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

AGENDA ITEMS 52, 51 AND 43

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 and Add.1-4)

Review and reappraisal of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/6303, chap. XV; A/6432, E/4216)

Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations (continued) (A/6003, chap. X, sect. II; A/6114, A/6429, E/4075)

1. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) said that the Economic and Social Council had three major roles to perform: (a) to supervise the activities of its subsidiary bodies and the execution of the United Nations work programme in the economic, social and human rights fields; (b) to lay down broad policy guidelines in those fields; (c) to co-ordinate those activities, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. All those functions must be envisaged as a whole. The policy directives had to encompass the whole spectrum of the activities of the United Nations family and should be aimed at identifying priority objectives and areas with due regard for needs and resources, particularly of the developing countries. The policy decisions should be taken into account by the members of the United Nations family and the subsidiary organs of the Council in the formulation of their work programmes. The

other two functions of the Council were related to the adoption of effective measures for achieving the objectives and priorities laid down and to the need for avoiding duplication and the waste of limited resources.

2. In recent years, members of the United Nations family had become increasingly conscious of their role in furthering the economic and social progress of the developing countries and, although the bodies active in that field had been strengthened, the Council had not been given the means necessary to discharge effectively its increased functions. The Council's prestige was ebbing and doubts began to arise as to whether it could fulfil its role properly; it no longer reflected the new membership of the United Nations and the developing countries were chary of entrusting it with decision-making powers in fields of particular interest to them, so long as they were not adequately represented. The crisis of confidence which had paralysed the Council had been overcome by the increase in its membership in 1966 and, at its fortieth and forty-first sessions, it had vibrated with new life. It was in that new perspective that the three items on the Committee's agenda must be considered.

3. Practical measures must now be taken to strengthen the Council and enable it to play an effective role as the principal United Nations organ in the economic, social and human rights fields.

4. At its forty-first session, the Economic and Social Council had taken a number of decisions to improve its working methods. The most important concerned the division of work between its two sessions, the redefinition of the functions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the reduction of the burden of documentation, the limitation of certain functional commissions to biennial sessions, the staffing of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), co-ordination and co-operation among planning, training and research institutes, the analytical reports to be submitted by the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the evaluation of technical co-operation programmes. All those measures, together with greater use of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and of the Committee for Development Planning, should enable the Council to discharge its functions better. For that purpose, it was necessary to have a clear picture of the operational and research activities of the United Nations family and of the modifications to be made in existing activities, procedures and administrative arrangements so as to enable the Council to play its central co-ordinating role. The dead wood that had accumulated over the past twenty years must be removed and the whole system streamlined.

5. It was in that spirit that the Pakistan delegation had become one of the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.877, whose initial aim was an assessment of the present activities of the United Nations family so that Governments could appreciate better the types of assistance they could expect from the United Nations. Secondly, the draft resolution contained recommendations for the modifications necessary to ensure the smoother functioning of the co-ordinating bodies by providing them with clear guidelines for their activities.

6. He drew attention to the fact that in its second report (A/6343) the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies had stressed the central role entrusted to the Council by the Charter with respect to studying international questions in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields and also to the need to strengthen certain elements in the techniques now being used and to improve existing co-ordination procedures. To that end, it was essential to clear the backlog and to obtain a clearer picture of the aims of co-ordination.

7. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had also stressed that, because of the immense needs of Member States, the best use must be made of limited resources by means of adequate planning and co-ordination of the whole United Nations effort. It recommended that the reconstituted Special Committee on Co-ordination should examine co-ordination procedures at an early stage and for that purpose an over-all review of all the activities in those fields and a rationalization of the whole system was first necessary. It had been suggested that the general review should be entrusted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, but that Committee had a continuing function to perform which it could not discharge properly so long as the system had not been rationalized; it still would have to undertake a broad review of the activities of the United Nations in one or two selected fields. So long as the general review had not taken place, it would be difficult to divide the work between the two sessions of the Council on the basis of a factual analysis. He therefore hoped that those delegations which had opposed the draft resolution because it provided for the establishment of a new committee should reconsider their position, because neither the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination nor the Economic and Social Council could themselves undertake the necessary general review.

