



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 (continued) (A/8387/Rev.1, A/8403, chap. V; A/C.2/L.1152, A/C.2/L.1182; E/5040)

1. Mr. NEPALI (Nepal) welcomed the fact that in its resolution 2626 (XXV) the General Assembly had stressed the need for an over-all appraisal of the progress in implementing the International Development Strategy on the basis of reviews and appraisals at the national, regional and sectoral levels. The text emphasized the important role of UNCTAD and UNIDO, which were to continue to review progress in their respective sectors; it also stressed the role of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Development Planning, which would help the General Assembly adopt the criteria for review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy in order to facilitate its implementation.

2. The review and appraisal should be carried out on the basis of national, regional and global criteria, with emphasis on the national level. It would therefore be desirable to strengthen the machinery for review and appraisal in the developing countries.

3. In view of the increased responsibility of the specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies with regard to review and appraisal, his delegation had no objection to the enlargement of the membership of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Development Planning. It welcomed in particular the recommendation by the Economic and Social Council that two specialists in the social aspects of development should be appointed to the Committee for Development Planning.

4. He wished to emphasize the importance of topography vis-à-vis development. Export promotion and diversification of trade were essential to the developing countries—particularly the least developed among them—if they were to attain the rate of growth envisaged in the Second United Nations Development Decade; land-locked countries faced difficulties in that area which must be taken into account in establishing the criteria for review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

5. Mr. MASSONET (Belgium) pointed out that paragraph (83) of the International Development Strategy

stated that the over-all appraisal would be made by the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of the documentation assembled and reports prepared for that purpose. The Council would be able to discharge its task only if it would have at its disposal documents with all the desirable professional exactness. It would be convenient for the Council to have before it during its deliberations a single document summarizing the various sources and basic comments made at the various levels of appraisal, together with the relevant observations and recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning.

6. The success of the review and appraisal process would depend to a great extent on the selection of a number of subjects deemed to have over-all importance among the many problems of development. The documentation assembled for that purpose and the relevant comments thereon should also be specific enough to serve as a guide for the various operational activities undertaken by the Organization and should fit fully within the conceptual framework of the objectives of the Second Decade.

7. With regard to review and appraisal at the sectoral level, his delegation believed that the governing bodies of UNCTAD, UNIDO and the specialized agencies should adopt appropriate measures in line with the analyses undertaken at other levels. His country would in due course propose measures in those bodies which it considered most appropriate for evaluating the progress attained. The contribution of UNDP to the appraisal should reflect the nature of its own activities and, in particular, its operations as they related to various national programmes.

8. At the regional level, his country would propose appropriate measures in the Economic Commission for Europe.

9. At the national level, Belgium was reviewing its policy towards the developing countries in the context of a very useful consultative procedure involving the developed countries in OECD. Belgium hoped that the developing countries would follow that example and, if they wished, take the initiative in undertaking similar reviews, for example, within groups concerned with multilateral co-operation.

10. As a member of the European Economic Community, Belgium wished to reiterate that the participation of the Community might become necessary if the over-all appraisal of the progress in implementing the Strategy dealt with matters within the Community's competence.

11. In so far as the periodicity of the reviews was concerned, his delegation believed that a close network should be maintained among the various organizations,

whether or not they were Members of the United Nations system. In that way, sectoral and regional reviews would proceed smoothly, without duplication and overlapping, and the over-all appraisal would be able to take into account the conclusions of sectoral and regional reviews.

12. In scheduling those reviews, account should be taken of the time needed to collect, correlate and publish the data, and the time required for the various agencies concerned to meet, draw conclusions from the data and transmit their conclusions to forums for over-all appraisal; moreover, the meetings of such forums must fit in with the normal calendars of the agencies concerned.

13. The periodicity of the meetings would depend directly on the calendar to be prepared by the Secretary-General. His delegation merely wished to recommend that over-all appraisals should not be carried out too frequently so as to ensure that evaluation activities did not interfere with development activities as such.

14. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled the joint statement by the delegations of the socialist countries on the second decade of development and social progress made on 21 September 1970¹ and said that the developing countries would be unable to attain economic progress unless the international community took decisive measures to improve the international political situation and slow down the arms race. The resources which would become available following general and complete disarmament could truly help to solve many of the social and economic problems of the developing countries. Effective measures must also be adopted at the international level to compel capitalist monopolies to release their hold on the developing countries. In order to overcome their economic backwardness, the developing countries should follow the example of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries by mobilizing their domestic resources for development and drawing up national programmes calling for thorough reforms and the adoption of stringent fiscal and monetary measures. It was also vitally important to ensure the equitable distribution of national income and to control the influence of foreign capital. The Soviet Union would continue to support the efforts of the developing countries in the field of development and establish economic and scientific relations for their benefit.

