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Chairman: Mrs. Lina P. TSALDARIS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3848) (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question from Mrs. LEFLEROVA (Czechoslovakia), said that in the course of the debate representatives could, if they wished, discuss international co-operation in the fields of science, culture and education, although that subject was dealt with, not in chapters VI or VII, but in chapter VIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3848).

2. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) commended the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its excellent work, particularly its completion of the single convention. He congratulated the Government of Afghanistan on its courageous decision to prohibit the cultivation of opium and expressed the hope that the various problems which Afghanistan would have to face in consequence of that action would be solved through international co-operation.

3. With reference to the forthcoming observance of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he remarked that the word "observance" was well chosen, since there was unfortunately no cause for celebration. In the decade which had elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)), not a single human right had been internationally recognized or protected on the basis of a universally accepted international instrument. Worse still, in many parts of the world some of the most elementary human rights and freedoms were being trampled underfoot by national Governments. The tenth anniversary should therefore be an occasion not for rejoicing but for bringing home to the peoples of the world how far they still were from the goals set forth in the Declaration, and for enlisting their support in striving towards those goals.

4. In connexion with the section on the status of women, he said that his country had recently taken measures to ensure that women civil servants and teachers could no longer be dismissed on marriage. That removed one of the last remaining restrictions on women's rights, and enhanced the possibility of the

Netherlands ratifying the Convention on the Political Rights of Women adopted in 1952 (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII)). Furthermore, the Netherlands Parliament was shortly expected to enact legislation which would give married women even wider rights in the matter of nationality than was required by the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women adopted in 1957 (General Assembly resolution 1040 (XI)).

5. Mr. CUNHA MELLO (Brazil) said that his country had always attached the greatest importance to the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), an organization which had brought much-needed help to many millions of mothers and children throughout the world. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Executive Board of UNICEF was constantly reappraising the work of UNICEF with a view to distributing its resources in the most rational manner. It was becoming increasingly clear, however, that the permanent needs of children could not be satisfied by short-term measures, and that UNICEF should co-operate with national governments in the preparation of long-range comprehensive programmes of public health and child nutrition. It was gratifying to note that UNICEF was already moving in that direction, and that it would in the future devote greater attention to such activities as the training of local medical and social welfare personnel. The benefits of such work would be enjoyed by a far greater number of mothers and children than UNICEF could otherwise hope to reach.

6. His delegation was seriously concerned at the shortage of funds currently being experienced by UNICEF. While he understood the reasons why the United States insisted on the "matching" principle, he could not but feel that that placed many countries with adverse balances of payments in a difficult position.

7. Mrs. LOPEZ (Colombia) observed that as Colombia was a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF and was a beneficiary of several of its programmes, the Colombian people had been able to see with their own eyes how well and how efficiently UNICEF functioned. The malaria eradication campaign had been particularly successful. As a token of its gratitude, Colombia had contributed \$250,000 to UNICEF for 1958. It was to be hoped that other Governments would make generous contributions, so that UNICEF could continue its magnificent work. She commended UNICEF for the close co-ordination of its activities with those of the World Health Organization (WHO) the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

8. Her Government took a deep interest in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. During the current year, Colombian women had for the first time taken part in presidential elections; and in general,

Colombian women were beginning to take an active part in the country's political and social life. They served in the legislature, were employed in the civil service, and practised various liberal professions.

9. She took pleasure in informing the Committee that the Secretariat had accepted her Government's invitation to organize a seminar on the participation of women in public life in Colombia in May 1959.

10. Mrs. HAYDEN (Canada) said that her country, having served on the Economic and Social Council for three terms, was very pleased with the increased emphasis which the Third Committee had recently been placing on its discussion of the Council's report, a document which dealt with many important matters.

11. Canada had been a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF since the inception of the programme, and was therefore well aware of the past record and present achievements of UNICEF. Unfortunately, much as UNICEF had accomplished, enormous efforts must still be made before children born into the world could be assured at least of freedom from hunger and from the diseases bred by poverty and dirt.