3. The United Nations family should already be looking forward to the next United Nations Development Decade with a view to accelerating the economic growth of the developing countries through practical measures which would be better co-ordinated than those of the first Development Decade. It was mainly in order to avoid a repetition of what had happened during the first Development Decade that the Pakistan delegation had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Like most delegations, it was particularly keen that all the members of the United Nations family should be better equipped and oriented towards meeting the demands that would be made during the next Development Decade. The committee envisaged in

the draft resolution should make all the necessary recommendations for that purpose and should inspire the developing countries with greater confidence in the ability of the United Nations family to achieve the goals of the 1970's. He invited all members of the Second Committee to consider the draft resolution in that light and to support it.

9. His delegation accepted the suggestion that a passage should be included in the Committee's report on the measures already taken by the Economic and Social Council to improve its working methods. The exact wording would have to be worked out later.

10. The item on decentralization should be considered in greater detail only after the submission of the report of the proposed ad hoc committee on its general review. Decentralization was also closely linked with the question of regional development which was mentioned in operative paragraph 1, section II (b), of the draft resolutions and which had been postponed until the next session of the General Assembly.

11. The sponsors of the draft resolution would gladly accept any constructive suggestions which might be made and he was convinced that those delegations which had misgivings about the draft resolution would nevertheless conclude that the general review envisaged was particularly necessary at a time when the Economic and Social Council was regaining its vitality and was enjoying the confidence of all members of the United Nations.

12. Mr. NEDIVI (Israel) said that his delegation had a particular interest in the subject of the draft resolution before the Committee. There was a need for better presentation of data by the Secretariat, especially in the sphere of economic development. His delegation, as its representative on the Fifth Committee had stated, favoured programme budgeting and a separate chapter for social and economic activities. It would be desirable for the Second Committee to also consider making a functional analysis, thus supplementing the work of the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in regard to programme budgeting. The proposed general review would certainly affect the Council and would raise sensitive organizational issues: that was a further reason for undertaking it, even in the face of institutional opposition.

13. He understood section I of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution to mean that the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts would engage in some form of elementary functional analysis and would conclude that it was necessary to eliminate operations which involved duplication and to prune some structures of United Nations bodies concerned with economic development. It would have been preferable if that had been stated in the draft resolution, since the cost of assistance to recipient countries might reflect structural defects in the bodies disbursing it.

14. If the majority so desired, his delegation would not be opposed to entrusting the proposed general review to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, rather than to the proposed committee, although it believed that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was already sufficiently burdened with the day-to-day work of co-ordination

at the administrative and political levels and the application of the new concept of programme budgeting. It could not give great prominence to problems which were the primary concern of the Second Committee. Moreover, since it did not report directly to the General Assembly, it probably could not be as bold in its recommendations affecting the structure of autonomous organizations. The question had at last been placed before the Economic and Social Council and that might not have been done so promptly but for the insistence of the two original sponsors of the draft resolution on bringing the matter to the General Assembly. Besides, the enlarged Economic and Social Council might not yet be the vehicle for progressive economic thinking envisaged by the Charter. The reappraisal of its role was a long-term task and improvement in its methods of work would not of itself produce the leadership and basic policy-making ability expected of it. While the budgetary and co-ordinating bodies were engaged in translating the measures adopted by legislative organs into fact, the Economic and Social Council should be constantly reviewing the actual need for such measures.

15. Although the need for economy was recognized, new programmes continued to be approved without reference to their priority in relation to the resources available. When it came to voting on expenditure to increase the efficiency of the voting procedure, however, there was reluctance to take the decision. In any event, an investigation of output could obviously not be entrusted to those who were to be the subject of the investigation. If the United Nations was behind the times from the administrative point of view, that was because, like all institutions, it had acquired a momentum of its own which was not always relevant to its original declared aims. In order to carry out the proposed general review, recourse should be had to an *ad hoc* committee which could not develop its own institutional interests. The structure of the Organization should be uncovered without fear of the facts, because the financial results of structural faults were borne by both donors and recipients. Representatives in the Second Committee should be able to have access to the facts in order to convince their Governments of the need for better co-ordination of the instructions given to their representatives in the United Nations and other bodies.

