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Chairman: Mr. Jorge Pablo FERNANDINI
(Peru).

AGENDA ITEM 47

Multilateral food aid (*continued*) (A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. IV, sect. I and II; A/6823, A/C.2/L.982/Rev.2):

- (a) Programme of studies on multilateral food aid: report of the Secretary-General (E/4352 and Add.1);
- (b) Review of the World Food Programme (A/C.2/238, A/C.2/240)

1. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan), introducing the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.982/Rev.2), said that Sweden had asked to be included among the sponsors.

2. After consultations with interested delegations, the sponsors had made various changes to the text of the draft (A/C.2/L.982/Rev.1).

3. The fourth preambular paragraph was revised to read: "Stressing the need for ensuring effective co-ordination of all food aid programmes while duly safeguarding the trade interests of the food-exporting and food-importing countries, especially the developing countries, and domestic agriculture in recipient countries". The last preambular paragraph was deleted. The word "duly" had been added after the word "safeguard" in operative paragraph 1. In operative paragraph 1 (b) the words "including those arising from the Food Aid Convention" had been deleted, as had the words "including the possibility of modification of such arrangements". The words "in case of need" had been added before "a substantially increased volume". Operative paragraph 2 now read as follows: "Invites Governments concerned to consider use of multilateral facilities in implementing the Food Aid Convention".

4. Mr. PEREZ TOMAS (Argentina) said that in general his delegation supported the amendments which had just been read out. But it would like the sponsors to consider the possibility of reintroducing in operative paragraph 1 (b) the words "including the

possibility of modification of such arrangements", which had appeared in the first revised version of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.982/Rev.1) and to which it attached the greatest importance.

5. Mr. MARTIN WITKOWSKI (France) said that it would be difficult for him to support the Argentine representative's proposal. When the Secretary-General was asked to continue the programme of studies on multilateral food aid, it was left open to him to say, if he saw fit, that the existing multilateral institutional arrangements were inadequate.

6. He asked the sponsors to replace the words "to consider use" in operative paragraph 2 by the words "to make such use as they see fit".

7. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that, in general, he supported the draft resolution. There were, however, points which seemed to him unclear. In the third preambular paragraph, reference was made to the Food Aid Convention, but it was the established practice that draft resolutions should never mention texts or instruments approved or concluded by bodies outside the United Nations or by an unrepresentative minority of its Members. The principle referred to in that paragraph had not so far been stated by the Organization. As far as the fourth preambular paragraph was concerned, he did not see how it was possible to protect the agriculture of food-exporting countries if they imported items which they themselves produced. That also applied to operative paragraph 1. Finally, with reference to operative paragraph 1 (a), it should be noted that the second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would not take place until February 1968. It was difficult to see, therefore, how the views expressed at it could be taken into account.

8. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) also considered that the sponsors were prejudging decisions that might be taken in due course. As far as the Food Aid Convention which forms part of the International Grains Arrangement 1967 was concerned, he would like to know, before taking a position on the revised draft resolution, what was in those instruments, what decisions they had led to and what States were parties to them.

9. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom), drawing attention to the words "especially the developing countries" in the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1, said that they introduced an element of discrimination into the text which his delegation could not accept.

10. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) proposed that the meeting should be suspended so that the sponsors and delega-

tions which had made objections could consult each other and work out a text which could get unanimous support.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 41

United Nations Development Decade: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. III; A/6824, A/C.2/235, A/C.2/L.984, E/4362 and Corr.1, E/4376)

11. Mr. O'CONOR (United States of America) said that when President Kennedy had put forward the idea of a United Nations Development Decade in his address to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session in 1961, he had been speaking for the millions of people who looked to the Organization for an improvement in their lot. The address had been a call to action with a view to greater international co-operation in the economic and social fields. The President had also wanted to give more responsibilities to the United Nations and more power to the economic and social work of the United Nations system, taking into account the limitations on the activities of the former in a too divided world. Later, Adlai E. Stevenson, the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, had advocated the formulation of a clearer development strategy and keener appreciation of the fact that a national will to develop, combined with institutional growth and economic and social reform, was as important as foreign assistance. In the early sixties, the Development Decade had thus been a symbol of a better life. The job, it had been felt, would be a hard one, but also an exciting one.

12. Unfortunately, though a number of countries had achieved the targets envisaged, in many countries the results of the Development Decade had been disappointing, both in agriculture and in manufacturing. It was now evident that old social systems did not readily yield to change and that there was no magic way of creating conditions in the developing countries that would be conducive to rapid economic and social progress. The developed countries, for their part, also faced problems which made it difficult for them to play their full role in the field of assistance. Some, like the United States, had balance-of-payments problems, while others suffered from inflationary pressures or difficulties due to political factors.

13. What must be done now was to look to the future with the lessons learnt from past failures in mind. Basically, those failures were due, according to the analysis made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (1146th meeting), to the lack of a development policy. Such a policy would have many facets, one of the important of which was training. It was essential to make greater efforts in that field and to use the existing institutions to maximum effect.

14. More generally, there must be a period of intense planning for the next decade based on a realistic conception of the problem of under-development. In that connexion, the Netherlands Minister in Charge of Development Aid was to be congratulated for the stimulating suggestions he had made to the Commit-

tee (1129th meeting). After the necessary preparatory work had been done, the United States delegation would support the idea of a document calling for action in the field of development. Such a document might contain a larger number of targets than those set for the present Decade. But it was also necessary to avoid introducing precise commitments, which might not be acceptable to many Governments.

