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Chairman: Mr. Narciso G. REYES (Philippines).

AGENDA ITEM 45

Review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade: report of the Secretary-General (A/8387/Rev.1, A/8403, chap. V; A/C.2/L.1152; E/5040)

1. Mr. CAVIGLIA STARICCO (Uruguay), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1152, said that it was based on section E of General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) and was designed to spell out in greater detail the publicity policies which needed to be applied if the Second Development Decade, unlike the First Development Decade, was to be fully successful. The need to mobilize public opinion in support of the objectives and policies for the Decade was emphasized in the second and third preambular paragraphs. The fourth preambular paragraph called upon Governments and the United Nations family of organizations to make every effort to publicize the Development Strategy; although that point was already covered in section E of General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), his delegation had thought it appropriate to insist on the matter since it believed that too little had thus far been done in that connexion. With regard to the final paragraph in the draft resolution, a special reference to UNESCO had been included because of that organization's long and very successful experience with information campaigns. He hoped that the draft resolution, which was non-controversial, would be adopted unanimously.

2. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report on review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy (E/5040). It agreed with the emphasis placed in that document on the pre-eminent role of the Economic and Social Council. The Council should be responsible for the final process of global review and should formulate conclusions, recommendations and concrete proposals for consideration by the General Assembly. That role was in accordance with the position granted to the Council under the Charter as the central co-ordinating body of the United Nations in the economic and social field.

3. His delegation also endorsed the decision taken in Council resolution 1621 C (LI) to establish a 54-member committee to undertake the biennial global appraisal called for in the Strategy; a body with a large membership was necessary if the review and appraisal machinery was to secure the full confidence of the majority of Member

States. Of course, the reports of the new committee would need to be considered by the Council as a whole before being submitted to the General Assembly so that they would be invested with the full authority and prestige of the Council. In that connexion, his delegation had noted the suggestion, in paragraph 35 of the report (E/5040), that the Council should fulfil its responsibility in the review and appraisal process at a high political level, preferably at the ministerial level. While sympathetic to the aspirations underlying that proposal, his delegation felt that it might be rather premature to count on ministerial representation on such a regular basis.

4. The Economic and Social Council and its new committee would have the benefit of the advice of the Committee for Development Planning. In that connexion, he noted the decision taken in Economic and Social Council resolution 1625 (LI) to enlarge the membership of the Committee for Development Planning from 18 to 24 and to provide for an additional session of the Committee in the years when the over-all appraisals were to be made. While intergovernmental bodies certainly required the assistance of more expert groups in technical tasks of the kind involved in review and appraisal, such groups should not exceed their functions and encroach upon inter-governmental responsibilities. In some cases, that might mean that an expert group, although focusing attention on alternatives, should stop short of making over-precise recommendations.

5. Too often, the work of expert groups in the United Nations system was done by the Secretariat—not only the detailed preparation of reports and summaries, but also the more sophisticated task of analytical presentation. As a result, expert groups often did little more than render judgement on work done elsewhere. While his delegation did not wish to appear anti-academic, it felt that United Nations expert groups should do more in the way of drafting their own studies and papers. It was in that light that his delegation regarded the statement in paragraph 36 of the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/4990) that the Committee would attempt to prepare strategic over-all diagnoses of prevailing problems and make suggestions for the design and implementation of better development policies. In paragraph 37 of its report, the Committee for Development Planning noted that the preparation of such diagnoses and suggestions would require the commissioning of studies and papers on appropriate topics from outside institutions and scholars and would pose considerably heavier requirements for continuing staff support. Since the Committee comprised many leading figures from the world's major economic research institutions, he failed to see why it could not handle those tasks itself; there was a danger that the United

Nations would be paying for the services of experts twice over. Moreover, he was not fully convinced of the need to commission studies on problems such as poverty, unemployment, under-employment and urban migration when those subjects had already been exhaustively analysed not only by organizations in the United Nations system but by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), regional banks and other institutions such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

6. His delegation agreed with the suggestions contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Secretary-General's report (E/5040) that the frequency of reviews at the sectoral level should be limited and that as far as possible existing periodic reports of the organizations concerned should be adapted to the needs of the Strategy. The latter suggestion was fully in accordance with paragraph 82 of the Strategy, which called on responsible bodies at the sectoral level to continue to review progress in their respective sectors according to the procedures already established. That was particularly relevant to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), whose responsibilities embraced many areas of the Strategy. UNCTAD already conducted an annual review on the basis of resolution 19 (II) of the Trade and Development Board; all that was necessary was to adapt that review to ensure that it covered all aspects of the Strategy for which UNCTAD had sectoral responsibility. Another important factor at the sectoral level was the need for full inter-agency collaboration; such co-operation would certainly be strengthened by the decision to continue within the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) a sub-committee on the Second Development Decade.

