

fore welcome an explanation of all the practical implications of the establishment of centres by and for the University.

65. With regard to the personnel of the University, her delegation considered that the principle of academic freedom was somewhat incompatible with staffing the University with international civil servants. While possibly the personnel should be given certain immunities, it did not seem appropriate to give academic staff the status of United Nations officials, which would imply undesirable permanence and the creation of an international academic body cut off from its roots. Her delegation therefore welcomed the proviso introduced by the Executive Board of UNESCO that certain personnel of the University should be considered as staff members of the United Nations until the Council adopted its statutes.

66. According to article IX, the University's capital costs and recurrent costs would be met in the manner specified by General Assembly resolution 2951 (XXVII), which her delegation had assented to with a certain apprehension. That apprehension persisted, and she therefore wished to state her delegation's interpretation of paragraph 1 (a) as meaning that, for specific operations conducted for a specific period of time, certain United Nations organs such as UNDP, the

Fund for Population Activities and the specialized agencies could make a contribution in the form of study or research fellowships or reimbursement of costs, but in no other form.

67. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, her delegation welcomed the Japanese Government's invitation to the University to establish its Centre at Tokyo. The choice of site was an excellent one in view of its location in a dynamic and progressive country, and of the intellectual traditions of Asia. Her delegation had no objection in principle to the draft resolution, but detected a certain contradiction between operative paragraphs 1 and 2. Paragraph 1 simply adopted the Charter, although some delegations, including her own, had proposed amendments. Her delegation did not find the Charter fully satisfactory, but did not feel it would be desirable to postpone the establishment of the University. Paragraph 2 then invited the University Council to examine the comments made on the Charter with a view to enabling the General Assembly at its thirtieth session to consider amendments. She therefore proposed that for the sake of logic paragraph 1 should read either "Adopts provisionally . . ." or "Adopts, subject to such action as may be taken pursuant to operative paragraph 2, . . .".

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

1550th meeting

Wednesday, 7 November 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1550

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. DAVID (Liberia) said that his delegation had voted for General Assembly resolution 2951 (XXVII), by which the Assembly had decided to establish the United Nations University. The Liberian Government attached great importance to education, to which it allocated a large percentage of the national budget. The doors of the University of Liberia were open to foreign students and teachers, who were entirely free to use its facilities.

2. There was every reason for satisfaction with the work of the Founding Committee. The establishment of a world institution for research and training could have only beneficial consequences for the whole of mankind.

3. His delegation wished to thank the Government of Japan for its generous offer and supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, of which it would like to become a sponsor.

4. Mr. VEROSTA (Austria) said that his delegation had supported the United Nations University from the beginning. It therefore welcomed the final stage of the efforts to develop a feasible concept of a university system.

5. The idea of an international centre of scientific research was not a new one. A number of such centres had been created in the past in the field of international law, including the Institute of International Law, founded at Ghent in 1873, the International Law Association, founded in the same year, and The Hague Academy of International Law, whose activities had started in 1923. In the period of the League of Nations, the co-ordination of efforts in the cultural and scientific field had been entrusted to the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation in Paris. During the Second World War many people had advocated the establishment of international scientific centres throughout the world, including, in 1943, the Polish sociologist Feliks Gross. In 1947, UNESCO had been founded to serve as a centre of co-ordination and aid in the fields of education, science and culture, but the creation of an international university had not been considered in that connexion.

6. Several private associations, among which he wished to mention the International Association for the promotion of the world university, which had its seat at Stuttgart, had proposed an international university, but it had been the merit of U Thant, the former Secretary-General, to put forward the idea now under discussion.

7. The UNESCO study had shown from the beginning that the United Nations University could not be a "super-university". Many universities were now international, teaching students of many countries. The

United Nations University was to be conceived as a centre, actively encouraging and assisting universities and research institutions to innovate and to universalize their programmes, and helping to set up new institutions.

8. Was there really any need for the University, in view of the multiplication of institutes and even of international organizations in the field of education? As a member of the Panel of Experts and of the Founding Committee, he had soon become convinced that the new University would have a useful role to play in the field of research, since many subjects of particular interest to developing countries had never received the attention they deserved. For instance, the water buffalo, an animal with which a third of mankind had lived for ages, would merit a thorough scientific research.

