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

AGENDA ITEM 94

Development of natural resources (continued) (A/6303, chap. VII; A/6460, A/C.2/L.890)

1. Mr. DE GRAUW (Belgium) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the two draft resolutions (A/C.2/L.882/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.883/Rev.1), but wished to place on record its observations regarding some of their provisions.

2. As his delegation had stated at an earlier meeting (1063rd meeting), the translation of the words "comprehensive survey" in operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the resolution on the resources of the sea by "étude complète", rather than "étude d'ensemble" created a discrepancy between the English and French texts which might create difficulties at a later stage.

3. Possibly because there were no experts on the subject available at Headquarters, the financial implications (A/C.2/L.890) of implementing the draft resolution were substantial, and his delegation was therefore gratified that the oral amendment to operative paragraph 4 accepted by the sponsors would enable the Secretary-General to use the services of experts attached to the specialized agencies, which should reduce costs. It should also be borne in mind that the Secretariat's part in preparing the survey and proposals would be confined to compiling the information on "the present state of knowledge of the resources of the sea"; the Secretary-General might therefore need to recruit only administrative staff.

4. His delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the development of natural resources

as a whole, but reserved its position on the possibility of carrying out petroleum and natural gas surveys until the results of the study referred to in operative paragraph 3 were known. It had, however, abstained in the vote on the amendment submitted by the Ukrainian SSR (A/C.2/L.891), because the revision of the rules governing the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which that proposal implied would require very thorough consideration.

5. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution on the resources of the sea despite some doubts about the proposals it contained, because of the strongly-held views of the sponsors, who came from all geographical regions. He hoped that the financial implications would be considerably reduced as a result of the opportunity provided by the revised text of operative paragraph 4 for the use of experts attached to the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations concerned, but his delegation had abstained on that paragraph on account of its financial implications.

6. Although his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the development of natural resources as a whole, it had asked for a separate vote on operative paragraph 3 and had abstained in the vote on that paragraph, since it was opposed to extending the survey to natural gas and petroleum, for which private capital was available.

7. Mr. ELM (Iran) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the amendment submitted by the Ukrainian SSR because, like the other sponsors of the draft resolution on the development of natural resources, it considered that the major source of funds for the survey programme should be voluntary contributions and not UNDP which was already overburdened. His Government intended to announce its voluntary contribution when the item was discussed in plenary and hoped other Governments would follow its example in the near future.

8. Mr. MOHAMED AL-ATRASH (Syria) observed that the fact that UNDP had some uncommitted resources did not justify the use of its funds for the survey programme; moreover, UNDP's constitutional provisions permitted it to undertake surveys only at the request of Governments. For those reasons, his delegation had abstained in the vote on the amendment submitted by the Ukrainian SSR.

9. Mr. Donald MACDONALD (Canada) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution on the development of natural resources. The resources available for the survey programme were limited and should not be diverted to surveys of petroleum and natural gas,

which were already being carried out on an extensive scale.

10. Mr. IPARRAGUIRRE (Spain) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the amendment of the Ukrainian SSR in the belief that the recommendation contained in it could create a number of administrative and technical difficulties which might delay the surveys. It had voted for operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution on the development of natural resources and because the surveys referred to were potentially of great interest to many developing countries, and also for the draft resolution as a whole.

11. In view of the wide support for the draft resolution on the resources of the sea, his delegation had voted in favour of it. It had some doubt, however, about the urgency of the proposed survey and about the need to appoint a further group of experts, particularly if they were to be recruited from outside the United Nations system. Moreover, he hoped that the funds required would be provided by voluntary contributions; if additional budgetary appropriations had to be made for the purpose during 1967, his delegation might not be in a position to give its approval to the survey when it was discussed in the Fifth Committee.

12. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) said that the stated object of the proposals contained in the draft resolution on the resources of the sea was to obtain a better understanding of the marine environment. Operative paragraph 1, however, specifically excluded fish and the continental shelf, which constituted, for his country and many others, the whole of their marine environment and his delegation had accordingly abstained in the vote on that paragraph.

