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**SECOND COMMITTEE, 688th  
MEETING**

Tuesday, 22 November 1960,  
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Chairman: Mr. Janez STANOVIK (Yugoslavia).

**AGENDA ITEMS 12, 29 AND 74**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters II (sections I, II and III A, except paragraphs 189-198), III, IV and VII (section I and paragraph 645)) (A/4415) (continued)**

**Economic development of under-developed countries (continued):**

(a) **International flow of private capital: report of the Secretary-General and recommendations thereon by the Economic and Social Council (A/4487, E/3325 and Corr.1.3);**

(b) **Question of the establishment of a United Nations capital development fund: report of the Secretary-General (A/4488, E/3393, E/3393/Add.1-4);**

(c) **Methods and techniques for carrying out a study of world economic development: report of the Secretary-General and comments thereon by the Economic and Social Council (A/4489 and Add.1, E/3379, E/3379/Add.1.7);**

(d) **Promotion of wider trade co-operation among States: report of the Secretary-General (A/4490, E/3389)**

**Land reform (A/4439) (continued)**

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.2/L.470/REV.2) (continued)**

1. Mr. HALM (Ghana), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the twenty-five-Power draft resolution on the decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, introduced a revised draft incorporating a number of the formal and informal amendments that had been proposed (A/C.2/L.470/Rev.2). He expressed the sponsors' appreciation of the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs' enlightening comments at the previous meeting.

2. The United States delegation had proposed two formal amendments (A/C.2/L.513). The sponsors had incorporated the first in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, but without mentioning the local and regional representatives of the Secretary-General because the Secretary-General had no such representatives. They hoped that the United States would find the change acceptable.

3. In paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the French representative had questioned the use of the word "endorsed" and suggested "noted" instead. The sponsors had compromised by using the word "mentioned".

4. In paragraphs 2 and 4, in response to the suggestion made by the United Kingdom representative the word "secretariat" was used in the plural where appropriate.

5. The second United States amendment related to paragraph 3. The sponsors had been unable to accept the proposed wording and the paragraph had been left unchanged, except for the introduction of the phrase "and among their executive secretaries", which had been added after the words "among themselves" to take into account the French representative's suggestion at the previous meeting. The sponsors hoped that that change would meet the wishes of the French representative. They had been obliged to reject the United States proposal because they felt that it would weaken the main purpose of the draft resolution, which was the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions. It was essential to that purpose that the regional commissions should strengthen co-operation among themselves, not that some other body, in the case in point the Economic and Social Council, should take steps to ensure it.

6. Paragraph 5 remained unchanged. The United Kingdom representative had suggested that the words "and the specialized agencies" should be inserted after the words "next annual sessions". However, the sponsors felt that, unlike the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies did not fall precisely within the Secretary-General's domain and it would therefore

not be appropriate to include them in the request to the Secretary-General to hold consultations.

7. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) thanked the sponsors for their sympathetic consideration of the suggestions made at the previous meeting. In the light of the new text and the explanation of the various changes, his delegation had a number of formal amendments to propose in connexion with the title and the wording of the second preambular paragraph and paragraph 5 (A/C.2/L.515).

8. The second preambular paragraph "welcomed" Economic and Social Council resolution 795 (XXX) on co-ordination in the field, while paragraph 1 made only a passing reference to resolution 793 (XXX) on the decentralization of activities and operations. He felt that it might meet the intentions of the sponsors more closely and reflect their own emphasis more accurately if the title of the draft resolution was changed to "Strengthening of the regional economic commissions and co-ordination in the field".

9. He noted that there had been a growing and beneficial tendency in recent years, actively encouraged by TAC and the Economic and Social Council, towards increased regional co-ordination in the field between the representatives of various bodies dealing with the same subject. He also noted that the terms of reference of the regional economic commissions stipulated that they should establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with each other. His delegation's proposed amendment to the second preambular paragraph was intended to take those points into account.

10. The sponsors had attributed their unwillingness to incorporate the addition to paragraph 5 suggested by his delegation to a feeling that while it was appropriate for the Secretary-General to consult other members of the Secretariat, i.e. the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, it was not appropriate for him to approach other bodies which were within the United Nations family but not an integral part of it, i.e. the specialized agencies. He noted that the Economic and Social Council had devoted itself over a long period to consulting with and co-ordinating the work of the specialized agencies. He felt, therefore, that it would be quite legitimate for the specialized agencies to be consulted in matters concerning co-operation and liaison between the regional economic commissions, and that the agencies themselves would welcome it. The United Kingdom repeated as a formal amendment its suggestion that the words "and the specialized agencies" should be incorporated in operative paragraph 5.

11. Mr. VIAUD (France) thanked the sponsors for their response to his suggestions of the previous meeting. The re-wording of paragraph 1 was quite acceptable to him. The addition to paragraph 3 went far to meet his point, but if the United States formal amendment was adopted, his suggestion would fall to the ground. He could not say for the time being whether or not he wished to maintain it.

12. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation regarded the regional economic commissions as valuable instruments for the development of international co-operation and had always been in favour of increasing their scope. It therefore supported the draft resolution. However, it would suggest that the second preambular paragraph, which unduly emphasized the role of representatives

of TAB, should be deleted, and would request a separate vote on the paragraph if the sponsors decided to retain it. His delegation also considered that the United States amendment would greatly weaken the draft resolution, and would like to see the original wording of paragraph 3, as well as of the draft resolution's title, retained.

