

paragraph 30 of the report of the Governing Council of UNEP (A/9025).

114. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) said that he also wished to reaffirm his delegation's position. In view of

the good relations which existed between Iran and Kuwait, he did not wish to create an incident.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.

1568th meeting

Monday, 26 November 1973, at 10.35 a.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1568

AGENDA ITEM 50

United Nations Environment Programme (*continued*)
(A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XIII; A/C.2/L.1305/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1312, A/C.2/L.1316-1318, A/C.2/L.1320):

- (a) Report of the Governing Council (A/9025, A/C.2/L.1315);
- (b) Criteria governing multilateral financing of housing and human settlements: report of the Secretary-General (A/9163, A/9238, A/C.2/L.1314, A/C.2/L.1319)

1. Mr. TAIHITU (Indonesia) said that at its first session the Governing Council had adopted far-reaching decisions of vital importance for the future work of UNEP (see A/9025, annex I). Those decisions, which represented a careful compromise between the interests of the countries of all the regional groups, had been agreed upon only after difficult and long negotiations in which a spirit of goodwill had prevailed. His delegation, which shared the view of the representative of Sweden that the main part of a general resolution should be a strong endorsement of the Council's conclusions, wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1315.

2. UNEP had been established to co-ordinate all environmental activities within the United Nations system. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the constructive work performed by the Environment Co-ordination Board which had been established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). It also welcomed the consultations which the Executive Director had conducted with Governments and with members of the United Nations family, and the series of meetings held with regional intergovernmental organizations active in the environmental field. The global picture which emerged from such consultations and contracts could be improved by the information that Governments were invited to provide about their national environmental activities relevant to the programme.

3. The Inter-Agency Committee set up in Indonesia to formulate recommendations for the Government in matters relating to the environment had recommended that priority should be given to the problems of human settlements, forestry, including water and soil, and marine pollution. It had also recognized that the setting of national priorities should be viewed within the context of global efforts to seek solutions to environmental problems. In view of the close interrelation between environmental issues and national development, due

consideration would continue to be given to environmental problems in Indonesia's national development plans.

4. His delegation hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1312, of which it had become a sponsor, would be adopted unanimously, for the United Nations Conference-Exposition to be held at Vancouver in 1976 could serve as a practical means of exchanging information about solutions to human settlements problems. It was grateful to the Canadian Government for offering to act as host to the Conference-Exposition and for the contribution announced by the representative of Canada. It hoped that the composition of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference-Exposition would reflect the membership of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, and that the post of Secretary-General of the Conference would be filled by a national of a developing country.

5. His delegation was happy to note that the UNEP secretariat had already initiated activities in a number of important areas, particularly in the field of technical assistance and training activities, and that the development of the information referral and monitoring elements of Earthwatch was progressing. It was convinced that the decision to locate the UNEP secretariat in the capital of a developing country would prove to be an excellent one for the Programme's further development.

6. Lastly, his delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1316 on the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme.

7. Mr. MVOGO (Cameroon) said that the warm welcome given to the UNEP secretariat by the Government and people of Kenya bore witness to the wisdom of the Committee's decision that the newest member of the United Nations family should have its headquarters at Nairobi. He reiterated his delegation's support for the Action Plan for the Human Environment, and for the priorities set by the Governing Council at its first session, in its decision 1 (I) (see A/9025, annex I).

8. For the developing countries, environmental problems were essentially development problems. One of the most serious, urgently requiring solution with the assistance of the international community, was the over-population of urban centres. In an attempt to curb mass migration from the rural areas, the Government of Cameroon had recently established a national civic service for participation in development, aimed at enabling young people to contribute to the task of nation-building by performing manual work in sectors of public

interest, particularly agriculture, in their own natural environment. However, youth would only be enthusiastic about participating in rural projects if the human environment in rural areas was sufficiently attractive, and his Government hoped that the forthcoming Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements would provide valuable suggestions in that respect. His delegation was therefore pleased to be a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1312, which it hoped would be adopted without a vote.

