

in addition, the principles on which the domestic and foreign policy of that country was based made it an ideal site for the University; and, lastly, its geographical location, far from the major European university centres, would make it possible to avoid excessive centralization.

65. With regard to the role which UNITAR should play with respect to the United Nations University, it was gratifying to note that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 had recognized implicitly, in paragraph 5, the central role which UNITAR played in all intellectual matters; UNESCO too had always supported the work of the Institute. It must be admitted that the idea of establishing a university had always worried UNITAR and other research institutes; he had therefore been glad to learn that steps would be taken to form associations with those institutes which would not be to their detriment but would—it was to be hoped, at least—be designed to strengthen co-operation with them and offer them a firmer financial basis for their work. It was encouraging that he, as Executive Director of UNITAR, had been regularly consulted by UNESCO and the United Nations Secretariat officials

concerned and that he had been appointed an *ex officio* member of the Founding Committee. The fears of the Institute had been communicated to the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, and the latter had taken them duly into consideration, as he had said in his statement. UNITAR, which had links with many universities and institutions throughout the world, had accumulated knowledge and experience which could be very valuable to the United Nations University. It was therefore gratifying to see that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 had recognized the special role which UNITAR could play, and he wondered whether the Institute's name might not be added in paragraph 6. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

66. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) requested that the statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNITAR should be reproduced as fully as possible in the summary record of the meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

1548th meeting

Tuesday, 6 November 1973, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1548

AGENDA ITEM 52

United Nations University: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/9003/Add.1 (part III), A/9149 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.2/L.1300)

1. Mr. OGISO (Japan) recalled that, after many studies, resolutions and decisions, the General Assembly had decided at its twenty-seventh session to establish the United Nations University; the remaining task was to adopt a charter for the University and to decide the location of its Centre. With regard to the first of those questions, the Executive Board of UNESCO had submitted observations and comments (see A/9149/Add.1) on the draft Charter proposed by the Founding Committee, which was contained in annex I, appendix III of the report of the Secretary-General (A/9149); the Assembly currently had before it a revised text of the draft Charter (see A/9149/Add.2), which was the result of concerted efforts by the secretariats of the United Nations and UNESCO. The text was based on a draft proposed by the Founding Committee and took into account the comments and observations of the Executive Board of UNESCO. His delegation very much hoped that the revised text of the Charter would be adopted unanimously at the current session of the General Assembly.

2. With regard to the location of the University Centre, the Secretary-General had recommended that the Assembly give serious consideration to Japan's willingness to become the host State for the Centre. The executive heads of UNESCO and UNITAR had

concurred in that recommendation. Japan, which had always recognized the utmost importance of the strengthening of international solidarity as a means of laying the foundation for world peace, had from the outset supported the idea of a United Nations University. For reasons of history and geography, Japan was a meeting-point of eastern and western cultures and had endeavoured to act as a bridge between the developed and the developing countries. He therefore firmly believed that, if his country's offer were accepted, the University Centre would be able to play an important role in promoting the peace and prosperity of the world. The symbolic importance of locating the Centre of that world-wide institution in Asia should also be emphasized. His delegation sincerely hoped that the members of the Committee would accept the offer of the Japanese Government. His Government was prepared to make a contribution of \$100 million to the United Nations University Fund in five yearly instalments starting in 1974, subject to parliamentary approval and provided that contributions to the Fund would also be made by Member States and other sources; Japan would also meet all the capital costs required for the establishment of the Centre in the Tokyo metropolitan area. That contribution did not prevent the Japanese Government from considering an increased contribution to UNITAR in 1974.

3. On behalf of the sponsors, he introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300. In operative paragraph 1, the sponsors requested that the General Assembly adopt the draft Charter of the University (see A/9149/Add.2) which incorporated the comments and observations of

the Executive Board of UNESCO, the authoritative organ in the educational field. Since the United Nations University was an international project of a completely new type, it was natural that opinions should differ about the Charter. Nevertheless, the draft Charter was designed to ensure that the University enjoyed the necessary academic freedom and autonomy and attracted world-wide interest and support; the draft was also in accordance with the spirit of resolution 2951 (XXVII), by which the Assembly had decided to establish the University.