12. Over the years, UNICEF had built up a pattern of increasingly close co-ordination with several specialized agencies and with the Bureau of Social Affairs. She expressed the hope that the modest staff increase requested by the Bureau would be granted, so that co-operation between the Bureau and UNICEF could continue to expand, to the greater effectiveness of the UNICEF programmes.

13. In accordance with the principle that the membership of the Executive Board should be changed from time to time, so that new views could be heard and other countries drawn into the actual planning and operation of UNICEF, Canada was about to leave the Board. It had regarded its membership of the Board as a privilege, and its interest in the work of UNICEF would continue undiminished.

14. The idea had recently been put forward that UNICEF might extend its assistance to the field of education. While no one could deny that knowledge of the world he lived in was one of the child's basic needs, such assistance should not be undertaken if it meant curtailing any part of the current programme of UNICEF. The inescapable conclusion therefore was that the UNICEF must receive even greater financial support from Governments in the future.

15. She noted with deep satisfaction that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had completed the drafting of the single convention, and she welcomed the Economic and Social Council's decision (resolution 689 J (XXVI)) to recommend the holding of a conference of plenipotentiaries to consider and adopt that instrument.

16. The wise decision of the Government of Afghanistan to prohibit opium cultivation was to be commended, and she warmly supported the Council's decision that a study should be made of the possibility of United Nations assistance in the reorientation of those regions of Afghanistan which in the past had been dependent on the opium crop.

17. The Canadian Government had made extensive plans for the official observance of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, a non-governmental programme had been organized by the Human Rights Anniversary Committee for Canada; a series of conferences would be held all over Canada, culminating in the holding of a national conference at Ottawa. The basic theme would be a review of Canadian life in relation to the principles set forth in the Declaration, and at the national conference a representative gathering of Canadians would discuss the bill of rights which had recently been introduced in the House of Commons, and which represented the first attempt to codify the rights enjoyed by Canadian citizens. The programme would thus serve the two-fold purpose of giving publicity to the Declaration and of taking stock of the extent to which its principles were embodied in the country's daily life.

18. The Commission on the Status of Women had done fruitful work during the past year, and had provided a sound basis for further progress on such questions as the status of women in private law, and economic opportunities for women.

19. Social progress and the promotion of human rights were, of necessity, slow processes; but it was encouraging to know that international machinery to advance those great purposes existed, and that every year saw the achievement of some constructive results.

20. Mr. ALDUNATE (Chile) observed that for the man in the street, who was unaware of all the work that the United Nations was doing, UNICEF was the body which absolved international organizations from their alleged responsibility for the conflict which was still rife throughout the world. The Children's Fund might be regarded as the heart of the United Nations; but just as the human heart depended on the support of the rest of the human body, so UNICEF was dependent on assistance from Governments. Some countries which had in the past known no social assistance whatsoever had UNICEF to thank for the initial steps they had been able to take in the spheres of public health, maternity and child welfare and assistance to children. Under-developed countries, such as his own, had benefited greatly from the dried milk, fish flour and penicillin plants, seminars, training programmes and technical assistance that UNICEF had provided, and were making every effort to increase their contributions to UNICEF.

21. The great Powers, which were economically much more advanced, might not feel so great a need for UNICEF; however, they should take into account the fact that collective welfare, on behalf of the children who were to be the men and women of tomorrow, was a more far-sighted investment than preparations for war.

22. The Chairman of the Executive Board had said that the United States had offered to increase its contributions for 1959 to \$11 million if the other contributing countries would together match that sum. An amount of \$2.1 million was still needed to match the United States offer; and if that goal was achieved, the budget for 1959 would stand at \$23 million with the addition of funds from other sources. The representatives on the Third Committee must have some influence with their Governments; they should prove their desire for peace by using that influence to secure increased contributions to UNICEF. In addition,

the Committee should embody in its report its collective recommendation that government quotas for contributions should be increased. In promoting the health and welfare of the world's children, the Committee would be helping effectively to dispel the threat of war.

23. Mrs. ALI SOLYMAN (Afghanistan) expressed her delegation's deep appreciation of the work of the Economic and Social Council and its commissions. Unfortunately, that work had not been given nearly enough publicity. More effort should be made in that direction; it was to be hoped that members of the Committee would co-operate in finding better ways and means of bringing the economic and social activities of the United Nations to the knowledge of the public.