13. Miss HARELI (Israel) said that her delegation supported the draft resolution, but felt that in encouraging decentralization, the United Nations must give due attention to the need for over-all co-ordination and the avoidance of overlapping. The over-all funds at the United Nations disposal all came from the same limited pool and the need for their most economic use applied therefore, whether they were used at Headquarters or through the regional organs. Her delegation therefore proposed an amendment (A/C.2/L.516): the addition, at the end of paragraph 3, of the phrase "with due regard to the need for the most effective use of over-all resources".

14. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) expressed satisfaction with the revised text of the second preambular paragraph and withdrew his delegation's first amendment. His delegation was however deeply disappointed that the sponsors had decided not to accept its second amendment. It wholeheartedly supported the principle of decentralization, but felt that decentralization should not mean disorganization. The Economic and Social Council was one of the major organs of the United Nations; indeed, from the point of view of the developing nations, probably no United Nations body was more important. His delegation therefore viewed with deep concern any suggestion that the Council's role should be diminished, or any attempt to destroy its usefulness, and regarded its second amendment as a matter of principle whose importance went beyond the draft resolution under consideration. The four regional economic commissions had been established by the Economic and Social Council under Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations, and were clearly subsidiary to the Council, as their terms of reference showed. That in no way detracted from their importance, and the Council, in resolution 793 (XXX), had clearly indicated that it intended to strengthen them and to encourage co-operation between them. The Ghanaian representative, in introducing the draft resolution, had said that its whole purpose was to support Council resolution 793 (XXX). If that was so, his delegation saw no logic in not calling on the Council to take steps to carry out the purpose of resolution 793 (XXX).

15. The United States Delegation would therefore request a roll-call vote on its amendment, and would be unable to support the draft resolution if the amendment was not adopted.

16. Mr. HALM (Ghana) said that he did not think the sponsors of the draft resolution were confusing decentralization with disorganization. The purpose of paragraph 3 was to urge the regional economic commissions themselves to strengthen their co-operation; unless the United States representative could show that they were incapable of doing so by themselves, he did not think the sponsors could accept the amendment.

17. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) felt that all members of the Committee were fundamentally in agreement on the draft resolution; they all recognized the importance of the regional economic commissions and

the fact that many things must be done in a regional context, just as many things must be done on a centralized basis. His delegation had supported resolution 793 (XXX) in the Economic and Social Council; its adoption did not mean, however, that other resolutions, such as Council resolution 801 (XXX), should be lost sight of, and his delegation would accordingly support a reference to the latter resolution as well.

18. His delegation felt that it would be unfortunate if the draft resolution under consideration led to an acrimonious discussion of the role of the Economic and Social Council, and considered that the remaining disagreement might be resolved, either by adding, after the word "commissions" in paragraph 3, the words "with due regard to their terms of reference and the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council", or by adding, in the same place, the words "with due regard to the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council" and replacing the word "and" after the word "themselves" by the word "or".

19. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution endorsed everything the United States representative had said concerning the importance of the Economic and Social Council; far from seeking to undermine the Council, it was their desire to strengthen it. He did not think that the question at issue was one of principle, precisely because it was obvious, as the United States representative had said, that the regional economic commissions must operate within their terms of reference, and that those terms of reference subordinated them to the Economic and Social Council.

20. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) suggested that the points of view put forward by the representatives of Ghana and the United States might be reconciled if the words "subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council" were added at the end of paragraph 3. Both the idea of strengthening co-operation among the regional economic commissions themselves and the need to uphold the Council's supervisory authority would thus be given due weight.

21. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) observed that the sponsors of amendments to the draft resolution were trying to weaken it by emphasizing the question of co-ordination with the Council rather than the need to strengthen co-operation among the regional economic commissions themselves.

22. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) replied that the Byelorussian representative's allegations concerning

the motives of delegations making suggestions were wholly unfounded and hardly conducive to international co-operation or to peaceful coexistence.

23. As there seemed to be some confusion regarding questions of co-ordination and liaison between the Council, the regional economic commissions, TAB and the specialized agencies, the Committee might seek expert advice either from the Executive Chairman of TAB or from TAC, which was due to meet the following day.

24. Mr. BERNARDO (Argentina) assured the United States representative that the draft resolution was not intended to undermine the authority of the Economic and Social Council. The representatives of Ghana and Sudan had already explicitly confirmed that point and it had also been implicitly recognized by the Netherlands and New Zealand representatives in putting forward their suggestions. His delegation was somewhat surprised at the wording of the United States amendment and also at the United States representative's contention that a serious question of principle was involved. It was quite unnecessary to refer specifically to the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 3 and it was perfectly legitimate for the General Assembly to address recommendations directly to the regional economic commissions. By basing themselves upon Council resolution 793 (XXX) and also be requesting that the Secretary-General's report should be submitted to the Council's thirty-second session, the sponsors—of which Argentina was one—were adding to, rather than detracting from, the Council's authority. His delegation hoped that the United States representative would trust in the good faith of the sponsors and withdraw his amendment.

25. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the meeting should be suspended briefly to enable the sponsors of the draft resolution to consider the amendments and suggestions which had been made.

*The meeting was suspended at 12.20 p.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.*

26. Mr. HALM (Ghana) announced that the sponsors had had insufficient time to agree upon a joint text and would submit a revised draft at the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.