9. His delegation was convinced of the usefulness and necessity of the United Nations University. It wished to thank the Government of Japan for its generous offer to accommodate the headquarters of the University.

10. Mrs. VAN BELLE (Netherlands) said that at the twenty-seventh session her delegation had expressed its concern regarding guarantees of academic freedom, without which no university, no research and training centre, could function. It had also urged the Founding Committee to ensure that personnel and trainees recruited by the University were not alienated from their own countries and their own civilization, and it had requested the inclusion in the charter of an article eliminating that risk. Having studied the report of the Secretary-General (A/9149 and Add.1) and the revised draft Charter (A/9149/Add.2), her delegation had found that the new version overcame many of the objections it had expressed to the original text, as given in annex I of document A/9149, and that the Secretary-General had taken into account the comments and observations of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

11. The revised draft Charter seemed to guarantee autonomy for the University and academic freedom, but her delegation wondered whether it might not be best to insert a definition of "academic freedom" in the Charter, in which case the partial explanation of that concept given in paragraph 1 of article II would be superfluous. It also regretted that the draft did not contain any guarantee concerning the risk of a brain drain. However, it would not press those points at the present stage.

12. Her delegation further regretted that the Secretary-General had chosen to use the word "incorporation", instead of the word "association" suggested by the Executive Board of UNESCO, in paragraph 4 (c) of article IV and in paragraph 1 of article VII. It would like the word "association" to be inserted in the text, so that paragraph 4 (c) of article IV would read "Decide upon the setting up, incorporation or association of the research and training centres . . .", while a similar change would be made in paragraph 1 of article VII.

13. The revised draft did not propose any arrangements under which institutions and individuals from various countries could be associated with the work of the University. It was true that paragraph 6 of article IV required the Council to consider the various kinds of arrangements, but her delegation considered that the latter should be enumerated in the Charter

itself. It also felt that the Charter placed more stress than was necessary on the predominant role of the Rector, and of the Council, as against that of the centres and programmes and of the Directors.

14. That brought her to the question of internal democracy, which was not adequately guaranteed in the present draft. One might have wished that the Charter should allow the Council to be convened by its Chairman, and not only by the Rector. Under the terms of paragraph 3 of article VII, it was again the Rector who would call the Conference of Directors. Her delegation would have preferred the Charter to give a specified number of Directors the right to convene the Conference whenever they felt that that might help to further the activities of the University. The same paragraph provided that the Conference of Directors should be called by the Rector "periodically". In her view, the Charter should specify definite intervals, in the interest of internal democracy.

15. The role to be played by UNESCO was not as large as her delegation would have wished, and it therefore supported the amendments submitted by the French delegation.

16. In view of the foregoing, her delegation would have preferred that the draft Charter should not be approved at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. However, since operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 provided for the possibility of a review at the thirtieth session, her delegation could agree to the adoption of the draft Charter.

17. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, she proposed that in paragraph 6 the word "Authorizes" should be replaced by "Invites", in conformity with paragraph 8 of decision 4.3.2 of the Executive Board of UNESCO (see A/9149/Add.1). Her delegation supported the choice of Tokyo as the site for the University's headquarters and thanked Japan and the other countries for their generosity. As could be seen from annex II of the report of the Secretary-General (A/9149), once the Charter had been adopted and the research programme had been submitted, the Netherlands Government would consider the possibility of financial support to projects which the University might undertake in co-operation with education and research institutions in developing countries.

18. Her delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, as amended in accordance with the proposal of the representative of France.

19. Mr. MBÉDO (Central African Republic) said there was no doubt that the United Nations University, if it materialized, could contribute to the solution of problems in a great variety of fields. The youth of today was in favour of peaceful coexistence among peoples, which must be based on human dignity, full development of the human personality and economic security. That contemporary outlook could find concrete expression in the United Nations University as was evidenced by the great interest in and support for the project which many Governments had shown.

20. The University must concentrate on world development and human well-being. The task assigned to it was entirely satisfactory to his delegation.

21. Research and training undertaken by the United Nations University must be peaceful and must be oriented towards the solution of vexatious world prob-

lems, including the malnutrition, shortage of food and diseases of all kinds afflicting the world—in short, the “absolute poverty” which the President of the World Bank Group had depicted to the Economic and Social Council on 15 October (1881st meeting).