4. Paragraph 2 indicated the procedure to be followed, if necessary, in order to amend the Charter at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. Some years of experience would probably be required in order to determine whether it was necessary to change the Charter. Moreover, most of the members of the Second Committee were not experts in academic questions; the sponsors had therefore thought that the comments and observations made in the General Assembly should be examined by the University Council before the Assembly decided whether they should be incorporated in the Charter.

5. Under paragraph 3, the General Assembly would decide that the University Centre should be located in the Tokyo metropolitan area; in that connexion, he warmly thanked all those who had supported his Government's offer. Paragraph 4 did not call for any special comment.

6. Unlike certain delegations, the sponsors did not think that the relationship between the University and UNITAR should be stated specifically in the Charter. In their view, that question should be considered by the University Council. There were undoubtedly similarities between the aims of the University and those of UNITAR, but the Institute was more concerned with practical questions, while the University's outlook would be more academic. Nevertheless, it was very likely that UNITAR would develop a fruitful relationship with the University in many areas of mutual concern. For that reason, the sponsors had expressed the hope, in paragraph 5, that the University Council would consider, as one of its priority tasks, the relationship between the University and UNITAR.

7. Paragraph 6 concerned voluntary contributions. In that connexion, he drew attention of the members of the Committee to article IX, paragraph 1, of the draft Charter, which specified that voluntary contributions would come solely from governmental or non-governmental sources and not from the United Nations or its specialized agencies. The University could receive assistance from the United Nations only if the Rector accepted assistance for the University's projects, particularly fellowships, from the United Nations or the specialized agencies, as was specified in article IX, paragraph 2; that arrangement had already been endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 2951 (XXVII). In addition, the University could utilize the general administrative, personnel and financial services of the United Nations, but only on condition that no extra cost to the regular budget of the United Nations was incurred (article IX, paragraph 9 of the draft Charter).

8. The basic aim of paragraph 7 was to enable the University to acquire a truly international character.

9. The sponsors urged the Committee unanimously to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, which was the result of extensive consultations.

10. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said that his Government had studied with interest the note which the Secretary-General had sent to it asking what financial contribution it would be prepared to make to the United Nations University. In reply to that note, the Tunisian Government had informed the Secretary-General, on 11 April 1973, that Tunisia offered to serve as host to the headquarters of the University or one of its units. The Tunisian Government had subsequently informed the Secretary-General that it was presenting its candidature only for one of the organs to be attached to the University. Consequently, Tunisia was prepared to support the candidature of Japan as host to the University Centre. Nevertheless, it still wanted one of the organs attached to the University to be located in Tunisia, and it would give details of its final offer at a later stage.

11. Mr. SHARMA (Singapore) said that his delegation was satisfied with the way in which the United Nations University had been launched. It endorsed most of the provisions of the revised draft Charter (see A/9149/Add.2), with the exception of one point which required considerable elaboration. That point concerned the relationship between the United Nations and UNITAR. The draft Charter was not sufficiently explicit on that question, which was mentioned in only three provisions: article IV, paragraph 1; article IV, paragraph 2; and article VI, subparagraph (f). Those provisions were far from satisfactory, especially as an examination of the basic documents of the two entities showed that there were close similarities, in some important respects, between their spheres of competence.

12. For example, the Statute of UNITAR¹ indicated that its two functions were training and research; the Institute provided training at various levels to persons, particularly from developing countries, for assignments with the United Nations or the specialized agencies and for assignments in their national services which were connected with the work of the United Nations (article II, paragraph 2). In addition, the Institute conducted research and study related to the functions and objectives of the United Nations, giving priority to the requirements of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of other United Nations organs and the specialized agencies (article II, paragraph 3). Lastly, article VI provided that the Executive Director could designate each year a small number of specially qualified persons as Senior Fellows. A study of the draft charter of the University revealed that the objectives and purposes of the University transcended but at the same time included those of UNITAR. The mode of financing the two organs also had great similarities.

13. In view of those considerations, the lack of specific provisions might have serious consequences, including duplication and competition for voluntary contributions. Such competition could be detrimental to the status and the financial well-being of one or both institutions. Similarly, in the recruitment of staff, the University and UNITAR might inadvertently work at cross purposes, which would result in considerable wastage for both of them.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes*, agenda item 45, document A/6875, annex III.