24. The report of the Council had not always been allotted enough time to enable the Committee to deal adequately with the important questions involved. It was to be hoped that at the current session a more serious approach would be made to problems of social and human rights.

25. Turning to the section of the Council's report relating to UNICEF, she paid a tribute to all those who had contributed to the Fund's success. As a recipient country, Afghanistan had been assisted by the Fund in various ways. If its needs had not been fully met, that was because they were very great; Afghanistan fully appreciated the value of UNICEF assistance and co-operation.

26. Her country wished, within the limits of its capabilities, to extend every possible co-operation to UNICEF in its work. Its experience had shown it that close on-the-spot contact with the governments and organizations of the countries concerned was essential for the effective execution of UNICEF programmes since it was only thus that local conditions could be properly assessed.

27. With regard to the section of the Council's report on the international control of narcotics, she drew attention to paragraph 454, which referred to the effect of the prohibition of opium production in Afghanistan on the economic life of certain sections of the country. She hoped that the General Assembly would take into account the recommendations of the Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in that connexion, and that the necessary measures would be taken by the specialized agencies and the technical assistance organs concerned.

28. In connexion with the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she expressed the hope that by 10 December 1958 people throughout the world would have achieved a fuller enjoyment of human rights. The Afghan delegation considered that all aspects of human rights were of great and equal importance; but it felt that the sections of the report concerning discrimination and the status of women should be given particular attention. It hoped that the Third Committee would soon discuss those subjects as separate items on its agenda.

29. Mrs. PIDTYCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed her delegation's appreciation of the work of UNICEF. The Ukrainian SSR had special reason for regarding the activities of the Fund with understanding and sympathy in view of its experiences

during the Second World War, when many Ukrainian children had suffered serious physical and moral harm. Now that the sad consequences of the war had been remedied, the Government of the Ukrainian SSR, desiring to help other countries to bring up a happy new generation, had decided to participate in UNICEF, and had made a contribution of 300,000 roubles. It hoped that that contribution would be used mainly to meet the needs of sick and hungry children in countries where standards of living were still low.

30. The Ukrainian SSR regarded child welfare as a highly important national interest. It therefore constantly expanded its network of children's establishments, improved its social security system, and extended free education at all levels. The employment of children under sixteen was prohibited, and the working day for adolescents was fixed at four hours. More and more recreation centres, clubs and various cultural and sports facilities were being established. Hundreds of thousands of children attended health camps, sanatoria and vacation resorts. As a result of the steady improvement in living standards, the number of births in the Ukraine had increased by 25,000 in 1955-1956, while infant mortality had dropped sharply. In mentioning those achievements, her delegation in no way wished to minimize the efforts of countries which had recently achieved independence and were having difficulty in remedying the evil consequences of the past. It was the duty of UNICEF to help such countries.

31. Her delegation considered that the United Nations had not in the past attached sufficient importance to the question of fostering co-operation in science, culture and education. Although the adoption of resolution 1164 (XII) by the General Assembly had helped to promote cultural exchanges, the possibilities were not being fully exploited. The friendly exchange of scientific and cultural achievements could help to relax international tension.

32. One way of fostering friendly relations among nations was to encourage exchanges of tourists, delegations, groups of specialists and so forth. The number of overseas visitors to the Ukraine had increased considerably in the past four or five years. Particularly valuable in the same connexion were cultural and artistic exchanges, since art, while it faithfully reflected national character, was a universal language. In recent years, many Ukrainian artists had appeared before audiences in a number of countries and many foreign artists and troops had appeared in the Ukraine, where foreign film festivals had also been enthusiastically welcomed. But despite the advances that had been made, much remained to be done, and the United Nations and the specialized agencies should make great efforts to develop international cultural relations.

33. With regard to section IX of chapter VII of the Council's report (A/3848), she pointed out that women enjoyed political rights in only seventy countries, while in eleven countries women were not entitled to elect or be elected. That was socially unjust and undemocratic. Moreover, on 1 August 1958 only twenty-nine States had ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. It should be borne in mind that legal recognition of the political rights of women was an essential first step towards their practical implementation.

