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Chairman: Mr. Moraiwid M. TELL (Jordan).

AGENDA ITEM 52

General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system (continued) (A/6428, A/C.2/L.877/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.895)

1. Mr. HADJIMILTIS (Cyprus) said that he supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.877/Rev.1 which clearly explained the reasons why the item had been put on the agenda of the current session of the General As-

sembly and whose recommendations laid the groundwork for constructive action. It was the first time that a general review of the kind was being sought, and its importance and the future repercussions on the whole structure of the organizations concerned with activities in the fields in question could not be underestimated. The draft resolution had the right approach in that it laid the foundation for a reorganization of economic development, if such reorganization was necessary. The work of analysis and evaluation should not be tied to any preconceived actions. He believed in the usefulness of a general review because the time had come to obtain a general picture of the whole situation. The point had been made that the proposed review ran the risk of being a duplication of the work of other bodies, but the proposed *ad hoc* committee responsible for the general review would work closely with those other bodies and enjoy the benefit of their experience. Some repetition was inevitable, but that was not a sufficient reason for abandoning the whole project.

2. The United Nations was no longer what it had been twenty years before. Its membership had more than doubled. Nobody had predicted the magnitude and scope of its economic and social activities or the admiration which it would win. Actually the developing countries had changed the institutional orientation and structure of the Organization; every new Member State was asking for technical assistance. In his general statement (1037th meeting), he had paid a tribute to those who had made one of the dreams of the founders of the United Nations a reality. Far from complaining about any deficiency of the United Nations programmes, his Government was grateful for the assistance it had received in many fields. In that context he quoted from a booklet, published in October 1966, on the technical assistance activities of the United Nations in Cyprus over the past five years. The booklet stated that Cyprus had received extensive and varied amounts of technical assistance because its Government had been well organized in making its requests and had co-operated effectively in those activities. The worth-while results had smoothed the way for approval of further requests and had been a gratifying demonstration of how useful a part technical assistance could play in promoting economic development.

3. Mankind expected the United Nations not only to solve political crises but also to correct the maladjustments of the world. The achievements of the United Nations in economic and social development were subjected to scrutiny and stirred up even more hopes. That was why efforts must be redoubled in areas in which it had scored so much success.

4. His delegation was gratified that the draft resolution recognized the importance and nature of the position of the Economic and Social Council and the central role assigned to it in the economic, social and human rights fields under the United Nations Charter. Hence it was unfair to say that the draft resolution was designed to undermine the Council; its provisions in no way derogated from the basic responsibility of the Council which was more necessary than ever. The Second Committee would be performing a very valuable service to the United Nations by providing the impetus and suggesting the establishment of a committee for conducting a comprehensive review of United Nations and related economic and social programmes. Such a review would diagnose the root causes of problems, ascertain the points which needed improvement, including more efficient co-ordination, lead to a tentative evaluation of the whole range of methods, goals and results, and gear the potential of the whole system to contemporary needs.

5. Mr. Donald MACDONALD (Canada) recalled that he had expressed some reservations about the fact that, under the terms of the draft resolution, the general review would not be entrusted to the Economic and Social Council, to which the Charter had assigned the task of co-ordination in the economic and social fields. He quoted from the statement he had made on that subject on 10 November 1966 (1065th meeting). He welcomed the changes which the sponsors had made in the original text of the draft resolution, as a result *inter alia* of the discussions he had had with them. The preamble of the draft resolution, for example, now explicitly acknowledged the importance of the steps the Council had taken to improve its methods of work and welcomed the steps envisaged for the implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. In the operative part of the draft, too, the sponsors had improved the paragraph outlining what was required in the way of documentation for the proposed general review.

6. Nevertheless, despite the fact that the respective positions had moved closer together, there remained the question of principle which was the main difficulty, namely, the Canadian delegation's conviction that the general review should be assigned in the first instance to the Economic and Social Council. His delegation had intended to submit an amendment to that end but had refrained from doing so at the request of some of the sponsors, who wished to consider what further changes they themselves could make in their text. It now appeared, however, that they were not prepared to make the required changes at the moment. The Canadian delegation had therefore submitted its amendment to the Committee (A/C.2/L.895).

7. It considered that the General Assembly should set an example by respecting the prerogatives and specialized roles of its own organs, in the present case, the Economic and Social Council. The Council should be asked to make recommendations on the proposal for a general review; if the Council was bypassed and the task in question was assigned

directly to a committee incorporating the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, that would create a situation similar to that in which the First Committee would assign a disarmament problem to a committee without referring it first to the Disarmament Commission at Geneva, or in which the Fourth Committee would assign a question concerning colonialism to a committee without referring it to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In the present case, respect for the principle would not entail any unnecessary delay, especially in the preparation of the documentation, which owing to the complex nature of the question would require several months to compile. The sponsors of the draft resolution had presumably had that fact in mind when they had requested the *ad hoc* committee to submit only a "preliminary" report to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-third session. The documentation required could not be ready before the summer and that committee could not usefully meet before then. Whatever body was finally appointed to undertake the general review, it would work to greater effect if it started on the basis of the initial review conducted by the Economic and Social Council.

8. It might be asked why the Council, at its last session, had not responded to the invitation addressed to it by the General Assembly at its twentieth session to comment on the proposal for a general review. The reason probably was that the Council had had more urgent questions to consider at that time, including that of its own working methods. The situation was now, however, fundamentally different: the Council would receive a request from the Assembly to examine the proposal for a general review and to report back to the General Assembly at its next session; it would have before it all the documentation that the Secretariat had been able to prepare; and it was now better equipped to address itself to that far-reaching task than it had been at its forty-first session.

9. He hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution and the other members of the Committee would find the amendments submitted by his delegation acceptable.

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to adjourn the debate on the draft resolution concerning the general review (A/C.2/L.877/Rev.1) and to adopt its reports on items 51, 43, 50 and 45 of its agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 51

Review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Secretary-General (*concluded*)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (A/C.2/L.897)

11. Mr. REISCH (Austria), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Committee on agenda item 51.

The draft report (A/C.2/L.897) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 43

Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations (concluded)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (A/C.2/L.896)

12. Mr. REISCH (Austria), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Committee on agenda item 43.

The draft report (A/C.2/L.896) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 50

Programme of studies on multilateral food aid: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (A/C.2/L.892)

13. Mr. REISCH (Austria), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Committee on agenda item 50.

The draft report (A/C.2/L.892) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 45

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources (concluded)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (A/C.2/L.894)

14. Mr. REISCH (Austria), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Committee on agenda item 45.

The draft report (A/C.2/L.894) was adopted.

Organization of the Committee's work

15. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) requested that in the future the Rapporteur should explain the contents of any amendment proposed during a meeting and incorporated in a draft resolution.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that account would be taken of the wish expressed by the representative of Lebanon.

17. He read out a letter he had received from the President of the General Assembly, in which the President requested representatives who might wish to submit, in plenary meetings of the General Assembly, amendments to draft resolutions already adopted in the Committee to be so good as to transmit the text of their amendments to the Secretariat in good time before the discussion of the item in question in plenary meeting.

18. At the request of the sponsors of the draft resolution concerning agenda item 52 (A/C.2/L.877/Rev.1), who were anxious to continue their conversations with other interested delegations, he suggested that the meeting should be suspended.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.49 a.m.

19. The CHAIRMAN announced that the sponsors of the draft resolution wanted to go on with their conversations with the interested delegations. He therefore suggested that the meeting be adjourned.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