16. The text of section I of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution was, in his opinion, not very clear in regard to the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations, a matter of particular interest to his delegation. He wished to know whether the text applied to the regional economic commissions, whose activities had to be co-ordinated with those of Headquarters, the specialized agencies and other bodies. The Secretary-General had indicated in his report on decentralization (E/4075), to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-ninth session, that the work of decentralization had gone far enough. Israel, which was not yet a member of a regional economic commission, had found that decentralization also had the effect of accentuating the difficulties of countries in that situation. In the absence of a regional economic commission in the region in which Israel was situated, some countries of that

region had had recourse to the services of an outpost of the Secretariat; the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, which was closed to Israel, contrary to the principles of freedom of access for all States Members to United Nations offices and meetings.

17. The solution of the immediate problems of countries which were not yet members of a regional economic commission was not beyond the United Nations. Proof of that was supplied by the broad regional divisions adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 1995 (XIX) for the composition of the Trade and Development Board. If one considered that, on occasion, the African and Asian groups operated separately, it would be seen that there were currently in the United Nations only five recognized geographical groups: the African, the Asian, the Latin American, that of Europe, and that of the socialist countries. All Member States should be able to belong to one of the regional economic commissions, if the latter were adapted to the five regional groups in question. The proposed *ad hoc* committee should, in its general review and census of activities, assess the policy of decentralization, remembering that that policy could not be extended without prejudicing those Member States which did not yet belong to a regional economic commission. An immediate solution to the problems of those countries was a prerequisite for even continuing the current policy of decentralization.

18. Mr. INGRAM (Australia) said that the discussion so far had dealt with the methods of the proposed review rather than with its aim. His delegation believed that greater stress should be placed on the latter point. It was prepared to support any rational review method agreed to by the great majority, including the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee of experts. The proposal to set up such a committee had given rise to many objections. Nevertheless, it was not the first instance of a body of that kind. The Second Committee itself had decided in 1965 to establish the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development and the Fifth Committee had set up the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. The Economic and Social Council was, of course, responsible under the Charter for co-ordinating the activities of United Nations bodies. Under Article 60 of the Charter, however, the ultimate authority in that respect was vested in the General Assembly and his delegation had no objection to the Second Committee's asking the General Assembly to exercise that authority.

19. There was therefore nothing to prevent the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee of experts, although other possibilities still remained. It had been proposed, for instance, to entrust the task to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. It should be borne in mind, however, that if such a decision were made, that Committee would have to devote the whole of one session to the matter. It might have to have a larger membership and it should report to the General Assembly and not only to the Economic and Social Council.

20. Turning to the scope of the review, it would be worth while to define more clearly the concept of

co-ordination, since the debate so far showed that there appeared to be some confusion about the exact meaning of the word. Co-ordination was treated in some instances as a continuous process and in others as an end in itself. Generally speaking, the draft resolution under discussion did not deal with co-ordination as a continuing process, as did, for example, the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. It was concerned more with what the Netherlands representative had called the evolution of a general strategy of development. The development of a strategy of that kind was inconceivable unless an exhaustive inventory was made beforehand of United Nations bodies and their activities. Often delegations were called upon to take decisions when they were, in fact, unaware of the functions and, sometimes, even of the existence of organizations. Such an inventory would cover operational and research programmes which had been in existence for years and would include the extremely important work of evaluating the extent to which the aims of the programmes had been achieved. In that respect, the criteria listed in section II of operative paragraph 1 might be regarded as criteria to be used in making that evaluation. The draft resolution might be improved if a clearer distinction were made between those two aspects, the inventory of activities and their evaluation. It would then be impossible to accuse the Ad Hoc Committee of duplicating the work of any existing body.