7. The regional economic commissions had already taken decisions on the question of regional appraisals. In discharging their tasks, they might be well advised to take advantage of any help that could be provided by the regional development banks. According to paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's report (E/5040), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) would have an important role to play in connexion with the review and appraisal of trends of major industrial member countries, both East and West. However, in relation to the Western countries, OECD would also have an important role to play, since appraisal was already a well-established procedure in OECD and particularly in its Development Assistance Committee. The Development Assistance Committee should continue to remain the prime source of authoritative information on aid flows, and the main contribution of OECD should be in that area. At the same time, ECE would of course have a role to play in the regional appraisal process, particularly with regard to the assessment of progress in the socialist countries. Developed countries not covered by ECE, such as Australia, Japan and New Zealand, could presumably be included in the regional review to be undertaken by ECAFE and Canada could be fitted into the review undertaken by ECLA.

8. His delegation agreed with the statement in paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report (E/5040) that the responsibility for conducting national reviews rested upon the countries themselves. In connexion with paragraph 15, which stated that reports on plan performance should be

communicated to the United Nations, each country should decide to what extent it should provide material to the United Nations for review and appraisal purposes. That point should be mentioned because of the suggestion in paragraph 16 of the report that, in conducting national reviews, advantage should be taken of the information gathered in reviews conducted by international organizations which already carried out appraisals at the national level, particularly IBRD and IMF. The reports of IBRD, and particularly of IMF, were normally treated as being based on information supplied on a confidential basis by the Government concerned. In so far as the reference to IBRD was intended to cover the new series of country economic reports announced by the President of the World Bank in 1969, his delegation saw no objection to the proposal. However, it firmly believed that it would be inappropriate to seek to use material prepared for the IBRD consultative groups for the purposes of review and appraisal without the explicit consent of the Government concerned. The situation was even more delicate with regard to IMF material, since the information gathered for the IMF report was classified as confidential and dealt with such matters as a country's monetary policy and debt structure, general dissemination of which could be embarrassing to the Government concerned. While it should be possible to reach agreement on what material could be used, a security device needed to be built into the process of review in order to avoid premature or unwanted publication of information supplied in confidence to IMF or IBRD.

9. The establishment of machinery and methods for review and appraisal was not an end in itself but rather a means to the accelerated development of the less developed world. Collection and analysis of information required considerable administrative and specialized effort which might impose an undue strain on the scarce resources of the developing countries. A system needed to be devised which, while providing essential information, did not lead to such an excessive emphasis being placed on the gathering of information that the process of development itself was downgraded in priority. For that reason, his delegation felt some misgivings concerning the multifarious proposals in paragraphs 24 to 30 of the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/4990) concerning improvements in the system of information. Although both the Committee and the Secretary-General had recommended that technical assistance should be provided to developing countries to assist them in making such improvements, great care should be exercised to ensure that, while essential information was provided, the main emphasis of government planning remained on development itself.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III to VII, VIII (sections A to E), IX to XIV, XXI and XXII] (continued) (A/8403; A/C.2/264, A/C.2/L.1165, A/C.2/L.1180)

10. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) said that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/264 represented a frank recognition on the part of the Economic and Social Council that it was not successfully performing the tasks which had been assigned to it. That was an extremely serious situation. In general, Council resolution 1622 (XI)

appeared to be an attempt by the Council to arrogate to itself powers, particularly in the scientific and technical fields, which it did not possess under the Charter.