9. Mr. MADDY (Guinea) said that the generosity and co-operation of the people and Government of Kenya in facilitating the establishment of UNEP headquarters in Nairobi and the initiation of its work were evidence of the importance which the developing countries in general, and Africa in particular, attached to the environment problem. His delegation would co-operate in every possible way in the preparation of the programme. Environmental protection was the concern of all States. For that reason, well before the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm, his Government had passed legislation prohibiting bush-burning and excessive clearance of trees throughout the country. The penalty for offences against that legislation was a prison sentence of from six months to one year. Every June, an annual tree-planting ceremony was held in the schools, and each pupil was required to plant at least one tree. Those modest measures had produced satisfactory results and had enabled the Government to avoid disasters.

10. The environment problem was closely related to economic development, social justice, human rights and peace. For the developing countries, it could not be dissociated from economic and social development as a whole, and his delegation saw it as including land reclamation, the improvement of housing, the construction of health, education and transport infrastructures and of processing plants, the removal of mines from former battlefields, the rehabilitation of farm land rendered useless by the military actions of imperialist forces, by heavy rains or by the exploitation of mineral resources, the construction of irrigation dams, the elimination of certain diseases, equality in trade, the restoration of peace whenever it was threatened, and the elimination of injustice in all its forms.

11. The Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements would be particularly important at a time when urban centres were becoming increasingly crowded as a result of migration from the countryside. New methods of construction, of urban administration and of transport, and the exchange of experience, should enable the problem to be solved, and his delegation believed that, in close co-operation with the other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, UNEP would succeed in solving the problems of all countries, developed and developing, in that respect.

12. His delegation was optimistic as to the results which the Governing Council of UNEP would achieve at its second session.

13. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) observed that, with rapid industrialization and urbanization, environmental problems were increasing in importance. The protection of the human environment should be dealt with primarily at the national level. From the outset of national planning in Poland, environmental protection had been given a significant place, and a major objec-

tive of the current plan was to preserve and if possible improve the environment. Regional co-operation in environmental protection was also important. The achievements of the socialist countries, which offered an excellent example of it, were described in the relevant documentation of CMEA. Another example of successful regional co-operation was the recent signing by the Baltic States of the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts, under which the parties undertook to co-operate with a view to preserving and increasing the living resources and obtaining the optimum yield, and to co-ordinating studies towards those ends. The Convention also provided for the establishment at Warsaw of an International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission which would secure the application in the Baltic Sea of modern and effective measures of rational conservation of fish stocks. Co-operation on the environment within ECE was also important and could be further expanded. Poland had supported the inclusion of the environment problem in the agenda of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

14. Nevertheless, his country did not underestimate the significance of world-wide environmental co-operation through UNEP. There were many areas in which such co-operation would be to the mutual benefit of all those participating in it; his Government therefore welcomed the results of the first session of the Governing Council and had decided to contribute 5 million zlotys to the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme. The main task of global co-operation should be the exchange of experience on environmental problems, not on a commercial basis but free of charge, in a spirit of mutual self-interest.

15. His Government found the forthcoming Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements particularly relevant, since it had decided to double the amount of housing in Poland within the next 20 years. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/L.1312, while at the same time sharing the doubts expressed by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union regarding the modalities of its organization and the costs involved.

16. Mr. PINO SANTOS (Cuba) said that the establishment of UNEP headquarters in a developing country was significant. His delegation noted with satisfaction the results of the Governing Council's first session in identifying targets and allocating priorities, and particularly welcomed the intention of UNEP to make a start as soon as possible on the work of technical assistance, training and support for specific projects. It agreed with the Executive Director that environmental problems were the result of fundamental imbalances in economic and social activity; they were therefore closely linked to the international problems of development, economic and trade policy, social injustice, human rights and peace.

17. His delegation wished to stress some of the views rightly expressed by the developing countries with regard to the problem of the environment. Some major problems had originated, and continued to originate, in the highly industrialized countries, particularly those with capitalist economies, where competition had led to high levels of production through exploitation of the workers, dissipation of resources and disturbance of

the ecology. The imperialist countries had exported that irrational pattern of activity to the developing countries, plundering their natural resources, setting back their economies and making their human settlement systems conform to the distorted patterns which were now generating poverty and imported pollution. Apart from that, environmental problems were not the same in developing countries as in developed countries, and accordingly they required different treatment. The guidelines for international activities in that field must therefore be clearly laid down; environmental protection should not be used as a pretext for damaging the developing countries still further through negative economic and trade measures, and should indeed incorporate machinery designed to assist them in their development efforts.