21. That criticism was perhaps due to the fact that the review which the ad hoc committee was requested to make was to include recommendations on modifications in existing activities, procedures and administrative arrangements which, though necessary and desirable, might, in fact, encroach upon the co-ordinating functions of other bodies. In operative paragraph 6, the ad hoc committee was, however, requested to submit a mere preliminary report to the General Assembly. Consequently, nothing asked of it at present affected actual co-ordination measures. It certainly seemed possible, as the representative of Canada had suggested, to ask the Secretary-General to prepare the inventory. That was, however, a highly complex task and was, moreover, closely linked to the evaluation of activities. It would therefore be to the Secretary-General's advantage, in the present instance, to have the assistance of Governments and, accordingly, that of an intergovernmental body such as the ad hoc committee. A census of that kind was bound to raise complex issues of methodology, particularly with regard to the meaning of such expressions as "operational activities" and "research activities". In any event, in order to collect the documentation referred to in operative paragraph 5, the Secretary-General would need the help of an advisory body.

22. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the question of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council had changed both in form and content over the past three years. At the outset, the Council's role in the structure of the United Nations might have been questioned, but those doubts had now been dispelled. Its membership had been increased to twenty-seven and it had started to reorganize itself. Everyone

was now confident that it would fulfil the role assigned to it under the United Nations Charter.

23. The outcome of the Committee's debates and decisions, however, depended on its answer to the basic question of the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. The Council was the organ responsible for the technical preparation of the Assembly's work for ensuring that the Assembly's decisions were implemented and for carrying out the work assigned to it by the Assembly. Mutual trust between the Assembly and the Council, which was its secular arm in economic and social matters, was essential. It was not in the interest of the United Nations to refer everything to the General Assembly, which could not and should not deal with everything. The Council was and would remain the faithful servant of the Assembly, and the developing countries which were members of it had so far taken an active part in its work and were intent on making it the central co-ordinating body for development. It would be a mistake to oppose that trend.

24. A distinction should be made between the substance of the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.877 and Add.1-4) and its form, in other words, between the subject of the review and the procedures suggested for carrying it out. The value of a clear and comprehensive picture of operational and research activities could hardly be disputed. However, the vagueness of the wording might well lead to a review of all the international organizations linked, however loosely, to the United Nations. Thus, the review, which would include everything but administrative activities, would take on truly Herculean proportions. It was therefore necessary to specify and limit the terms of reference of the proposed committee. Even if the proposed review were to be restricted to operational technical assistance activities, clarification would still be required as to whether it was to concern itself with technical assistance proper or economic aid in general and as to how the review of the activities of institutions peripheral to the United Nations and specializing in assistance should be approached.

25. In the present circumstances, it was doubtful whether the establishment of another body was the best solution. To set up an ad hoc committee of the General Assembly would be an inadmissible gesture of distrust in regard to the Economic and Social Council, which had taken a number of decisions in 1966 which augured well for the future. The establishment of such a committee would be all the more untimely because the Council had just unanimously adopted resolution 1173 (XLI) which provided for a thorough and objective review and evaluation of the structure, functions, procedures, financing and performance of the specialized agencies as well as the programmes of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

26. Mr. VARELA (Panama) expressed surprise at the doubts which had been voiced regarding the proposals contained in the draft resolution, of which his delegation was a sponsor. The purpose of the draft resolution was not the preparation of new and copious studies; on the contrary, its laudable aim was to cut through the dense wood of the profuse and complex

activities of the United Nations family so as to see the trees and determine their quality. Far from seeking to minimize the functions of the Economic and Social Council, those proposals were in fact the logical outcome of its resolutions. Indeed, to enable the Council to undertake the review proposed in its resolution 1173 (XLI), it was essential to take a complete inventory of existing organizations, their functions, expenditures, usefulness, etc. That was evidenced by the fact that the Council itself had recognized, in its resolution 1171 (XLI), that it had been impossible for its Special Committee on Co-ordination to fulfil in its entirety the task assigned to it of examining in detail the work programme covering the various units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the regional economic commissions, the Division of Human Rights and the Division of Narcotic Drugs. The inventory proposed in the draft resolution was essential to facilitate the work of the new Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and the Panamanian delegation for its part could not accept that Committee's conclusion that the evaluation of programmes should be entrusted to the Governments of recipient countries; that procedure might jeopardize the prestige of the United Nations and would not ensure the necessary objectivity.