34. In the Ukrainian SSR, the right of women to vote and be elected on equal terms with men was not only recognized but fully implemented. Women also had equal rights with men in the field of employment and labour conditions. Any discrimination against married women or mothers was punishable by law. Working women had the same pension rights as men and enjoyed the free medical assistance which was the right of all citizens of the Republic. Medical services were extremely comprehensive, and the consequent increase in the birth-rate, improvement of health and increase in life expectancy testified to the improving well-being of the whole people.

35. The United Nations should make every effort to expedite the solution of the problem of equal pay for equal work, as also of the problem of securing equal pensions for men and women.

36. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that the development of UNICEF, as it emerged from the reports covering the past two years, was highly satisfactory. The Fund had not only continued work on the programmes already in hand but had sought new means of action. His delegation welcomed that practical approach. For instance, UNICEF had decided to devote an increasing proportion of its funds to combating malnutrition, since the millions of dollars devoted to disease control might well be wasted unless malnutrition, which rendered children vulnerable to disease, was also attacked.

37. Its decision to devote more attention to the training of personnel was also a wise one. Although the results of training programmes might not be so spectacular as those of some others, they were likely to be lasting. By training local doctors, nurses and birth attendants, UNICEF made sure that its work would endure. At the recent meeting of the Executive Board, in September, the question of UNICEF assistance for primary education had been discussed. That was a delicate problem demanding very careful consideration; but the fact that it had been considered at all showed that the Fund's approach was dynamic.

38. However, the Fund could certainly not be accused of being unrealistic. The Executive Director and the Executive Board considered all requests for assistance in the light of the funds available, and, within those limits, sought always to make the action of UNICEF effective. With that end in view, the Board was trying to achieve closer co-operation with other agencies. Its decision to establish a UNICEF/FAO Joint Policy Committee and to adopt procedures for combined action with the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat was in harmony with that policy.

39. The French delegation felt that the work of the Programme Committee and the Executive Board needed to be re-examined with a view to ensuring greater efficiency. It would submit specific proposals to that end to a forthcoming session of the Board.

40. In the field of narcotic drugs, the French Government attached particular importance to the provision of special technical assistance to countries which had decided to ban the cultivation of the opium poppy; the need for such assistance had been emphasized by the Iranian representative at the preceding meeting. At its thirteenth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had asked the Economic and Social Council to earmark a definite sum of money for such aid. Un-

fortunately, the Council had not agreed to that recommendation; but members of the Council had recognized that a number of countries lacked the resources to undertake desirable projects in narcotics control and were particularly in need of technical assistance.

41. In the field of human rights, his delegation welcomed resolution 683 E (XXVI), in which the Council authorized the Secretary-General to convene a second conference, in Geneva in 1959, of non-governmental organizations interested in the eradication of prejudice and discrimination. In view of the great interest shown by non-governmental organizations, such a conference, if carefully prepared, should be most successful.

42. Turning to freedom of information, he expressed regret that the mandate of the Committee on Freedom of Information had not been extended. He felt that the Committee should have been allowed another year to study the problems of freedom of information before the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Rights; but in its resolution 683 C (XXVI), the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and to interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, inviting them to submit their observations on the report to the Commission on Human Rights. It had also requested the Commission on Human Rights to complete its recommendations on freedom of information; thus the subject was still on the Commission's agenda, and it should therefore be possible to deal with the Committee's report.

43. His delegation welcomed the Council's resolution 683 F (XXVI), in which it recommended to the General Assembly that, during its thirteenth session, it devote a special meeting to the observance of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and urged all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to observe the tenth anniversary in their own country, and in particular to make the text of the declaration widely known. Those recommendations were quite unexceptionable; but he felt that the best way to observe the anniversary would be to complete the work on the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, as requested in the Council's resolution 651 B (XXIV), operative paragraph 7. He welcomed the Council's decision (resolution 693 B (XXVI)) to allow the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to hold annual meetings.