18. His delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1305/Rev.1, the spirit and letter of which reflected the agreements recently adopted at the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973. It was also designed to ensure that, in respect to natural resources shared by two or more States, the exercise of sovereign rights by one State did not prevent or impair the exercise of the similar rights possessed by the other State or States. A country's right to exploit its own natural resources was not in question; the aim was simply to ensure that, when natural resources were shared, sovereignty was exercised through co-operative machinery. His delegation was convinced of the rightness of the draft resolution and its historical inevitability and hoped that, despite foreseeable initial difficulties, it would be adopted.

19. Mr. SCHWARTZ (Spain) said that if UNEP was to promote the important role of the United Nations system in relation to the environment it must draw up, in time for the second session of the Governing Council, a full programme for its future activities. At the recent informal meeting of members of the Council, his delegation had been concerned to note considerable gaps in the draft programme and in the report on work performed to date. It expected to be presented at the second session, not with a passive document simply listing the activities of UNEP, but with a genuine programme evaluating the current status of work to protect the environment and indicating those areas in which immediate action could be taken. An indication should also be given of the areas in which the magnitude of the problems was unknown and decisions had not yet been taken on measures to solve them. Only if such an evaluation was prepared could an order of priorities and a plan of expenditure be drawn up. A list of specific projects to deal with basic problems, world-wide or regional, should also be provided.

20. Despite those criticisms, his delegation believed that, in view of the difficulties confronting any new organization, the efforts which UNEP had made so far were extremely satisfactory. After centuries of abuse of the environment, followed by only a decade in which the dangers of that approach had been realized, it was encouraging to find the United Nations in the forefront of environmental protection.

21. Environmental problems could be classed in three categories. The first comprised the problems affecting developed countries, such as industrial pollution, the destruction of nature and irrational urbanization.

Governments and peoples must be convinced of the need for urgent action to attack those problems at the roots, and UNEP should suggest specific solutions which the Governments of developed countries should themselves implement, since in many cases economic competition was too great to enable them to convince businessmen that they must make the necessary sacrifices.

22. The situation in the Mediterranean was already affecting fishery resources and the coastlines and economies of the countries bordering on it, and his Government appealed to those countries to work out a joint policy for protection of their environment. His Government would welcome the establishment in Spain of an environmental centre for the Mediterranean, with the co-operation and technical assistance of UNEP.

23. The controversy pitting economic growth against the environment was essentially sterile; as had been pointed out at the Stockholm Conference, economic growth was perhaps the most important environmental problem facing mankind. To preach the quality of life to developing countries, especially the poorest among them, was impossible when life itself was in danger. However, the basic value of UNEP to the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, was that it could help them not to repeat the mistakes which in the developed world had led to such problems as pollution, social and economic imbalances and unsatisfactory human settlements. It should promote awareness "in advance" in the developing countries, and his Government therefore advocated the establishment of an international advisory service, closely controlled by UNEP rather than independent of it and co-operating with UNEP, whose development projects should take environmental priorities very much into account.

24. The second category of environmental problems consisted of those affecting developing countries, including the population explosion in relation to resources, natural disasters, lack of water and desert encroachment. The problems were of such magnitude that they merited special long-term study, together with the initiation of immediate action; both of those points should be given priority in the programme to be submitted to the Governing Council at its next session.

25. The third group of problems was those affecting all countries, which included the destruction of marine life both by irrational exploitation and by pollution, the armaments race, and the question of human settlements. Spain, which was seriously concerned about those problems, was a sponsor of the draft resolution relating to the Conference-Exposition to be held at Vancouver (A/C.2/L.1312).

26. A broad scientific approach to environmental problems was important, and his Government would welcome the establishment in Spain of a university institute for the environment, if possible connected with the United Nations University. His Government was prepared to discuss the modalities for the establishment of such an institute with the Governing Council of UNEP. It also wished to make a substantial contribution to the Fund of UNEP; while he was not in a position, pending parliamentary approval, to announce the amount, he hoped to be able to do so in the near future.

27. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) noted with satisfaction that the UNEP secretariat had received from the Government of Kenya all the assistance necessary to enable it to perform its task. The choice of Nairobi as the headquarters of UNEP was an honour both for Kenya and for Africa as a whole.