27. Economic and Social Council resolution 1173 (XLI), to which the French representative had referred, bore no relation to the work assigned to the Special Committee on Co-ordination in resolution 1171 (XLI); in the former resolution the Council requested the Secretary-General to provide it with available documentation to enable it to consider the question of a thorough review and evaluation of the functioning of the specialized agencies and IAEA as well as the programmes of the United Nations. That documentation might be too diffuse to give the Council an over-all picture of the work of the United Nations and its organizations and of the resultant benefits for developing countries; the inventory referred to in the draft resolution would make it easier for the Secretary-General to submit to the Council such a document presenting an over-all picture. The proposals contained in the draft resolution were not only in conformity with Council resolution 1173 (XLI), but were also essential, because there could be no co-ordination of activities without an inventory of those activities and the way in which they were carried out.

28. The inventory could also facilitate the decentralization of United Nations economic and social activities. Without a sufficiently clear picture of those activities, the essential work of decentralization might lead to the proliferation of organizations and duplication.

29. He therefore hoped that those delegations which had expressed doubts concerning the draft resolution would give closer study to its aims, scope and proposed measures, and would realize that the proposed study would help ACC and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in fulfilling the dynamic functions assigned to them by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1171 (XLI).

30. The Council itself had undertaken a review and reappraisal of its role and functions and had adopted

resolution 1156 (XLI), and there was therefore no need to comment on that matter.

31. Mr. PISANI MASSAMORMILE (Italy) said that everyone recognized that it was difficult to form an accurate idea of United Nations economic and social activities and that they must be clarified and co-ordinated.

32. With regard to the Economic and Social Council's role in that connexion, its new membership was clearly more in line with the geographical distribution of States Members of the United Nations and it could thus do more valuable work. In addition, the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had lightened its burden so that it could henceforth devote more time to co-ordination.

33. His delegation, while supporting the draft resolution, believed that the subject and the aims of and the reasons for co-ordination should be clarified. It was too easy to say that it was intended to prevent duplication and overlapping, which were not necessarily always undesirable; often, when two organizations were dealing with the same matter, their work was complementary and each could benefit from the other. It was gratifying that the sponsors of the draft resolution had used the term "operational activities". It was indeed chiefly in technical assistance that it was important to avoid duplication, which might prove very costly, particularly for the recipient countries, in terms of counterpart funds. An attempt should first be made to define economic and social objectives and priorities. The Italian delegation had no preference as to whether the responsible body should be the proposed new ad hoc committee or the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. The main point was to define the work to be assigned to it.

34. Mr. LUTCHMAN (Trinidad and Tobago) announced that the delegation of Kenya had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

35. He was sorry that delegations still had misgivings about the draft resolution, despite the consultations preceding its preparation, and would try to answer the comments made.

36. The representative of Australia had made a distinction between the process of co-ordination and the full review called for in the draft resolution. Like planning, however, co-ordination had to be spread over the past, the present, and the future. At the present time, co-ordination was a permanent function of the Economic and Social Council. The Council, reinforced as it now was, was certainly able to discharge that function, and the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies with a view to improving the process of co-ordination would certainly have beneficial results. Nevertheless, as the representative of the Netherlands had very correctly pointed out, it was right to look to the future and devise a comprehensive strategy. In calling for a review of the present situation, the sponsors of the draft resolution were, in fact, seeking to lay down a solid basis for working out that strategy.

Instead of duplicating the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and those of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, the review proposed in the draft resolution would facilitate the Council's work of co-ordination.

37. Furthermore, his delegation was convinced that that review of the present situation was needed just as much by Member States to co-ordinate their activities and their policies at the United Nations and in the organizations associated with it, and sometimes even at the national level.