14. In the view of his delegation, the ideal course would be to make the Institute a distinct component or institution of the University. If it continued to remain outside the University, there might be serious difficulties in the future as regards the fulfilment of its functions and it might fall into desuetude, which would be regrettable considering its past achievements. He did not believe that such a merger would be detrimental to either body, but rather that the University would obtain maximum advantage from the experience of UNITAR which, in turn, would derive further impetus from such close relationship with the University.

15. His delegation was pleased that the problem had been dealt with by the Executive Director of UNITAR and was the subject of paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300. It hoped that by the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, when that body would consider possible amendments to the Charter, the University Council and UNITAR would have had ample opportunity to establish a clear relationship between the two bodies. Furthermore, his delegation expected that the report to be presented to the thirtieth session would also include specific recommendations and amendments concerning that relationship for consideration by the General Assembly.

16. Mr. JABER (Jordan) said that his delegation appreciated the efforts made by the United Nations Secretariat, UNESCO and UNITAR to translate the idea of a United Nations university into reality. The University, as conceived in its Charter, would be an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge; it would thus be a world-wide body of affiliated institutions rather than a centralized institution and would enjoy autonomy within the framework of the United Nations and, above all, the academic freedom necessary for the achievement of its objectives. His delegation, a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, felt that the location of the University Centre in Tokyo would enable it not only to benefit from the generous offer made by the Government of Japan but also to draw on the rich experience of Japan in the utilization of modern technology. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution was particularly important; the location of research and training centres in developing countries would enhance the contribution of the University to those countries and would permit the exchange of knowledge and the results of scientific research. A number of offers had already been made by developing countries and more would certainly be forthcoming. The University of Jordan, for example, was formulating an offer to serve as host to a research centre.

17. Mr. KUMI (Ghana) said that his delegation had consistently supported the idea of a United Nations University since it had been broached in 1969 by the former Secretary-General, U Thant. The principles dear to his delegation were by and large reflected in the revised draft Charter of the University, whose adoption by the current session should not be difficult.

18. Nevertheless, some articles would require legal revisions: the meaning of article XII concerning amendments was not clear. The word "may" in paragraph 1 of that article should be replaced by the word "shall" in order to ensure that the General Assembly was the final authority. Those niceties, how-

ever, should be left to the jurists and should not prevent the Committee from adopting the Charter.

19. His delegation was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, which would establish the University Centre at Tokyo. It was confident that the offer by the Government of Japan would receive the overwhelming support of Member States. Ghana was strongly interested in being host to a unit of the University and would communicate its intention to the Secretary-General. Indeed, in recent years Africa had become one of the major areas of study not only because of its diversity, but also because of the new dimension that it contributed to international understanding. Since its founding, the University of Ghana had been concerned with the development of African studies as an area of research and as an integral part of courses in the humanities and the social sciences. Ghana was therefore ready to serve as host to a department of the United Nations University in order to complement those studies and to promote knowledge of Africa in international affairs. Furthermore, the United Nations University might be interested in the work of the departments of statistics and social and economic research, the demographic studies centre and the agricultural department of the University of Ghana. Needless to say, the headquarters of the Association of African Universities was in Ghana and the University of Ghana had played a vital role in that association.

20. It was time to bestow the blessings of peace on mankind and it was in that spirit that his delegation supported the adoption of the revised draft Charter.

21. Mr. WANG Tzu-chuan (China) said that, since the United Nations University was a world university, it should not be controlled by a few countries. The composition of the University Council should have a wide geographical representation. Furthermore, since the number of countries in each region was different, the number of seats reserved in the Council for each region should differ accordingly, and since the developing countries constituted a majority in the world, they should also be a majority in the Council. Only thus could the Council better reflect the opinions of the developing countries.

22. Some countries had expressed the hope that affiliated institutions of the University would be located on their territories. His delegation held that consideration in that regard should be given to the desires of the developing countries. Research subjects should also meet the needs of the developing countries and their regions. The research work of the University should be closely related to reality and should emphasize issues that required urgent settlement, in particular, the economic and social development of the developing countries, racial discrimination, the root causes of the impoverishment of the developing countries, etc. The University's research work should also contribute to the exchange of technology.