11. In operative paragraph 1 of the text recommended for adoption by the Assembly the Council in effect claimed the right to dictate to the General Assembly what it should do in the economic, social, scientific and technical fields. That was a distortion of the Charter which would have the effect of depriving the General Assembly, the supreme organ of the United Nations, of the right to itself consider in the first instance such matters as the sea-bed and the peaceful uses of outer space. In operative paragraph 2, the Council requested the General Assembly to confer upon it powers which it already possessed under Article 63, paragraph 2, and Article 64 of the Charter. Since the Council was already free to submit to the General Assembly any recommendations which it wished, the paragraph was superfluous.

12. His objections to operative paragraph 3 were twofold: firstly, even the General Assembly did not take decisions — only the Security Council, under Articles 39 to 41 of the Charter, was empowered to do so; secondly, the draft resolution referred not merely to decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council but to “final decisions”, thereby investing it with the same powers in the economic and social field as those exercised by the Security Council in the political and security field. That was an unacceptable concept.

13. Again, operative paragraph 4 sought to confer upon the Council the power to regulate United Nations economic, social, scientific and technical activities, a provision which clearly contravened Article 62 of the Charter. At a time when the Council was not even performing satisfactorily the functions allocated to it by the Charter, it was clearly premature to grant it any additional powers.

14. In the first part of operative paragraph 5, the Council requested a mandate already conferred upon it by the Charter. While the paragraph evidenced a welcome willingness on the part of the Council to eliminate its shortcomings, the very recognition of those shortcomings was evidence of the mediocrity of the Council's work in the past and constituted a powerful argument against granting it any new powers at the present time. With regard to the overlapping, duplication, over-staffing and over-expenditure of budgetary funds referred to in the concluding part of the paragraph, it would be useful if delegations represented in the Economic and Social Council could give specific examples of such abuses so as to enable the Committee to take a decision on the paragraph.

15. In conclusion, he said that the resolution was both superfluous, in that it requested a mandate which the Council already possessed under the Charter, and dangerous in that it requested new powers which the Council was ill-equipped to exercise. His delegation would vote against every paragraph of the resolution as it stood at present. The Council would be well-advised to put its house in order and do the work which it should be doing before seeking any extension of its powers. The matter should be reconsidered at the twenty-seventh or twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly in the light of the Council's future work in the co-ordination and programming fields.

16. Mr. VISESSURAKARN (Thailand) said that his delegation supported the recommendation to enlarge the membership of the Economic and Social Council and hoped that the Committee would endorse Council resolution 1621 A (LI) as soon as possible. It also welcomed the Council's determination to improve its working procedures and review and strengthen its co-ordinating machinery.

17. However, Council resolution 1622 (LI) recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that would derogate critically from the powers and functions of the General Assembly under the Charter, and would duplicate the measures for stronger co-ordination of economic and social programmes and activities which the Council had already decided to undertake in resolutions 1621 A (LI) and 1623 (LI).

18. Under operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would be powerless to take any initiative in the scientific, economic and social development fields, since all new questions in that area would be considered first by the Council. Such a procedure would prejudice all that the General Assembly had striven to achieve in the field of economic and social development in developing countries, including the launching of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the implementation of the International Development Strategy. His delegation had no doubt that the adoption of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution would contribute greatly to the stagnation of United Nations development policies and programmes.

19. Furthermore, his delegation felt that operative paragraph 5 clearly duplicated the measures for co-ordinating United Nations economic and social programmes and activities already undertaken by the Economic and Social Council.

20. His delegation would therefore favour the deletion of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of the draft resolution.

21. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his delegation entirely agreed with the views expressed by the representatives of Upper Volta and Thailand. A similar draft resolution had been distributed in the Second Committee in 1970 but had not been acted upon for very valid and important reasons. It had later been adopted at the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council after very little discussion by a vote of 8 in favour to 4 against, with 15 abstentions. While there was considerable merit in some of the paragraphs in the draft resolution, the question of timing was most important. The Council had not fulfilled its mandate under the Charter or met the interests of the generality of the membership of the United Nations. UNCTAD and UNIDO had been established largely as a result of the Council's inefficiency. The fourth preambular paragraph was in complete contradiction to operative paragraph 3 since both referred to the Charter and it was difficult to see how the Council could take final decisions on certain subjects when the General Assembly alone was responsible for taking those decisions under the Charter. The resolution would undoubtedly lead to confusion in the interpretation of the Charter. His delegation could not therefore accept the draft resolution at the present time. When the Council had been enlarged and confidence in its work restored, the

provisions of the draft resolution might be acceptable to his delegation.