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 (A/6428, A/C.2/L.877 and Add.1-3)

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

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

13. Mrs. SOLOMON (Trinidad and Tobago), introducing, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution A/C.2/L.877 and Add.1-3, said that the lengthy title of the agenda item was an indication of the complexity and size of the problem dealt with in the draft resolution. The very diversity of the programmes and activities had created a vicious circle in which growing needs brought disappointing results, and such results discouraged the contribution of resources. Few States Members had a clear enough view of the over-all activities of all branches of the United Nations system to enable them to survey the whole spectrum of international assistance and select the type most suitable to their specific needs and national priorities,

and few of them were in a position to rationalize their national policies vis-à-vis international bodies.

14. The burden imposed on national administrations by membership in the various organs of the United Nations system had been recognized as early as 1947 in General Assembly resolution 125 (III). A study made at that time had found instances of the same plan being submitted to several agencies at once. Even yet, many Governments were unacquainted with the procedures to be followed when applying for assistance and few had assessed the cost to their countries of the assistance available. The need for a review of the kind proposed in the draft resolution could not therefore be challenged.

15. Recent changes in the composition and procedures of the Economic and Social Council would greatly strengthen its usefulness as the central co-ordinating body of the United Nations and the sponsors believed that the proposed general review would make it possible for the Council to do its work more effectively. The volume of the Council's work had, however, not been reduced and it was for that reason that the draft resolution proposed entrusting the general review to an ad hoc committee of experts, which would, of course, work in close co-operation with the Council's Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. The ad hoc committee would not attempt to duplicate the work already being done or planned by other bodies and would take special care to avoid adding to existing documentation. The sponsors considered that the experts on the Committee should be persons who, in the opinion of their Governments, were familiar with the economic and social development activities of the United Nations system and capable of viewing them objectively.

16. In conclusion, she stressed that the sponsors realized that the ad hoc committee could not be expected to produce more than a preliminary report on section I of operative paragraph 1 before the next session of the General Assembly and had accordingly made no provision for it to proceed to the work described in section II within a specified period.

17. Mr. RAHNEMA (Iran) recalled that, at the last session of the General Assembly, the representative of Malta had introduced a draft resolution similar to that which was now before the Committee.^{1/} His delegation agreed with the sponsors of the new draft resolution that the resources available to carry out the work of the United Nations family were limited; that the proliferation of United Nations bodies was disquieting; that duplication must be avoided; and that a clear and comprehensive picture of existing activities was necessary.

18. Nevertheless, the sponsors, in recommending in operative paragraph 1 that an ad hoc committee of experts should be set up to review the activities of the United Nations family, appeared to ignore all the work that had already been going on in the Economic and Social Council in order to reach the same goal. For example, at the forty-first session of the Council, a proposal had been made that a thorough and objective review should be undertaken of the

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 100, document A/6201, para. 3.

structure, functions, procedures, financing and performances of the United Nations family in the economic and social fields. It had been pointed out, however, that the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies was already dealing with that problem and the Council had therefore decided, in its resolution 1173 (XLI), to postpone consideration of it until 1967. He therefore asked the sponsors how far the work of the proposed new ad hoc committee would duplicate the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies whose report and recommendations had already been endorsed in General Assembly resolution 2150 (XXI). It might be wiser to await the implementation of those recommendations before establishing another committee.

19. Also at its forty-first session, the Council had decided, in its resolution 1171 (XLI), to reconstitute the Special Committee on Co-ordination as the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and to consider the composition of that Committee at its resumed forty-first session. He again wondered to what extent the work of the ad hoc committee proposed in the draft resolution would duplicate the work of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

20. Thus, the Council had already taken a number of constructive steps to improve the co-ordination of the economic and social activities of the United Nations family. The draft resolution appeared to complicate the Council's work and to defeat its own purpose by setting up yet another co-ordinating body. He hoped the sponsors would be able to give the necessary explanations in order to dispel those misgivings.

21. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that the growth in United Nations economic and social activities had led to increased emphasis in recent years on the need for co-ordination and the avoidance of duplication. The Economic and Social Council was considering how it could better fulfil its role as a co-ordinating body, and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) was taking a positive approach to co-ordination, rather than merely endeavouring to prevent duplication and overlapping. Inter-agency co-ordination had been the subject of specific recommendations by the Special Committee on Co-ordination. In order to avoid any duplication of the co-ordination work itself, the Council, in resolution 1090 G (XXXIX), had provided for joint meetings of ACC and the Special Committee on Co-ordination, in order better to discharge its functions as a co-ordinating body. It must also be remembered that the Council had its own Co-ordination Committee, which dealt with such matters as the calendar of meetings, documentation and provision for consultations.