23. The publications of certain United Nations bodies showed an attention to quantity rather than quality. Their viewpoints were excessively one-sided and some of them made no distinction between right and wrong. As a new institution, the United Nations University should have a new outlook. Its publications should avoid the aforementioned mistakes, be scientific in their approach and conform to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Finally, the University should

not put out publications detrimental to the developing countries on the pretext of ensuring academic freedom.

24. Mr. FERNANDEZ VILLAYERDE (Spain) said that the Government of Spain, which had been interested in the establishment of the United Nations University ever since the idea had been conceived, welcomed the progress already made to make it a reality. There was still a long way to go, but the final steps would be facilitated by the generous offers of many countries, in particular, Japan.

25. His delegation was also satisfied with the work accomplished by the Founding Committee of the United Nations University and, in particular, the draft Charter submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the General Assembly. Unfortunately, his delegation had had very little time to study the revised version of the Charter in the light of the observations of the Executive Board of UNESCO, with the result that it would make only general and preliminary remarks. His delegation was pleased that the text of the Charter had accorded a special role to UNESCO in the establishment and operations of the United Nations University. The concept of joint sponsorship by the United Nations and UNESCO, set forth in article I, would enable all specialized bodies to participate in and share responsibility for the activities and management of the international University. Such an arrangement should be welcomed since no United Nations activity could be successful without effective co-ordination of the work of the different bodies and proper use of available resources.

26. Like the representative of Singapore, he wished to stress the importance of interpreting and, where necessary, finalizing the principles stated in the Charter so as to associate, to the extent necessary, UNITAR and similar institutions with the United Nations University. He therefore believed that the University Council should, among other priorities, define the relationship between UNITAR and the University in order to avoid duplication, conflicts of competence and perhaps even mismanagement of necessarily limited resources. In that connexion, he associated himself with those who had mentioned that problem during the consideration of the report of UNITAR and with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300. Finally, his delegation was of the opinion that the expression, in Spanish, "*Carta de la Universidad de las Naciones Unidas*" was not appropriate and suggested that the word "*Carta*" be replaced by the word "*Estatuto*", then eventually by "*Reglamento*", when the University was more fully developed as envisaged in article IV, paragraph 4.

27. Turning to the draft resolution before the Committee, he said that his delegation was favourably disposed to the text, subject to his earlier comments and his observations on the draft Charter. Nevertheless, he would like to know whether the sponsors would be in favour of adding to the draft resolution a provision relating to the official languages of the University. If the Assembly adopted the principles proposed in document A/9149/Add.2, perhaps it should decide which should be the official languages of the University and explicitly endorse the suggestions of the Founding Committee contained in paragraph 5 of annex I of document A/9149 that the official languages of the University should be those of the United Nations and of the General Conference of UNESCO.

28. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India) said that his delegation, which had consistently supported the idea of establishing an international university under the auspices of the United Nations, welcomed the considerable progress made during the preceding year, especially the draft Charter prepared by the Founding Committee after thorough discussion of the various aspects of a complex problem.

29. Turning to the purposes of the United Nations University, as set forth in article I of the draft Charter, he hoped that when the time came to establish advanced research and training centres, consideration would be given to the fact that the developing countries had fewer such centres than other countries, and that every effort should be made to ensure equitable geographical distribution, taking into account excellence of academic scholarship and research facilities available or capable of development. He welcomed in particular the provisions of paragraph 3 of article I. The University should actively disseminate the knowledge gained through its activities and programmes and co-ordinate research and training in order to avoid duplication and obtain optimum return from its academic, financial and other resources.

30. His delegation fully supported the content of article II of the draft Charter and emphasized the need for academic freedom and autonomy for the University.

31. After summarizing the provisions of article III, he expressed the hope that the University would make full use of national institutions of academic excellence in all regions and particularly in developing countries. The University should organize internationally co-ordinated research on problems of global importance in order to increase the comprehensiveness of such research and facilitate the application of its results.