22. Mr. DO RIO-BRANCO (Brazil) said that the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution could be interpreted as seeking to place scientific and technical activities on the same footing as social and economic issues, which would be an unacceptable enlargement of the Council's terms of reference under the Charter; on the other hand, if scientific and technical activities are to be understood as strictly related to development and thus as some sub-classification of social and economic activities, then other sub-classifications could and should certainly be mentioned as well.

23. Operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 appeared to be quite unconstitutional by giving the Council a power of decision that it did not have under the Charter. His delegation considered that the resolution was untimely and unacceptable and urged the sponsors to withdraw it.

24. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he thought that the preceding speakers seemed to take an unduly gloomy view of the purposes of the draft resolution. When the Economic and Social Council had considered the question of its reorganization, it had not had in mind any review of the Charter and had by no means intended to weaken its own role as the principal organ of the United Nations concerned with economic and social matters, but had sought to enhance its performance in dealing with economic, social, scientific and technical problems. Nor was the draft resolution in any way designed to prejudice the part to be played by the General Assembly or by such more recently created bodies as UNCTAD or UNIDO.

25. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the draft resolution had not been submitted at the sole initiative of the Council. On the contrary, the second preambular paragraph referred to the General Assembly resolutions which had directly instructed the Council to introduce improvements and modifications with regard to co-ordination and programme review, and the last preambular paragraph set out the real purpose of the resolution, namely, the establishment of a more rational procedure for the consideration of economic, social, scientific and technical questions at sessions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council. That procedural rationalization had two aspects. The first, though purely procedural, was extremely important, as it could be seen from the fact that the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session had set up a Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly, which had submitted a report (A/8426) to the current session. The Council, for its part, had adopted resolution 1633 (LI) on the organization of its work and resolution 1624 (LI) on measures to improve its documentation.

26. The second aspect of the draft concerned the correct interrelationship between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Although that relationship was broadly set out in Chapters IX and X of the Charter, the great development of economic, social, scientific and technical work in the past 26 years had necessitated a clarification of competence in those spheres, and the draft

resolution proposed specific action in that connexion. The operative part of the draft did not call for a review of the Charter, did not purport to be a substitute for the relevant provisions of that instrument and did not give either the Assembly or the Council any new powers or tasks; it merely explained how the roles of the two organs could be reorganized, while adhering strictly to the spirit and letter of the Charter. Under Chapter IX, responsibility for the discharge of functions in connexion with international economic and social co-operation were vested in the General Assembly and, under the authority of the Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council, which had for that purpose the powers set out in Chapter X. It should be borne in mind that, when the Charter had been drafted and signed, its authors could not have foreseen such current developments as the scientific and technical revolution and other new spheres with which the United Nations system was now concerned. That was why the draft resolution also referred to the role of the Assembly and the Council in examining and solving scientific and technical problems.

27. The fact that the measures recommended by the Council fully conformed with the Charter could be seen from an examination of the individual operative paragraphs. With regard to operative paragraph 1, the opening words "*Deems it advisable*" made it perfectly clear that the adoption of the paragraph would in no way prejudice the General Assembly's prerogative to examine any question, even if it had never been examined before and if no other United Nations organ had submitted any recommendations on it; that was further confirmed by the words "as a rule". But if no measures were taken to regulate the relationship between the Assembly and the Council, the result would be complete anarchy in the economic, social, scientific and technical work of the United Nations system. In recent years, a large number of different bodies had been dealing with various aspects of economic and social development, many of them had duplicated each other's work, and the resulting situation had made it essential to take appropriate measures to enhance the role of the Council, as the principal organ concerned; if the *status quo* was maintained, the very need for the existence of such an organ would come to an end.

28. Turning to operative paragraph 2, he said he failed to understand the objections that had been raised to the submission of a list of questions by the Council to the General Assembly. Indeed, the agenda of the General Assembly largely consisted of recommendations by the organs of the United Nations, although some questions were submitted by individual States. Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council was not an abstract entity, but consisted of Government representatives; accordingly, its recommendations, reflecting the views of the majority, did not differ formally or legally from the collective recommendations of States. Moreover, the submission of a list by the Council did not in any way exclude the possibility of the submission of questions by States, either individually or collectively.