22. Too much research was done in the north, in the developed countries of Europe and America and in Japan. Yet solutions to such general problems as malnutrition and health would be found in the vast forests, savannahs and deserts of Africa, Asia and South America if research were conducted there; tremendous unexploited natural resources abounded in those parts of the world; there were countless plant and animal species which could be used for intensive research in nutrition, pharmaceuticals and other fields. It was therefore essential to consider siting some units of the University in Africa, for example, where they could undertake or continue research in agronomy, animal husbandry and health. Furthermore, while the world hungered and the public was being warned of the risk of a food shortage, there was an enormous source of food, very largely unexploited, particularly in Africa. Again, where health was concerned, Africa was a treasure-house and there was no reason why physicians from developed countries should not collaborate with African “medicine-men”. In view of those considerations, the Central African Republic would be able to accommodate one of the units of the University.

23. His delegation appreciated the Japanese Government’s firm offer to accommodate the Centre of the United Nations University on its territory but could not agree with the criteria which had been adopted for determining the location of units of the University, namely: places offering adequate facilities for the development of its programmes and reasonable living conditions; good facilities for transportation and telecommunications; and the availability of skilled technical manpower.

24. To accept those criteria was to perpetuate the gap between the developing countries and the rich countries, and the differences between individual underdeveloped countries. Moreover, it was equivalent to saying that the land-locked countries, with their poor and inadequate transport facilities and telecommunications, would never have the privilege of being host to one of the proposed centres. If one wanted to narrow that gap, one would choose criteria of quite another kind. His delegation accordingly suggested that the research centres of the United Nations University should be situated near the raw materials they would need and in regions in which certain facilities were rudimentary. Even if such places lacked any kind of infrastructure, the international community could make additional efforts. It was highly relevant to bear in mind in that connexion the favourable effects the establishment of a research institute could have on an underdeveloped country or region: first, the awakening of the population’s awareness of and interest in the problem of development; secondly, the spread of education; and, thirdly, the intensification of work to improve the existing infrastructure.

25. His delegation hoped that its appeal would be heeded by the Founding Committee.

26. Mr. SCHRAM (Iceland) reviewed briefly the steps which had led to the establishment of an international university and said that it was incumbent on

Governments to activate the University, appoint the Rector and staff, and decide on the site of the University Centre. In that connexion, his Government was gratified by the generous offer of the Government of Japan and supported the setting up of the Centre at Tokyo.

27. With regard to the stipulations of the draft Charter, his delegation stressed that the University’s activities should be confined to issues which were truly of interest to mankind as a whole and should not cover problems of a traditional nature already being dealt with in other universities. Article I of the Charter should be implemented with that in mind, so that the activities of the new body would be focused on global problems of human survival, such as problems of the environment, of the earth’s dwindling resources, both marine and land-based, of development and of welfare. Other fertile research fields were peaceful relations among States and adherence to the rule of law.

28. He pointed out that his Government was anxious to co-operate with the University by establishing a centre in Iceland or affiliating existing research institutions, possibly in the field of marine science, to the University. Moreover, his delegation believed that the United Nations University should open its doors to young scholars from all parts of the world, as well as to eminent scientists, and should concentrate on the advanced training of young scholars and research workers. It would also be advantageous for those young people to play a strong role in the University Council, which would formulate policy and implement research programmes; the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO should bear that in mind when appointing persons to the Council.

29. Another reason for his Government’s support of the idea of the United Nations University was the impetus it could give to research and academic study in the developing countries, by building bridges between hallowed institutes of learning in the western world and the new University’s institutions in a number of developing countries. It would thus counteract the brain drain to developed countries and bring new academic opportunities and research funds to the developing countries, thereby accelerating economic growth and educational opportunity in the third world.

30. His delegation, as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, urged the Committee to approve it and to authorize the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to implement the Charter of the University.