22. The draft resolution before the Committee took insufficient account of the measures already taken to improve co-ordination and did not show how the work of the proposed committee was to be related to that of existing bodies. It would therefore be better to address the proposals contained in the draft resolution to one of those bodies, together with a recommendation for any changes in its membership which might be required. Such a step would be all the more appropriate

in the light of the probable establishment of permanent consultative machinery within ACC.

23. Of the two proposals contained in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the first made no reference to technical assistance activities, while it would be difficult to implement the second without overlapping with the work of existing organizations, including the Council. Indeed, by proposing the establishment of yet another co-ordinating body, the draft resolution defeated its own purpose. The establishment of such specialized bodies as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization underlined the urgent need for greater co-ordination of economic and social activities by the Council itself, and that objective could best be achieved by improving the existing machinery. Moreover, the General Assembly had just approved, in resolution 2150 (XXI), the recommendations contained in the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, in which it was stated (A/6343, para. 86 (c)) that the need was not for the creation of new bodies to ensure better and greater co-ordination, but for the streamlining and refurbishing of the machinery which already existed. Paragraph 90 of the report also contained specific proposals to enable the Council to carry out more effectively its responsibilities for co-ordination.

24. Mr. HOGENDORP (Netherlands) said that his delegation fully supported the draft resolution's basic aims of streamlining United Nations economic and social activities and relating operational activities to the specific requirements of recipient countries. However, the first proposal contained in operative paragraph 1 could lead to time-consuming and costly studies which would increase the already heavy burden of documentation still further. Furthermore, a number of United Nations bodies were already closely concerned with co-ordination, and the establishment of yet another committee seemed to conflict with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, as well as with the objectives of the draft resolution itself. If such a committee were established, it would have to report to ACC, thereby involving duplication, additional costs and loss of valuable time.

25. It would therefore be better for the Committee to request ACC directly to draw up proposals for streamlining United Nations economic and social activities and relating them to the individual requirements of recipient countries; ACC could then submit an interim report to the Council at its forty-third session and measures could thus be taken in time for the United Nations Development Decade starting in 1970.

Mr. Boiko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

26. Mr. Donald MACDONALD (Canada) said his delegation had great sympathy with the motives of the sponsors of the draft resolution. Canada, in the Economic and Social Council and elsewhere, had

striven to improve co-ordination within the United Nations family. It had supported the efforts of the Council to fulfil its role of co-ordinator under the United Nations Charter and had also served in the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. It therefore approved of the advances already made in co-ordination. It also agreed with the request made to the Secretary-General, in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, for the necessary basic documentation. Such documentation should provide a clear and comprehensive picture, which was one of the aims of the draft resolution.

27. However, while favouring the basic aims of the draft resolution, his delegation could not agree on the means recommended for achieving them. Instead of setting up another committee, it would be preferable to request the Secretary-General for the necessary documentation and allow the Council to improve the co-ordination machinery. The Council might decide at a later stage to set up an ad hoc committee or to use the newly constituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. But it was too early to establish a new committee at the present stage.

28. Turning to agenda item 51, he recalled that during the past two years the Council had made major improvements in its working procedures. It had decided to re-arrange its work schedule; it had strengthened and given a new mandate to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; it had begun a promising new method of evaluating the impact of technical co-operation programmes on developing countries; it had taken steps to reduce the flood of documents; and it had provided a more adequate secretariat for ACC.

29. While the Council's review and reappraisal had produced encouraging results, important recommendations for further improvements in co-ordination had been made by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. States members of the Council, the Secretariat and the specialized agencies must now use the Council for the purpose which the authors of the Charter had had in mind. The tools were available; everyone must make better use of them. If the will existed to use the Council more effectively, it could fulfil the functions assigned to it in resolution 1156 (XLI).

30. In view of the satisfactory way in which the Council had reviewed its functions and of the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in its second report, his delegation felt that it would be sufficient for the Second Committee to include in its report the following passage:

"In noting the report of the Economic and Social Council, the Second Committee welcomed the progress recorded by the Council in its review and reappraisal of its role and functions and the improvements in its working methods and procedures described therein. The Second Committee indicated that it would follow with interest the implementation of the various decisions taken by the Council to improve its functioning and working methods, as well as the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. The Second Committee may, as appropriate, consider this question further in the future."

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.