29. The wording of operative paragraph 3, to which exception had been taken, merely showed that the task of the Council was to "indicate" problems on which it might take final decisions, but that the final decision on what those problems should be rested with the General Assem-

bly, in full conformity with the Charter. Paragraph 4 had been included in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2579 (XXIV), particularly with a view to the more effective implementation of Article 63 of the Charter. Finally, no one should believe that paragraph 5 was intended to reduce the scope of United Nations action; its purpose was to make that action more direct and economical. Examples of overlapping, duplication, over-staffing and over-expenditure abounded and had been mentioned in the reports of a large number of bodies of the United Nations system.

30. He hoped that those explanations would serve to dispel many doubts and misgivings and would bring about the adoption of a resolution which could only improve the efficiency of all United Nations organs dealing with economic, social, scientific and technical matters, without any prejudice to the status and powers of the General Assembly, or of any other organ.

31. Mr. CAVIGLIA STARICCO (Uruguay) said that while the Economic and Social Council had performed effectively most of the tasks assigned to it, there had clearly been shortcomings, duplication and dispersion in its co-ordination of development activities. The draft resolution before the Committee should have been accompanied by a detailed report of the shortcomings mentioned in operative paragraphs 4 and 5. His delegation would have approved the draft resolution if it had been limited to operative paragraphs 1 and 2, but it was unable to accept operative paragraph 3 which would involve far-reaching changes in the Council's functions. Operative paragraphs 4 and 5 merely reiterated the Council's shortcomings without attempting to correct them.

32. His delegation felt that consideration of the draft resolution should be deferred until the next session of the General Assembly when the Council should submit a detailed report of the points referred to in operative paragraphs 4 and 5.

33. Mr. RUTTEN (Netherlands) said that, while his delegation did not believe that the draft resolution would curtail the decision-making powers of the General Assembly, some of its paragraphs were unclear and would be difficult to apply. Operative paragraph 2 instructed the Economic and Social Council to submit a list of questions but gave no instructions with regard to the kind of list envisaged. Similarly, the range of problems referred to in operative paragraph 3 was not defined. Neither was it clear what sort of measures were envisaged in operative paragraph 4. The same problem arose in operative paragraph 5 where overlapping, duplication, over-staffing and over-expenditure of budgetary funds were taken as already proved.

34. While his delegation was sympathetic to the main objective of the draft resolution which was to bring about a better division of labour between the General Assembly and the Council, it felt that the sponsors should provide fuller explanations with regard to its purpose. In conclusion, if the membership of the Council was increased to make it more representative of the membership of the United Nations as a whole, the Council would be in a better position to strengthen its work and help the General Assembly.

35. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said that, in view of the expansion in the activities of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, the Economic and Social Council needed to improve its methods of work so that it could discharge its important functions under the Charter more effectively. It was generally agreed that the role and standing of the Council should be reaffirmed within the United Nations family to ensure that its facilities were properly used. His delegation's experience as a member of the Council from 1968 to 1970 had strengthened its conviction that ways of improving the Council's work had to be found, and it felt that the draft resolution before the Committee went far towards meeting those goals. The adoption of the draft resolution would be the first step towards making it possible for the Council to carry out its tasks of identifying the main problems and recommending appropriate measures to meet the requirements of international economic co-operation within the United Nations. The draft resolution also contained proposals to establish a better distribution of work between the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee. The matter had frequently been discussed in the Council and in the Committee and there was general agreement that such measures would be most useful. His delegation felt that it would be much better to try to rationalize the work of the Council in order to make it more effective and to enhance its authority rather than to enlarge its membership.

36. His delegation believed that the anxieties of other delegations, particularly that of Upper Volta, that the draft resolution might encroach on the prerogatives and competence of the General Assembly were unfounded. As the Soviet representative had demonstrated, there was no reason to fear an extensive and abusive interpretation of the draft resolution. The wording was sufficiently clear and the draft resolution was well balanced. However, further consultations and exchanges of view would clearly be desirable before the Committee voted on the draft resolution.

37. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that the discussion of Economic and Social Council resolution 1622 (LI) was a storm in a teacup. He did not see how the resolution could in any way be described as unconstitutional, as the representative of Brazil had suggested, since a careful reading of the United Nations Charter, and especially Articles 62 and 63, showed that the text did not run counter to any of its provisions. It was significant that, when the Charter was originally drafted, the tremendous technological revolution of recent times had not yet taken place and the kind of problems with which the Economic and Social Council was currently confronted did not exist. It was essential that the organization of the Council's work should be improved as far as possible in order to help it carry out the tasks assigned to it effectively; the draft resolution in question did not attempt to do any more than that.

38. Obviously, final decisions in all matters ultimately rested with the General Assembly. The use of the phrase "as a rule" in operative paragraph 1 made it clear that it would not be obliged to adopt decisions taken by the Council. Operative paragraph 2 spoke only of the Assembly's "consideration" of the Council's recommendations on economic, social, scientific and technical matters, a proce-

ture which should prove extremely useful. As to operative paragraph 3, it seemed only right that the Council should take final decisions on a range of problems which would, in any case, be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

39. With regard to suggestions that the draft resolution had not been sufficiently debated in the Economic and Social Council, a short discussion was not proof of a bad resolution. On the contrary, it indicated that there was general agreement on the subject. As to the Council's vote on the draft resolution, the fact that there were so many abstentions should not necessarily be interpreted as a sign of weakness.

40. His delegation did not have any very strong feelings on the matter, but it was convinced that the draft resolution did not contain any particularly dreadful or unconstitutional provisions and was prepared to support it.

41. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) said it was highly significant that, although the draft resolution had been submitted by the Economic and Social Council as a whole, only two or three representatives had been heard to speak in favour of it while all the other members of the Council, who were also members of the Second Committee and not usually slow to make their feelings known, were being very quiet on the subject. In spite of the assurances of the Bulgarian and Soviet representatives, he still had qualms about the draft resolution, was convinced that some of its provisions were indeed innovations and believed that it should therefore not be adopted. If, as the representative of Greece had stated, the problems that now faced the Economic and Social Council were new, then it was time to think about changing the Charter itself. His delegation had no objection in principle to amending the Charter, but that had to be the first step and must be done openly and honestly. His delegation would not support any proposal to give the Economic and Social Council a mandate which was not provided for by the existing Charter.

42. The most satisfactory solution, therefore, would be to adjourn consideration of the item *sine die*, until such time as the Economic and Social Council had done something to put its house in order and the members of the Council were better organized and the General Assembly was in a position to take a sound decision.

43. Mr. PATAKI (Hungary) expressed his surprise that the modest objectives of the draft resolution should have raised so many doubts in the minds of certain representatives. The Economic and Social Council was clearly anxious to operate more efficiently in order to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it by the Charter, it being generally agreed that its effectiveness left much room for improvement. A major aspect of the problem was the need for a more systematic division of work between the Council and the General Assembly. The draft resolution before the Committee was aimed merely at organizing the Council's activities on a more orderly basis and establishing a more precise definition of the respective responsibilities of the two bodies, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. It was intended neither to be abusive of the Charter nor restrictive of the right of Member States to raise any matter whatsoever in the General Assembly. It

was, moreover, in the interests of the developing countries that the Council's effectiveness should be increased and he felt sure that delegations which now spoke out against the draft resolutions would subsequently subscribe to its principles.

44. It would be a mistake to reject the draft resolution summarily. It would be more constructive if delegations which had difficulties with its wording proposed amendments to it so that the Committee could discuss the matter further.

45. Mr. DO RIO-BRANCO (Brazil), in answer to the representative of Greece, insisted that the suggestion in operative paragraph 3 that the Economic and Social Council should be able to take final decisions on certain problems was quite clearly contrary to the provisions of the Charter and therefore unconstitutional. As the representative of Upper Volta had already said, it was strange, to say the least, that a power should be conferred on the Council which was not even granted to the General Assembly.

46. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) expressed his agreement with the representatives of Hungary and the Netherlands that it would be useful for further consultations to be held with a view to drawing up a more satisfactory text, as there were many improvements that could be made to the draft resolution before the Committee.