28. In its struggle for economic and social development, Algeria attached particular importance to environmental problems, which, in the developing countries, were directly linked to under-development. In those countries, not only was the quality of life threatened but the lives of hundreds of millions of human beings were at stake. The solution to those problems lay first and foremost in development and in the political will of the affluent countries to make a positive contribution to the development process, as unfortunately was not the case at the present time. His delegation rejected all the arguments put forward by some countries or organizations which, under the pretext of protecting the environment, urged the developing countries to forgo industrialization, their aim being to keep those countries economically dependent on the developed countries. Naturally, the developing countries should take care that industrialization did not produce the same adverse effects on the environment as it had in the developed countries. Co-operation between developed and developing countries in the environmental field should supplement the co-operation that already existed for development. Lastly, he wished to emphasize the need and the obligation to clear areas which had been mined, during wars and acts of aggression, by States that had forcibly imposed their presence upon others.

29. His delegation endorsed in general the objectives set for the Action Plan for the Human Environment on the basis of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.¹ The problem of desertification was particularly important. Detailed studies should be conducted on the various related phenomena, and meetings of governmental experts should be organized. The possibility of holding a world conference on desertification problems should be envisaged.

30. No final decisions should be taken on the ecological problems related to the exploitation of marine resources until the Conference on the Law of the Sea had been held, since the Conference would lay down fundamental principles that would form the basis for the regulations subsequently adopted by the international bodies concerned. Nevertheless, the Algerian Government would encourage any initiative designed to promote regional co-operation in the utilization of marine resources.

31. The energy problem and the energy crisis should be studied exclusively from the environmental standpoint. Any consideration of the economic and political aspects of the energy crisis would be quite unacceptable to his delegation. A cleverly orchestrated international campaign had been initiated some months previously with a view to solving the energy distribution problem on an "equitable" basis that would ensure for all countries the right to receive supplies. As stated in many United Nations resolutions, each State had the right to utilize its resources for the well-being of its people and the defence of its interests. The principle of

a State's sovereignty over its natural resources did not preclude co-operation with other States, provided that such co-operation was global and benefited both the poor and the rich countries.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1305/Rev.1, paragraphs 1 and 2, reproduced two paragraphs of the Economic Declaration² adopted at the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries. Those paragraphs reaffirmed the basic principles that should govern international co-operation and bilateral or multilateral relations in respect of the exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States. Such co-operation presupposed a system of information and prior consultation. The sovereignty of a State over its natural resources could not be contested, but in the case of shared natural resources there could be only one sovereignty and the co-operative arrangements made must be such as to promote harmonious relations among States. In order to avoid any confusion, the problem of shared resources and the question of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources were dealt with under separate headings in the Economic Declaration adopted at Algiers.

33. The representative of Brazil had referred to the basic texts adopted by the Algiers Conference in respect of economic problems. Those texts were not merely declarations; they contained the basic principles governing the actions of all non-aligned countries in their relations with other countries.

34. Mr. INGVARSSON (Iceland), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1317, entitled "Protection of the marine environment", on behalf of Canada and Ghana also, said many delegations at the Stockholm Conference had stressed that UNEP should concern itself with the state of the world's oceans. Since oceans covered 70 per cent of the earth's surface, provided most of the oxygen needed for human life and constituted an important reservoir of protein food stocks, it was vitally important to protect and enhance the quality of the marine environment by all available means. Both paragraph 30 of the report of the Governing Council on the work of its first session (A/9025) and the programme priorities set forth in decision 1 (I) showed that UNEP was aware of its responsibilities in that field. Although the problem had been examined at the Stockholm Conference and two international conventions on dumping had been concluded in the past two years, many nations still considered that the over-all pollution problem had been only partially solved, since land-based pollution had not yet been dealt with. One of the tasks of the Conference on the Law of the Sea would be to deal with ocean pollution through international legal regulation, and UNEP would undoubtedly provide expert environmental assistance to the Conference in that respect.

35. The sorry state of the world's whale stocks, the recent disappearance of the most important herring stock in the north-east Atlantic and a similar trend in the North Sea, the situation of the fishing industry on the north-eastern coast of the United States and the disappearance of the anchovy stocks off the coast of Peru were only a few examples pointing to the need for assessing the resources of the marine environment. That was why draft resolution A/C.2/L.1317 emphasized the need of protecting and conserving the total

¹ See A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1, chap. I.