32. With regard to the finances and budget of the University, his delegation supported the provisions of article VIII and considered that the University should have adequate funds to promote advanced research and training in respect of global problems and that those funds should be provided in the manner proposed in the draft Charter. His delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the recommendation of the Founding Committee regarding an endowment fund to assure the financial viability of the entire United Nations University system. It was encouraging that offers of facilities and other types of contribution had been received from at least 25 countries, and that Japan had generously offered to contribute to the United Nations University Fund an amount of \$100 million in five yearly instalments, starting in 1974, and was prepared to consider contributing to the capital costs for establishing research and training units of the University in developing countries.

33. Turning to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, his delegation found the text as a whole acceptable but would like to suggest a few minor changes to improve it. It suggested that in the first line of operative paragraph 2 the word "examine" be replaced by the words "take into account". It also suggested that part of paragraph 2, beginning with the words "in consultation with" and ending with the words "Economic and Social Council", should be deleted, since those provisions were already reflected in article XII of the revised draft Charter.

34. His delegation would like the words "*Expresses the hope*" in paragraph 5 to be replaced by the stronger term "*Recommends*".

35. In conclusion, he said that his delegation warmly supported the proposal to establish an international University on the basis of the principles in the draft Charter and was willing, subject to the amendments it had suggested, not merely to go along with the draft resolution but even to support it strongly and urge its unanimous adoption.

36. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) recalled that his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 and fully supported the idea of locating the University Centre in Tokyo; it attributed significance to the choice of Asia, the cradle of civilization. He expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the guiding role it had played in the development of the United Nations University concept and, more especially, for its generous offer of financial and material support.

37. The University must be assured of a stable financial base if it was to carry out effectively the task expected of it. Since the developing countries were not in a position to contribute substantially to the financing of the University, it was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would be able to find the necessary financial support from private institutions and interested Governments.

38. Under the terms of the draft Charter, the United Nations University would be a research-oriented institution, but its role with respect to training had been left somewhat vague. His delegation considered that it was important to maintain a balance between research and training and that training was of primordial importance for the developing countries.

39. His delegation was in agreement on the fields of research enumerated in article I of the draft Charter and felt that the research should be oriented to specific problems and lead to programmes of action designed to resolve global problems. The continuing growth of academic and scientific communities everywhere, and particularly in the developing countries, must be a paramount concern of the University, for it was one means of alleviating the brain drain.

40. The relationship between the University and UNITAR, which had been closely associated with the preparatory work on the University, needed to be clarified. His delegation considered that there should be close co-operation between the two organizations on a regular basis in order to avoid duplication. The University Council should consider arrangements to ensure collaboration and consultation with UNITAR.

41. Consideration should also be given at the proper time to the participation of young scholars in the University and to some form of association of youth organizations with its work. His delegation hoped that it would be possible to establish an advisory youth council within the University.

42. In conclusion, he hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 would be adopted unanimously.

43. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) noted that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, and hence of the Charter, would not involve any financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations, under either article 9 of the Charter or paragraph 6 of the draft resolution.

44. He announced that Uruguay had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

1549th meeting

Tuesday, 6 November 1973, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1549

AGENDA ITEM 52

United Nations University: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/9003/Add.1 (part III); A/9149 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.2/L.1300)

1. Mr. ABDEL MEGUID (Egypt) said that he had been a member of the Founding Committee of the United Nations University. There was general agreement on the purposes of the University and the general subjects to be included in its research and training programmes. The Action Programme for Economic Co-operation,¹ adopted by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973, drew attention to the particular importance of non-alignment as a research subject, and his delegation considered that special attention should be given to that subject in the University's curriculum.

¹ See document A/9330.

2. The training and further training of highly qualified specialists from all countries, particularly the developing countries, was one of the means that the University would adopt in order to achieve its objectives. It would not duplicate the work of existing institutions but would take on entirely new responsibilities. Under articles V and VI of the draft Charter (see A/9149/Add.2) the Rector and the University Centre would ensure co-ordination and, under article IV, the University Council would maintain liaison with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of UNESCO.

3. Article II of the draft Charter made provision for the academic freedom and autonomy necessary for the achievement of the University's objectives. In order to avoid a brain drain from the developing countries, his delegation considered that scientific personnel should be employed at the University on a short-term basis. It was gratifying to note that Arabic would be an official