38. Some delegations had expressed misgivings that the proposed review would merely duplicate the review proposed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1173 (XLI). The sponsors of the draft resolution believed there could be no conflict of competence in that connexion between the General Assembly and the Council, since, if the latter was to carry out its co-ordination duties efficiently in the service of the Assembly it had to be given the necessary tools by the Assembly, namely, all the material specified in the draft resolution.

39. Some delegations had wondered whether a committee of experts rather than the existing bodies should undertake the review. Surprisingly, however, it was the same delegations which had emphasized the magnitude of the work involved in the review. The sponsors of the draft resolution believed the work was too vast to be carried out by the existing bodies which were already overburdened and handicapped precisely because no review of the kind they advocated existed. The sponsors were not, however, in favour of any unnecessary proliferation of United Nations organs and were prepared to consider amendments to their draft resolution which might clarify the terms of reference of the proposed committee of experts, or even to assign the work to existing bodies, though they emphasized that that method would certainly not result in fewer meetings or documents.

40. Mr. LORENZO FERNANDEZ (Brazil) believed that the draft resolution, of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, had evoked interesting and useful comments and suggestions. The proposals embodied were essentially the kind to enlist the active co-operation of all delegations. They were free from political motive in the matter of substance and intended merely to ensure the efficient operation of the United Nations family; they need not, therefore, give any Government concern. As the representative of Trinidad and Tobago had stated, the sponsors were prepared to accept any suggestions which would lead to a well-conceived and generally satisfactory text.

41. The United Nations obviously had enough co-ordinating organs and instead of adding to them, the existing machinery should be improved. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies had, in its excellent report, gone beyond the question of the optimum use of facilities for achieving certain objectives and had dealt with the objectives themselves. It was also interesting to note that, although the problem of the relative usefulness and merit of the various operational and research activities had been

considered by the Economic and Social Council for a long time and although the question of objectives and priorities was one which particularly concerned the Second Committee, it was the Fifth Committee which had first taken practical measures in that direction [resolution 2150 (XXI)] on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts.

42. The sponsors of the draft resolution, concerned not with the problem of the co-ordination process as such, but, as the representative of Australia had pointed out, with its ultimate objectives, wished Member States and, in particular, the most recent of them, to have a clear picture of the operational and research activities and an analysis and suggestions comparable to those contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts. Duplication and lack of co-ordination were, to a large extent, due to the adoption by the General Assembly of many resolutions which reflected differences between the political positions and the economic interests of different States and that situation could only be changed by long and patient effort in the direction of general agreement. Nevertheless, the lack of co-ordination which was hampering the effectiveness of the entire United Nations family was also largely attributable to the fact that Governments and their representatives had an imperfect knowledge of the whole pattern of economic and social activities. Those activities had, in fact, gone through a process of natural growth and had never been viewed as a whole. It was, therefore, essential to have a clear idea of the objectives besides trying to improve utilization of the means. There would have to be a more thorough functional analysis of the entire United Nations system.

43. Many delegations had wondered whether the review proposed in the draft resolution ought not to be assigned to the Council's Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which, according to the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts (A/6343, para. 90 (h)) which the General Assembly had just adopted, would consist of twelve experts, rather than to an ad hoc committee of experts. He believed that the Council's Committee would be too small to do the work but was not against considering that possibility, on the understanding that, whatever method was adopted, it would have to reinforce the means of action available to the Council and enable it to serve the General Assembly, the principal organ of the United Nations, more effectively. Contrary to the fears expressed by the representative of France, the sponsors, instead of by-passing the Economic and Social Council, sought to make its work more fruitful by collecting all existing information in the form of a clear analysis of programmes and priorities.

44. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that an exchange of views on the draft resolution would lead to a text likely to promote the adoption of judicious measures. The United Nations had completed an important phase of its development and, with UNCTAD, the United Nations Development Programme, UNIDO and the increased membership of the Council, it now had a complex economic and social system which had only to be operated in a manner compatible with its objectives.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.