² See A/9330, p. 57.

living resources of ocean space through concerted environmental action. Both national and international action was needed to preserve the quality of ocean life. It was to be hoped that the Conference on the Law of the Sea would lay down guidelines for national action. International action must be initiated by international organizations such as UNEP and FAO. The proposal in the draft resolution that UNEP should make a detailed survey of marine resources of the world's oceans threatened with depletion went a step further than the suggestion in the programme priorities concerning the preparation of a catalogue of threatened species. The sponsors of the draft resolution considered that a detailed survey was both necessary and urgent, and had therefore suggested that such a survey should be prepared for the third session of the Governing Council. The intention of the sponsors was not to minimize the urgency and importance of other items included in the programme priorities, but merely to focus the attention of the world community on the problems threatening the quality of life in the marine environment and to provide a basis for further concerted environmental action in years to come.

36. Mr. CAICEDO AYERBE (Colombia) said that ever since the Stockholm Conference it had been recognized that the deterioration of the environment posed a threat to mankind perhaps more serious than that posed by stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Recognizing that a unified and coherent approach was required to the problems affecting mankind and the environment, Colombia had established a National Council on Population and the Environment, the first standing government consultative organ of its type in Latin America. The Colombian Government had been aware of the importance of human settlements at an early stage, and efforts had been made to create medium-sized cities and to decentralize industry. Despite a tremendous increase in population, Colombia had made great strides in housing and had introduced advanced financing schemes and housing construction techniques. The management of natural resources was entrusted to an institute which, through research and information programmes and in association with private enterprises, was responsible for developing plans for reafforestation and land reclamation. Colombia recognized that environmental problems were universal in nature.

37. The United Nations had already declared the area of the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction to be the common heritage of mankind. A concerted effort, with equitable economic implications, must be made in all regions of the world to ensure that mankind enjoyed clean air, pure water, adequate housing and replenished soil and vegetation. Strategies must be global if they were to be effective.

38. The emphasis which the Governing Council of UNEP, in the Action Plan, had placed on the universal nature and extreme urgency of the task ahead underscored the magnitude of that task and the need for greater international and national attention to environmental matters. In the coming 25 years, more human settlements would have to be built than ever before, and the success of that effort would determine the quality of life in the future. To the problems posed by poverty and misuse of natural resources, on the one hand, and the abuse and sophistication of electronics and energy, on the other hand, must be added a lack of awareness of

electronics problems at the highest governmental levels and a paucity of economic and technological means and experts to deal with the emergency. Modern society had perhaps never been so poorly prepared to face a challenge, owing to the inequality between rich and poor countries, the conflict between ecological and economic objectives, the lack of international instruments for decision-making and, in particular, the many problems posed by geographical factors and the ruinous exploitation of certain resources. The situation was all the more serious because the concept of sovereignty had not yet been harmonized with the requirements of a shared world environment and because forms of solidarity which were difficult to define juridically were being sought. Perhaps the most sensible approach would be to establish objectives for each area of environmental concern, listing the vital forces comprising the human environment—the biosphere, drinking-water, the oceans, fertile soil, flora and fauna—for purposes of establishing reserves, maintaining the habitat and determining what natural resources and residues were available.

39. Due account should be taken of the positive fact that in Europe and Latin America, unimpeded river navigation was established in treaties, certain lakes were utilized jointly, various scenic areas were under joint protection and agreements existed on the protection of endangered species. Attention must also be directed to entirely new problems, such as pollution, even at the cost of inevitable sacrifices. It was impossible to adopt general rules covering such diverse resources as hydrocarbons and fish stocks. Each of those resources probably required its own system involving joint consultations and measures, while the traditional right to take separate action could continue to prevail in the case of other resources which were not harmful or were not likely to be depleted in the near future.

40. The concept of the city as a stable settlement comprising a community living within a specific permanent physical boundary and having a system of clear-cut interrelationships among its inhabitants, had been replaced by a picture of constant traffic and overcrowding. Urbanization had not proceeded in an orderly manner, and large modern cities were both the marvel and the bane of their inhabitants. It was doubtful that man's vital rhythm and deepest aspirations would permit him to continue confronting the challenge of the city. A highly complex revolution was in progress. Human settlements would have been the major preoccupation of modern times, had not all other concerns been subordinated to matters relating to armaments and trade.