31. Mr. FONSECA MARTINEZ (Colombia) said that his Government strongly favoured the establishment of the United Nations University and was encouraging public and private companies and universities in Colombia to co-operate with it. The Panel of Experts and the Founding Committee had done very satisfactory work, which had resulted in the creation of a university and the drawing up of its charter. 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 were also helpful to the Committee’s consideration of the item, not only because of their content, but also because they exemplified the co-ordination which should be the rule among United Nations bodies, in the interests of the international community: in the case under discussion,

the object was a new institution which should be able to count on the co-operation and experience of all existing bodies, particularly those which had been directly involved in its establishment.

32. He paid a special tribute to the Japanese Ambassador, who had worked indefatigably to make the idea a reality, with the encouragement of his Government, which had offered Tokyo as a site for the United Nations University Centre.

33. His delegation agreed with U Thant, the former Secretary-General, that the United Nations University should be truly international in character and be dedicated to the fulfilment of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; it should serve as an international forum for representatives of all regions of the world and should promote the exchange of ideas, with the emphasis on what united, rather than what divided. The draft Charter of the University was expressing those concepts when it referred to the universality of the institution, to its structure, to the organization of international research, to the dissemination of knowledge and experience and to the University's autonomy, in furtherance of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

34. The United Nations University was being established in an important period of international *détente* in which developed countries had an opportunity to intensify their aid to the poor countries through a new institution, one which could help to overcome the great obstacles to the well-being of the developing nations. The University would, for example, undoubtedly have a favourable effect on the manpower of developing countries, which it would train in selecting and adopting necessary technology or in adapting, where required, scientific advances to the conditions of their own countries, avoiding the transfer of technologies which might not be conducive to their progress. Furthermore, as stated in its Charter, the University would select a scientific staff of high-level research workers and teachers, bringing together scholars from various countries in order that the system of training itself might benefit from scientific and technological progress.

35. His delegation was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 and hoped that it would be approved unanimously by the Committee. It was not until the University had been operating for some time that it would be possible to consider amending certain provisions of its Charter with a view to the smooth functioning of the institution.

36. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO would bear in mind the principles of the Charter, in particular the special participation of the developing countries, in appointing members of the Council. The Council itself should take into account all past and future recommendations, particularly those of the Founding Committee, with regard to the official languages of the University.

37. Mr. RASAPUTRAM (Sri Lanka) welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 and expressed his appreciation of the work done in drafting the Charter of the United Nations University. He pointed out, however, that several regional organizations were already specializing in research and training in certain fields, and that the United Nations University should go

beyond the aims and objectives of those institutions or any other university by providing facilities for those engaged in research and post-graduate training and by conducting research on subjects that were of concern to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The University should therefore take a completely new approach to research and training and concentrate on basic human needs. Although it would have a number of campuses throughout the world, their activities should be governed by a co-ordinated programme.

38. With reference to the respective functions of the University Council and the Rector, whose terms of office were to be six and five years respectively, he observed that the draft Charter made no provision for a deputy rector to attend meetings of the Council in the absence of the Rector, a situation which might affect the continuity of administrative and academic functions.

39. With reference to the provision in paragraph 6 of article I of the revised draft Charter (see A/9149/Add.2) to the effect that the University would endeavour to alleviate the intellectual isolation of members of academic and scientific communities in the developing countries, he urged that that objective should be consciously pursued so as to obviate the development of a different type of isolationism on a regional basis. The proposed research centres should be international institutions, not confining themselves to specific subjects, but concerned with broader objectives in collaboration with world organizations, individual scholars and eminent persons. In other words, the international University and its associated institutions should not become technical assistance projects—a function which could be performed by specialized agencies. The research and training centres of the University should, however, have a certain degree of autonomy, subject to the broad policies laid down by the University Council, and should be able to devise work programmes which permitted research problems of particular interest to them to be disaggregated and pursued to their logical conclusion.

40. His delegation shared the concern expressed by other delegations about possible duplication between the work of UNITAR and that of the University; the problem was an important one, since the two institutions would be competing for voluntary contributions.

