 43 should be postponed until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The Committee could do so either by modifying the operative part or the preamble of draft resolution A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1—which his delegation was in any case prepared to support—or by including an appropriate paragraph in its report to the General Assembly.

51. As regards agenda item 96, concerning the review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1. It had already stated its position at the thirty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council (1371st meeting) and in a communication addressed to the Secretary-General (E/4052). Although the Committee did not have time to study the Secretary-General's report at the present session (A/6109), the discussion in the Economic and Social Council and the views expressed during the general debate in the Second Committee and in the written replies addressed to the Secretary-General would, he felt, provide the latter with sufficient information to enable him to submit specific proposals at the next session of the General Assembly.

52. Mr. POLIT ORTIZ (Ecuador) expressed regret that so important a subject for the future of the United Nations as decentralization should have been given the lowest priority. The situation in that regard was causing concern to the developing countries, for the continued increase in their contributions to the United Nations budget was for them a heavy burden. The under-developed countries, which were experiencing serious economic and financial difficulties, could not take the same calm outlook as the economically advanced countries. Agenda items 43, 96 and 100 were closely interrelated and their simultaneous consideration would have produced more positive results if the Committee had been able to devote more time to it. His delegation unreservedly supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1. It endorsed the conclusions of the representative of Ghana, and considered that a reference to his proposal in the Committee's report would be the most satisfactory solution. It would be desirable to mention in the Committee's report that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1 wished the Secretary-General to take into account, in the report he was to submit at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee of Experts established under General Assembly resolution 2049 (XX).

53. Mr. Saad KHALIL (United Arab Republic) said that he supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1. The sixth preambular paragraph was of special interest. The conciliation procedures worked out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development might constitute a useful instrument for implementing the provisions of the draft resolution. But those procedures were a two-edged weapon and it was therefore all the more important to keep to the definition of the Council's functions that was given in the sixth paragraph of the draft resolution. His delegation also supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1. As regards the proposal of the representative of Ghana, the problem of decentralization should obviously be considered at the same time as

agenda items 96 and 100. His delegation would leave it to the sponsors of the draft resolution to decide what specific form that proposal should take.

54. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) said that his delegation had welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/L.814/Rev.1 because of the interest it had always had in a rationalization of the various programmes and activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. It also supported draft resolutions A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1.

55. In regard to item 100, the Canadian representative had said that only thirty-seven Governments had responded to the Secretary-General's appeal. His delegation considered that that number was insufficient, and that a new paragraph should be added to the operative part of draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1, reading:

"Requests Governments of States Members of the United Nations, which have not yet done so, to inform the Secretary-General of their views on this subject."

In conclusion, he expressed the opinion that the Ghanaian representative's proposal should be mentioned in the Committee's report.

56. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) expressed his support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1. The United Kingdom delegation was prepared to vote for placing the item in question on the agenda of the twenty-first session. It considered, however, that the matter was really one for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and should be referred to that body.

57. His delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1 and supported the amendment suggested by Senegal. It was regrettable that the problem had not received more thorough consideration at the current session.

58. The review of the functions of the Economic and Social Council should essentially be carried out by the Council itself. The main object was, in fact, to review the working methods applied by the Council in performing its Charter functions. Interesting suggestions had been made in that respect at the summer session, and the replies from Governments showed wide agreement if not unanimity on the subject; his delegation therefore, regretted the deletion of the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1. It nevertheless hoped that the two draft resolutions would be adopted without a formal vote.

59. Mr. BARYGUE (Uganda) said that a general review of United Nations programmes and activities was all the more timely since the international community had reached the mid-point of the United Nations Development Decade. His delegation wished to congratulate the representatives of Malta and Trinidad and Tobago on their initiative. It also supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1, which would enable the United Nations to discharge its economic and social tasks more effectively.

60. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would consider draft resolution A/C.2/L.856/Rev.1 as adopted.

It was so decided.

61. Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the amended text of draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1.

62. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would consider that draft resolution A/C.2/L.838/Rev.1, as amended, was adopted.

It was so decided.

63. Mr. NEDIVI (Israel) said that he was grateful to the representative of Ghana for having stressed that the question of decentralization was inseparable from that of the general review of United Nations programmes and activities. Decentralization could, however, have a negative aspect to the extent that it increased the difficulties of countries which had not yet become members of regional economic commissions. The Secretary-General had pointed out in the introduction to his annual report (A/6001/Add.1) that it was important for all Member States to belong to at least one of the regional economic commissions. It was well known that the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East had been contemplated and that the idea had had to be abandoned for reasons that were common knowledge. Israel, which belonged to no regional commission, was forbidden access to the Beirut Economic and Social Affairs Office which, officially, was a part of the Secretariat. His delegation hoped that that point would be considered at the next session of the Economic and Social Council and that the Secretary-General would convey his views on the matter to that body, reserving the right to raise the question at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. He would like to hear the opinion of the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs on the subject.

64. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) said that it was difficult for him to state at present what contribution the Secretary-General might make to consideration of the question raised by the representative of Israel. He nevertheless wished to assure the Israel delegation that the Secretary-General had the matter constantly in mind.

65. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said that he had not expected discordant notes on the Middle East at that stage of the discussion. The real countries of the Middle East were satisfied, for their part, with the operation of the Beirut Office. The Economic and Social Council, TAC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had already given their views on the question and it was unnecessary to mention it in the Committee's report.

66. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee's report should include a reference to the Ghanaian delegation's proposal to postpone consideration of agenda item 43 until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.