44. As to the question of the status of women, he remarked that the Council's decisions regarding the political rights of women, the status of women in private law and economic opportunities for women were satisfactory, but he regretted that the Council had not seen fit to endorse the recommendation made by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twelfth session concerning the age of retirement and the right to pension. In France, the Commission's recommendations regarding equal pay for equal work were already in effect. If that principle was fully applied, there could be no distinction regarding the age of retirement.

45. Mr. DEHLAVI (Pakistan) said he would confine

his remarks to section I of chapter VI of the report (A/3848). It was gratifying to note that about a hundred countries and territories had received UNICEF aid for 514 programmes, that 189 programmes had been completed, and that nearly 50 million children and expectant and nursing mothers were benefiting from UNICEF assistance. The work had been particularly effective in the under-developed countries, where it was most needed.

46. Approximately 33 million of Pakistan's total population of 84 million were children, and the activities of UNICEF in the field of maternal and child welfare services had therefore been greatly appreciated. UNICEF had provided supplementary equipment, drugs and diet for the maternal and child welfare centres in Pakistan, of which there would be 225 by the end of 1958. Four centres for training community health visitors for rural work had been equipped by UNICEF, and WHO instructors had participated in the programmes. Teaching equipment for nurses' training had also been provided, and worn-out equipment had been replaced in maternity hospitals. The Children's Fund had supplied \$335,000 to equip a plant for the production of technical DDT for malaria control, and drugs and equipment to combat typhus and kala-azar. About 22 million tests had been completed in the BCG mass vaccination campaign, and efforts were being made to integrate BCG vaccination into the routine health services. The Children's Fund had provided X-ray and laboratory equipment for tuberculosis control and treatment, and equipment for a penicillin production plant.

47. The aid provided by UNICEF in the field of nutrition had been invaluable, particularly in times of flood and famine. Such disasters had been not infrequent in Pakistan recently, and their chief victims were children and mothers. His country was extremely grateful for all the assistance it had received in such cases, and was glad that other countries in similar circumstances had received aid from the same sources. It was to be hoped that UNICEF might in the near future be able to give aid for primary education.

48. Accordingly, his delegation strongly supported the appeals which had been made for increased contributions by Governments, in order that the requests for allocations for 1959, amounting to \$26.3 million, might be adequately met. He hoped that the co-operation already achieved between UNICEF and WHO, FAO, the Bureau of Social Affairs and other bodies would become closer and more effective.

49. In conclusion, he endorsed the remarks of a number of previous speakers concerning the need to extend technical assistance to the Government of Afghanistan to mitigate the economic and social consequences of its decision to prohibit the production of the opium poppy.

50. Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that the record of UNICEF for the past year was, as it had always been, one of achievement. His delegation was proud of Australia's continuous association with the Fund, both as a member of the UNICEF Executive Board and as a regular and fairly substantial contributor. As the Executive Director had reported to the Board at its most recent session, 50 million children and mothers in more than a hundred countries and territories had benefited from UNICEF aid in 1957. Its expenditure

during the coming year would exceed \$22 million, bringing the total amount of UNICEF allocations during the twelve years of its existence to \$282 million. A point of particular interest was that the total value of the matching funds and supplies provided by recipient countries over the same period had reached an equivalent of \$520 million. The policy that UNICEF programmes should provide a nucleus for national action was vital, in that it ensured the continuance of the programmes after the withdrawal of UNICEF.

51. The Australian delegation had been particularly interested in the forecast of allocations for 1959-1961. It was clear that UNICEF might soon have to consider making larger allocations for anti-malaria programmes, if the value of the work already done was not to be lost. The Executive Director of UNICEF had pointed out that the forecast for malaria campaigns in the next few years could be considered only as an approximation, in view of the extension of many programmes, both geographically and in duration. Instead of providing aid for new malaria projects, UNICEF might well find itself obliged to devote the available funds to continuing programmes already approved. It therefore seemed likely that when, in September 1959, the Board reviewed the next forecast of allocations, it would be faced with a serious decision, involving consideration not only of the malaria campaigns but also, as a corollary, of programmes in other fields of UNICEF activity. He did not wish to labour the point, but the problem was a most important one. As had already been pointed out, several organizations were co-operating in carrying out anti-malaria campaigns. The Australian delegation hoped that UNICEF would, with the other organizations concerned, consider the question of co-ordination and financing in the closest possible detail, as the Fund's decision regarding its future operations in that field would probably greatly affect its future programming. If a large proportion of the Fund's resources continued to be tied up for an indefinite period in anti-malaria campaigns, that might reduce the flexibility which was essential if the Fund was to meet requests in other fields of assistance. On the other hand, if the anti-malaria programmes were to achieve their initial purpose they must be carried through to a successful conclusion. The UNICEF Executive Board must be kept thoroughly informed, so that the important issues involved would be seen in their proper perspective and resolved in the most effective way. The same principle applied to the deliberations of the governing bodies of other organizations co-operating in the campaigns against malaria.