15. The United States delegation also welcomed the suggestion of the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, that a meeting of leading world experts in the field of development should be held to assess the results obtained during twenty years of development assistance and to reformulate policy on the subject.

16. The persistence of hunger in the world made the need for increasing food output the most important problem of the next decade. Its solution implied measures to bring the production-population equation into balance. It would perhaps be advisable, therefore, to establish quantitative targets for both food production and population control.

17. Lastly, he observed that for a long time it had been believed that shortages of capital were the major constraint upon economic development. The Decade which was drawing to an end had, however, dramatically demonstrated that the skills, the knowledge and the well-being of man were of at least equal importance. There was therefore an urgent need to make it possible for the less-advantaged peoples to work more effectively towards development through the spread and improvement of education. Since education was the key to success in virtually all spheres of development, the United States delegation intended to submit a draft resolution on that subject at a later stage.

18. Mr. SUEDI (United Republic of Tanzania) recalled that the United Nations Development Decade was based on the principle that the economic and social development of the economically less developed countries was not only of primary importance to those countries but was also basic to the attainment of international peace and security. However, the targets set for the Decade had not been attained by most of the Member States. Furthermore, the flow of technical assistance and capital for the Third World had fallen from 0.87 per cent of the national income of the developed countries in 1961 to 0.62 per cent in 1966. More disheartening still, per capita income in the rich countries was increasing by \$60 a year, as against \$2 in the developing countries, which were nevertheless spending hundreds of millions of dollars every year on armaments. His delegation, which placed great emphasis on development through trade, noted with much concern that the share of the developing countries in world trade had fallen from 21.1 per cent in 1961 to 19.3 per cent in 1966, whereas it had been 27 per cent in 1953. That situation could be remedied only by substituting purposeful action for statements of intention and theoretical studies. His delegation had demonstrated its stand on UNCTAD at the ministerial meeting of the group of seventy-seven developing countries, held in October 1967, and it was in the same spirit that it would go to the second session of UNCTAD in New Delhi.

19. The future of financial assistance for development was also very gloomy. In recent months, the parliaments of some developed countries had reduced foreign aid, and it would be unwise to place much reliance on such aid. At the beginning of 1967, therefore, the Tanzanian Government had issued the Arusha Declaration, which stressed self-reliance and the use of national resources. The conclusion had been reached, too hastily, that the United Republic of Tanzania no longer sought development assistance. In fact, that message to the Tanzanian people had explained that external aid could only be a supplementary means of accelerating growth and could not be a substitute for hard work. His delegation was glad to note that the Committee for Development Planning and the Algiers meeting had placed much emphasis on that idea, which was now embodied in the Charter of Algiers (A/C.2/237).

20. His delegation was nevertheless aware that the developing countries must collaborate more closely to promote their trade. Some months previously, the United Republic of Tanzania and its neighbours, Kenya and Uganda, had signed the treaty for the establishment of the East African Common Market. Zambia, Somalia and Ethiopia were studying the possibility of some form of association. In that connexion, he welcomed the emphasis placed on regional economic development by the Committee for Development Planning, and the recent decision to establish a West African economic community.

21. He considered, however, that various problems of planning and implementation which arose in different countries should be discussed in the context of specific developing countries rather than within the regional framework. His delegation therefore fully supported the steps being taken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen inter-agency contacts in the offices of the Resident Representatives. Furthermore, UNDP now realized that exchanges of experience between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and agencies such as FAO, the ILO, UNESCO and WHO could greatly contribute to industrialization. While it was true that the developed countries must, as a UNDP report pointed out, commit themselves more strongly to financial assistance for development during the second decade, that effort could be made through the existing agencies, particularly by contributions to the World Bank Group.

22. So far as concerned the world food situation, the United Republic of Tanzania gave the highest priority

to crop production and stock-farming. In view of the present condition of the commodity market, food-stuffs were the best bet for the future. It was important, however, to make sure that producers in the developing countries did not make their efforts in vain. In that connexion, he pointed out that the proliferation of substitutes had caused a drop in the developing countries' exports, and he expressed the hope that, during the second decade, FAO would make the necessary adjustments. His delegation unreservedly supported the diversification programmes, but it thought the United Nations should give more financial assistance for national efforts in that sphere.

23. Mr. TIWARI (India) said that by adopting resolution 2218 (XXI), the General Assembly had recognized that one of the main causes of the failure of the Development Decade had been the absence of an international development strategy. The Assembly had therefore asked the Secretary-General to prepare the preliminary framework of such a strategy for the next decade. The Indian delegation had noted with interest the suggestions made in that connexion by the Committee for Development Planning (E/4362). It was not yet quite clear, however, what exactly the Committee had in mind in suggesting the adoption of a charter of development. At the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, many developing countries, including India, had expressed reservations on the proposal for a charter of development, because they considered it might prejudice the efforts of UNCTAD to reach complete agreement on the principles by which its action should be governed. His delegation maintained its reservations and considered that the relevant decisions of the second session of UNCTAD, which would have an important bearing on preparations for the next decade and the elaboration of a global strategy for development, should be awaited before that matter was considered further. He was convinced that the Secretary-General would take due account of the conclusions reached by the second session of UNCTAD in submitting his proposals for the second decade. His delegation agreed with the suggestions of the Committee for Development Planning that precise targets should be set for the second decade and that the means of attaining them should be specified. Those targets should be set at the international level, but individual developing countries should set their own targets within the framework of national development plans.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