47. He recalled that the Economic and Social Council had, at its fifty-first session, adopted a draft resolution on the international monetary situation just before the current crisis had arisen. Had paragraph 1 of resolution 1622 (LI) been in effect at the time, it would have been impossible to raise certain important issues in the General Assembly, such as, for example, the impact of the crisis on developing countries. The General Assembly was the only forum where States that were not members of the Economic and Social Council could voice their opinions on many economic and social questions; they would no longer be able to resort to it if final decisions were taken in the Council.

48. It would certainly be a considerable help if a clearer text than that before the Committee could be submitted for further discussion.

49. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the inclusion of the phrase "as a rule" in operative paragraph 1 was not rational. On the contrary, it would lead to interminable discussions and long procedural debates as to whether or not an item should be included in the Council's agenda and would waste much valuable time.

50. Indeed, to adopt the draft resolution would be an insult to the Economic and Social Council because it might well lead to the General Assembly's rejecting a great number of the recommendations made by it. Such an outcome would be very bad for the Council's already damaged image.

51. Before it contemplated adopting the draft resolution, the Second Committee should wait and see whether the Economic and Social Council would be able to function more satisfactorily after it had been enlarged. The many

apprehensions which delegations had expressed had nothing to do with the draft resolution *per se* but with the fact that the Council did not currently enjoy the confidence of most Member States. The resolution was therefore quite untimely. He acknowledged, however, that there was much merit in it and that, once a climate of complete confidence in the Economic and Social Council had been restored, the draft resolution could probably be adopted unanimously.

52. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the importance of the position of the Economic and Social Council in the United Nations system should preclude the hasty dismissal of the draft resolution. He reiterated that not a single provision of that draft was contrary to the Charter and rejected the assertion that its adoption would be tantamount to the acceptance of a new statute for the Council which would entail a review of that instrument. The draft should be studied carefully in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the Charter, especially with Chapters IX and X. In particular, under Article 66 (3) the Council was authorized to "perform such other functions as are specified elsewhere in the present Charter or as may be assigned to it by the General Assembly"; that showed that the draft resolution was perfectly consistent with the spirit and letter of the Charter.

53. As new problems had arisen in international economic and social co-operation, new organs such as UNCTAD and UNIDO had been set up, with a certain degree of autonomy. It had been claimed that operative paragraph 1 of the draft was restrictive and could prevent certain important economic problems from reaching the General Assembly in time; but it was evident that the international monetary crisis, to which the Egyptian representative had referred, was a problem which would be considered in a number of bodies of the United Nations system, as well as several United Nations organs, and would not be among the questions on which the Council would be authorized by the General Assembly to take final decisions. On the other hand, the agenda of the General Assembly was overloaded with items of relatively lesser importance, such as the question of the establishment of an international university,

the question of the elderly and the aged, and town twinning as a means of international co-operation, on which the Council might well take final decisions on the basis of reports and recommendations from its subsidiary bodies, in order to leave the General Assembly more time to deal with problems of primary importance.

54. Nor could his delegation accept the argument that misgivings about the draft were due to a profound lack of confidence in the Economic and Social Council. It should be borne in mind that the developing countries were in the majority in that organ. The way to improve its efficiency was not necessarily to enlarge its membership; an alternative method was to secure the more active participation of all Member States in its activities. Indeed, he could not understand the logic of those who were in favour of enlargement of the Council and yet opposed the draft resolution. Before rejecting the draft outright, delegations should reconsider it seriously, because it did in fact serve the interests of all those who wanted the Council to be a full-blooded organ, capable of dealing more effectively, within the framework of the wide powers given it by the Charter, with the problems assigned to it by the Second Committee and other economic, social, scientific and technical organs of the United Nations. He hoped that delegations would decide to consider the draft from the point of view of its great intrinsic merits, to which the Indian representative had referred.

55. Mr. ABDALLA (Sudan) said that his delegation to the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council had seen much merit in the substance of the draft resolution, the purpose of which was to rationalize the distribution of functions between the General Assembly and the Council in the context of the Charter. Nevertheless, it had considered that the draft should have been examined more closely in the Council, and had therefore abstained in the vote, because it had had some difficulty in accepting certain parts of the operative paragraphs. It was now prepared to submit formal amendments to the relevant passages, together with the Brazilian delegation.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.