41. Mr. VIEMERÖ (Finland) said that his delegation had studied with great interest the report of the Founding Committee and had noted with satisfaction the results of its work as well as the observations made by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its ninety-third session. The Board had drawn attention to a question to which his delegation attached considerable importance, namely, the relations between the University Centre and its various institutions, and had concluded that those relations should be more clearly specified. Although the draft Charter defined the scope of the University, there were still several unresolved questions concerning the functioning of the University as an institution. The question of the status of the institutions and research projects, and the question of co-operation among the United Nations University, other universities and research institutions, including UNITAR, were equally important. The status of those institutions should be defined so as to bring them together in a coherent autonomous university within the United Na-

tions in accordance with the definitions embodied in the draft Charter. The associated institutions should maintain their basic national identity on the basis of separate agreements clearly defining their status, in keeping with the over-all objectives of the University and in such a way as to encourage the co-ordination necessary for its efficient functioning. The agreements would thus cover such questions as the planning and approval of research and education programmes, the selection of students, the status and financing of teachers and scientists and the sharing of expenses.

42. His delegation also wished to draw attention to the question of the collective status of the directors of the various institutions whom, according to paragraph 4 of article V of the draft Charter, the Rector of the University was supposed to consult regularly with a view to furthering the attainment of the objectives underlying the programme and research activities of the University. The role of the Conference of Directors should be emphasized and the Conference should meet perhaps once a year and should be consulted in connexion with elections to the University Council. Paragraph 1 of article IV should be amended accordingly.

43. The University Council should also find ways and means of furthering co-operation among the various institutions of the University, in particular between the Council and the Conference of Directors. Furthermore, there was one topic the Council should bear in mind when embarking on its work. It had been the experience in many countries that it had proven useful to enlarge the decision-making process of universities beyond the traditional academic pattern. His delegation hoped that the administration and policy-making of the international University would be as democratic as possible from the very beginning. In that spirit, it also hoped that the views of youth and those of non-governmental organizations would be taken into account at every stage of the decision-making process of the whole United Nations University institution.

44. The relations between UNITAR and the United Nations University required further elaboration and his delegation hoped that co-operation between the international University and the other universities and research institutes would be considered by the Council at an early stage.

45. The Government of Finland was currently studying the possibilities of participating in the project. Thus an associate institution within the framework of the University as envisaged in the draft Charter was under consideration by the Finnish authorities.

46. Mr. GARCIA BELAUNDE (Peru) said that his country had from the outset undertaken to support the establishment of an international university, a project to which various other nations, particularly Japan, had devoted substantial effort within the framework of the objectives established in the Charter of the United Nations. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, of which Peru was a sponsor, launched the United Nations in a new direction which could promote understanding and co-operation among countries all over the world through the instrument of a university, and he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted.

47. His delegation wished to emphasize that the draft Charter of the University and the draft resolution under consideration contained provisions which were suffi-

ciently flexible to enable the new institution to develop freely and autonomously and to confront new realities, while at the same time respecting the noblest university traditions of all regions of the world.

48. In that connexion, the very concept of a university was understood everywhere as a community of free men dedicated to scholarship and to the dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of international society as a whole, which should find in the new university an instrument capable of promoting understanding among all peoples and the fulfilment of their legitimate aspirations.

49. His Government had already suggested to the Secretary-General that one of the institutions of the United Nations University should have its headquarters in Peru. Peru reiterated that offer and suggested that that institution should study forms of co-operation among developing countries so that the positive experiences of some developing countries might benefit other countries in similar situations. He referred in particular to the transfer of technology, which could be facilitated by the exchange of information among developing countries, and to the study of the problem of rural integration and the extension of health services and educational systems.

50. In conclusion, his delegation accorded considerable importance to the establishment of the international University for it considered it an instrument capable of promoting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and strengthening international co-operation as well as co-operation among the developing countries.

51. Mr. KONGSIRI (Thailand) said that the draft Charter of the United Nations University appeared to be very comprehensive and covered all the requirements for a successful university. In that connexion, he stressed the value of the method of establishing a group of experts such as the Founding Committee of the University.

52. His delegation feared that the establishment of the University might make the problem of the brain drain from developing countries to developed countries even worse. Indeed, all the suggestions for affiliation or association came from developed countries; if those suggestions were adopted, the usual process would be repeated: a number of the personnel from developing countries who were sent to developed countries for training would remain in those countries once they had completed their studies. To obviate that risk, a certain number of research and training centres should be established in the developing countries, and for that purpose the necessary facilities, technology and equipment should be transferred to those countries. Teaching personnel could also be seconded by the developed countries to staff those centres. That had been done, for example, in the case of the Asian Institute of Technology at Bangkok; its faculty was on secondment from various universities and it was financed by contributions from developed and developing countries in the region. Only 4 per cent of the graduates of the Institute had left Asia after completing their studies.