41. The Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements should promote an exchange of ideas and solutions, not only with respect to economic and practical matters, but also with respect to man's aspirations for quality and beauty.

42. Owing to Colombia's varied geographical and climatic characteristics and its high rate of population growth, ecology and human settlements were more pressing issues there than in countries which were physically more uniform. Colombia hoped to exchange experience and ideas with many countries.

43. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1315 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the third preambular paragraph reaffirmed a conviction

which had been emphasized by a number of delegations. The draft resolution was procedural and non-controversial, and he hoped that it would receive the full support of the Committee.

44. Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1316 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the second preambular paragraph was intended to recall the Executive Director's comments on the status of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and on the importance of universal backing of the Programme through contributions.

45. With regard to the Costa Rican amendment (A/C.2/L.1320), it was the understanding of his Government that the bulk of contributions would have to be borne by developed countries. The Executive Director had spoken of the possibility that the initial \$100 million target for the period 1973-1977 might be exceeded, but had also reminded delegations of the need to follow up their pledges by cash payments as early as possible and had mentioned the slowness with which money pledged to the Fund had been paid.

46. The sponsors endorsed the Executive Director's assessment of the situation and believed that action should be taken. The operative paragraph of the draft resolution attempted to take account of all the elements he had mentioned. There was no need to elaborate on the crucial importance of the Fund as a key instrument for carrying out the important priority tasks outlined in the Action Programme of Stockholm, and it was the hope of the sponsors that the draft resolution would meet with unanimous support.

47. Mr. PARIS (Costa Rica) said that, in a spirit of co-operation and in the light of the Swedish representative's statement, his delegation would withdraw its amendment (A/C.2/L.1320).

48. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) appealed to the Uruguyan delegation to withdraw its amendment (A/C.2/L.1318) to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1305/Rev.1, in order to facilitate the adoption of the latter.

49. Mr. GIAMBRUNO (Uruguay) said that his delegation had submitted its amendment with a view to permitting the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1305/Rev.1 by consensus. The objective was to ensure that both the principles advanced by the sponsors and those advanced by other delegations having objections to the former were reflected. His delegation would consider the appeal of the Mexican delegation.

50. The CHAIRMAN announced that Lesotho had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1305/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.1312; India and Jordan, sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1312; Laos and Madagascar, sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1314; Turkey, a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1315; and the United Kingdom, a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1316. He felt obliged to respond to an insinuation made at the close of the 1567th meeting to the effect that his proposal to take up the draft resolutions on UNEP at a night meeting on Tuesday had been dictated by ulterior motives. He and the Secretariat had always tried to accommodate the interests of all delegations and were guided exclusively by the rules of procedure, the organization of work adopted by the Committee and what he considered to be the best interests of the Committee as a whole. Night meetings were necessary because the Committee was behind in its schedule, and the organization of business for such meetings must be made on a fair and generally acceptable basis. He had been astonished by the suggestion that his proposal had been biased, because some of the most historic decisions of United Nations organs, including the Second Committee, had been taken at night meetings, and he did not think that it had crossed anybody's mind to suggest that, in scheduling such meetings, the Chairman concerned had had the intention of influencing the voting. He appealed to delegations to maintain the statesmanlike attitude that had traditionally prevailed in the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

1569th meeting

Monday, 26 November 1973, at 3.15 p.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1569

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters II to IV, V (sections A, C and D), VI to XX, XXI (section B), XXV and XXVII to XXIX] (continued)*
(A/9003 and Corr.1, A/C.2/285)

UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION
(continued)* (A/C.2/282, A/C.2/L.1288, A/C.2/L.1302)

1. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said that there had been developments in the United Kingdom's

* Resumed from the 1553rd meeting.

attitude towards the revolving fund for natural resources exploration. His Government had always been opposed to the proliferation of special funds and felt that UNDP should be the centre for all development assistance activities. However, the developing countries had given ever-increasing attention to the revolving fund and were clearly, by and large, in favour of its establishment.

2. The United Kingdom recognized that the indicative planning figure (IPF) was not always sufficient to finance natural resources exploration projects and that the World Bank Group had not thus far shown any great interest in that type of activity, which did not really fall within its competence. Moreover, commercial com-