52. A substantial and satisfactory proportion of the allocations for 1959-1961 was to be devoted to mother and child welfare programmes. His delegation welcomed the increasing emphasis laid, in those programmes, on the training and supervision of staff, and was happy to note the growing participation of the Bureau of Social Affairs in the welfare aspects of such programmes.

53. At the recent session of the Executive Board there had been an interesting debate on the evaluation of all UNICEF-assisted programmes. There were administrative difficulties in the presentation of evaluation reports, particularly when they involved co-ordination with specialized agencies and other

bodies; he therefore commended the Board for its decision that, in spite of those difficulties, an evaluation report should be presented by the Executive Director every year and that information should be provided to show the probable duration of existing and proposed programmes.

54. There could be no doubt that Australia appreciated the work done by UNICEF in 1958. If any proof of that was needed, it could be found in the Australian Government's decision to maintain its contribution, subject to parliamentary approval, at the current level of \$500,000.

55. As the Australian Minister for External Affairs had stated in the General Assembly (759th plenary meeting), science had come to figure to an increasing degree in United Nations activities. The Minister had stressed the need for co-operation between the specialized agencies in dealing with scientific problems, and had said that when the Council's report was discussed in committee his delegation would develop that theme. The Australian delegation intended to introduce a draft resolution on that subject.

56. Mr. CALDERON PUIG (Mexico) said that UNICEF was to be congratulated on its achievements. A draft declaration on the rights of the child had been discussed in the United Nations but the only practical steps towards protecting those rights had been taken by UNICEF, which provided for children's needs and tried to remedy the evils which threatened their future. The Fund not only dealt with immediate problems but took long-term action to eradicate such scourges as endemic diseases. With the assistance of UNICEF, Mexico had initiated a malaria campaign thanks to which mortality attributable to malaria had already dropped sharply.

57. He could not agree with those speakers who had maintained that the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was not an occasion for celebration because the draft International Covenants on Human Rights had not yet been completed. He for his part felt that there were grounds for optimism. During

the past ten years, there had been a growing consciousness, both inside and outside the United Nations, of the problems of discrimination, and steps were being taken to abolish it. The Geneva Conference of 1956 had adopted the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery. Progress was therefore being made towards the abolition of slavery; that could not but be a subject for rejoicing. The International Labour Organisation, also, had some notable achievements to its credit in that field. The United Nations family was one and indivisible, and what happened in one country affected all others. The examples he had given showed that the United Nations could be proud of some of its achievements during the past ten years and could celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration with a clear conscience. As a more concrete expression of its dedication to the protection of human rights, it could complete the draft International Covenants on Human Rights with all speed.

58. In the field of narcotics control, he welcomed the progress which had been made towards the adoption of a single convention on narcotic drugs and the measures which had been taken to prevent the illicit production of and traffic in narcotic drugs. In that connexion, he wished to pay a tribute to Afghanistan for prohibiting the production of opium. The international community should now assist Afghanistan to overcome the difficulties resulting from that decision.

59. The progress which had been achieved in the field of women's rights was evidenced by the fact that an increasing number of States had given full political rights to women. In Mexico, women had formerly been eligible to vote only at municipal elections but now, under new legislation, they had been given full political rights. They had voted in the last presidential and parliamentary elections, and women had been elected to parliament and were working for their country in the civil and diplomatic services.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.