53. It was therefore to be hoped that, in accordance with paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, the University Council would take precautions to ensure that the establishment of the University did not aggra-

vate the outflow of trained personnel from developing countries, but in fact reversed that process. His delegation also hoped that the University Council as well as government and non-governmental sources would study the possibility of transferring facilities, technology and equipment for research and training from the developed countries to centres established in developing countries and would furnish a faculty by secondment or by endowing a chair.

54. Mr. NDUNG'U (Kenya) said that his delegation, which was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, supported the comments and observations of the Executive Board of UNESCO and believed that the draft Charter of the University contained in document A/9149/Add.2 should be adopted. The sponsors of the draft resolution were recommending that the University Centre should be located in Japan, not only to take advantage of the generous offer of the Japanese Government but also to take into account the very important role which Japan had played in bringing the project to fruition.

55. In connexion with the location of the centres and the research and training programmes, he pointed out that Kenya had offered to be host to one such centre. He would like the centre to be established for the study of the use and development of natural resources or, failing that, for tropical medicine. His Government would in that case be ready to pledge 300,000 pounds or roughly \$870,000 towards the capital costs, or 10 per cent of the capital costs, whichever was less, towards the construction and establishment of the centre. That pledge was additional to an offer of free land for the site of the University centre. He hoped that the offer would be accepted.

56. It was to be hoped that, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would take action to ensure that the University could begin operating as soon as possible. His delegation appealed to donor countries to make a generous contribution to the University.

57. Mr. MUTOMBO (Zaire) saw no objection to supporting the proposal that Japan should be host to the University Centre; his delegation, however, fully supported the suggestion of China that a greater number of University centres should be located in the underdeveloped countries. Zaire, for its part, had offered to make available to the University its Nuclear Research Centre, which served as a regional centre for Africa. Zaire, as a major uranium producer, had some research workers experienced in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, mainly in agriculture. Furthermore, that type of research would help to resolve the world food crisis.

58. His delegation shared the concern of the French delegation that the draft Charter to be adopted should be a provisional instrument; in that spirit, his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300.

59. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) was pleased that a draft charter had been drawn up, as it would finally permit the establishment of the United Nations University. The draft was not perfect, but his delegation found it acceptable, particularly since it stressed the problems of economic and social development, especially in the developing countries. He pointed out that post-graduate training should be as important as research in the activities of the University. He was gratified to note

that Arabic would be a working language of the University and felt that the working languages should be explicitly stated in the Charter.

60. In accordance with the request of the non-aligned countries meeting at Algiers at the Conference of Heads of State or Government (5-9 September), one of the chairs to be established in the University should be for the study of non-alignment.

61. His delegation thanked the Government of Japan for its generous offer and supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300.

62. Mr. ČABRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation had always supported the idea of establishing a United Nations University in so far as it would consist of a decentralized network of scientific research institutions which would continue to be linked by joint programmes and projects even after the end of the research and post-graduate training period. The draft Charter broadly outlined that idea. The organizational matters had been well posed in the draft Charter, with the exception, perhaps, of the somewhat complicated procedure for the appointment of the Rector. It was however appropriate that particular stress had been laid on the role of the University Council as a collective organ established on a broad interdisciplinary and geographic basis. He was pleased that the role of the University Centre was to be very flexible. His delegation felt that the University should have at its disposal a team of competent scientific research workers so that it should not become a placement centre for international civil servants.

63. Financial considerations should not be a determining factor in deciding the location of the research and training centres and programmes if the intention was that the University should become a genuinely international institution of the highest quality.

64. Most countries, particularly the developing countries, hoped that the University would be oriented primarily towards the training of highly qualified personnel for the needs of the developing countries. It seemed that the draft Charter had not taken that fundamental principle fully into account. Of course, scientific research was very useful; however, the University should above all train personnel with a view to resolving the vital problems of economic and social development. It should not be permitted under any circumstances that the University should serve to train the best young people from the developing countries in order for them subsequently to be induced to work in the developing countries. It was to be hoped that the University Council, also the General Assembly when it reviewed the Charter at its thirtieth session, would take that consideration into account.

65. As the representative of Algeria had already said, the non-aligned countries hoped that one of the chairs of the University would be established for the study of non-alignment.

66. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300 and considered that the Centre should be set up in Japan because of the keen interest shown by the Japanese people and because of the excellent conditions for scientific research there.

67. Mr. ROUGET (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the idea of founding a university under the auspices of the United Nations for the purpose of re-

search in world problems of human survival, development and welfare, deserved the support and co-operation of all nations. His Government, which had actively participated in the discussions of UNESCO, was pleased at the progress made.

68. Some parts of the draft Charter of the University were similar to those of an international agency. His Government felt that the University should be an academic body rather than an international agency.

69. His delegation had noted with interest that the draft Charter provided for an appropriate representation of young scholars on the University Council. In order to achieve an appropriate regional representation as well, the various institutes to be associated with the University should also be represented on the Council.

70. The procedure for appointing the Rector of the University was certainly the best possible compromise for the time being; perhaps the appointment procedure could in future be replaced by an election procedure.

71. His delegation would like to know why, in paragraph 4 (c) of article IV of the draft Charter, the word "incorporated" had been used and not "associated" as recommended by the Executive Board of UNESCO. "Associated" had the advantage of permitting more flexibility.

72. The activities of the University and UNITAR and co-operation between the two bodies should be more

clearly defined; in particular, articles VI and VII should make a clearer reference to the relationship between those two institutions.

73. His comments should be understood in the light of paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300. His delegation hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus, and supported unreservedly the idea of locating the University Centre at Tokyo.

74. Mr. SOGLO (Dahomey) thanked all those who had worked to make the idea of the United Nations University a reality. His delegation shared the apprehensions of the representative of Singapore regarding the draft Charter in that there was a risk of duplication of effort and overlapping with UNITAR.

75. His delegation had no objection to the generous offer of the Government of Japan being accepted; however, as the representative of the Central African Republic had pointed out, the location of the research and training centres in cities which had the infrastructure required would be tantamount to perpetuating the under-development of the developing countries, whereas the express task of the University was to counter that trend. The offers of the developing countries, particularly the African countries, should therefore be given priority.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

1551st meeting

Wednesday, 7 November 1973, at 3.15 p.m.

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

A/C.2/SR.1551

AGENDA ITEM 52

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

1. Mr. CHRISTOFOROU (Cyprus) said that the chief purpose of the United Nations University would be to study the urgent problems facing humanity as a whole, problems with which the United Nations had unfortunately had little success for political reasons. It was to be hoped that the project would promote contacts between scholars from the developing and the industrialized countries and stimulate academic interest in implementing the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The University could assist many developing countries in solving problems affecting the survival and well-being of their peoples. Furthermore, it could be of substantial use in providing trained specialists and research workers for the developing countries, and in helping those countries to expand and improve their institutes of higher learning. The universality of the University would be its distinguishing feature. The decentralization and co-ordination of its units throughout the world would enable the University to contribute effectively to research of world-wide interest.

2. Some countries had expressed willingness to act as hosts to certain units (see A/9149, annex II). Since

Cyprus was at a geographical and cultural crossroads, it might be advantageous to set up a unit there—for example, an economic research centre in Nicosia. In March 1972, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus had informed the Secretary-General that the Ministry of Education was making available the Cyprus Centre for Scientific Research for programmes of comparative study on the interrelation between western and eastern cultures and civilizations. His Government would make its final commitment to establish a unit of the United Nations University after the adoption of the Charter of the University. Cyprus had already informed the Secretary-General that its contribution to the budget of the University would be commensurate with its ability to pay.

3. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Founding Committee in close collaboration with the secretariats of the United Nations, UNESCO and UNITAR, and endorsed the revised draft Charter (see A/9149/Add.2).

4. His delegation also supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1300, and wished to become a sponsor.

5. Mr. TAYLOR (Sierra Leone) expressed appreciation of the co-operation of UNITAR and UNESCO in the United Nations University project. His delegation had been closely involved in the development of the