15. He deplored the fact that many of the instruments adopted by United Nations organs remained a dead letter: for example, the principles of international trade adopted by UNCTAD and the principles of the International Development Strategy were paid no heed whatever by the capitalist countries.

16. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade should enable the developing countries to prepare plans consistent with their own interests. It was for the Economic and Social Council to review the results attained in implementing the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, and the review of that complex question should be based on the reports of the specialized organs, including UNCTAD, UNIDO, and the regional economic commissions.

17. He recalled that at the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council his delegation had not objected to the establishment of a standing committee on review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the Strategy; nevertheless, he was not convinced that such a body was indispensable. In his view, the Economic and Social Council itself was the competent body in that area. It could be assisted in its task by the Committee for Development Planning—which was an advisory body of distinguished economists from various countries—and it should elaborate a set of indicative planning figures based on such factors as the search for equal status, the sovereignty of the developing countries over their natural resources, the training of technical cadres and capital flows to developing countries.

18. Economic and Social Council resolution 1625 (LI) and, in particular, its paragraph 2, represented a step in the right direction. In that paragraph, the Economic and Social Council assigned to the Committee for Development Planning the task of preparing comments and recommendations that could help the Council in discharging its responsibility to the General Assembly relating to biennial over-all appraisals of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy.

19. He wished to comment on draft resolution A/C.2/L.1152, introduced by the Uruguayan delegation. Although he was not categorically opposed to its adoption, he believed that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should ensure that its provisions were applied with resources which were already available, without calling for additional budgetary allocations.

20. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) believed that the Uruguayan draft resolution was very important. He welcomed in particular the recommendation that Governments and the competent organizations of the United Nations family, and particularly UNESCO, should conduct intensive campaigns for the dissemination of information on policies and plans approved within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Decade. He would therefore support the draft resolution without reservation.

21. Mr. CAVIGLIA STARICCO (Uruguay) reserved the right to comment on the item under consideration once India had introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182.

22. Mr. AIYAR (India), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182 on behalf of the delegations of Brazil, Egypt, India, Sudan, Tunisia and Upper Volta, said that the delegations of the following countries had, in the following order, become co-sponsors of the draft resolution: Bhutan, Lesotho, Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay, Swaziland, Iraq, Ceylon, Chad, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Kuwait, Madagascar, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda, Yemen, Paraguay, Turkey, Cameroon, Niger and Burundi.

23. Thus far, in the Economic and Social Council and the Committee, discussion had centred on the institutional aspects of the review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the Strategy. The purpose of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182 was to determine what the bodies responsible for review and appraisal would do once they had been established, without thereby prejudging the over-all arrange-

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 42, document A/8074.*

ment which would subsequently be concluded on the question. In connexion with the fourth preambular paragraph he stressed that in so far as the Strategy related to a period of 10 years, the review and appraisal of its objectives and policies should be conducted in a dynamic spirit, for changes would undoubtedly occur. The machinery established for that purpose should therefore also be relatively flexible. UNCTAD and UNIDO were mentioned in the fifth preambular paragraph because, as had been recognized in paragraph (82) of the Strategy, they, unlike the specialized agencies, were directly responsible to the United Nations. The governing bodies and conferences of the specialized agencies would, in accordance with the Strategy, take decisions which would influence the Strategy, and their intergovernmental organs would frequently be called upon to undertake review and appraisal activities which should be put to good use. The sixth preambular paragraph was based on paragraph (83) of the Strategy. Operative paragraph 2 also derived from that paragraph of the strategy. Operative paragraph 3 related to the objectives of the review and appraisal activities and to the scope of those activities. Those objectives had already been set forth in the Strategy, but it was necessary to repeat them in order to make them perfectly clear and to prevent confusion between the various bodies responsible for review and appraisal as a result of their different points of view. In so far as the scope of the review and appraisal activities were concerned, he drew attention to paragraph (10) of the Strategy in which it was stated that economic and social progress was a process in which the benefits derived from such progress were shared by the international community as a whole. Donor countries were concerned with that process just as much as recipient countries. It was therefore pointed out in operative paragraph 3 (*ii*) that the scope of the exercise should be sufficiently wide to relate to both the developing and developed countries. Operative paragraph 5 (*i*) also reproduced the provisions of the Strategy. In that subparagraph, the sponsors had also taken care not to prejudge the over-all arrangement which would be concluded subsequently. The specialized agencies had been urged, in accordance with paragraphs (79) and (82) of the Strategy, to take the action referred to in subparagraph (*iii*) because they themselves undertook review and appraisal activities in conjunction with the preparation of their annual reports. Steps should therefore be taken to prevent the bodies responsible for review and appraisal from being overburdened by an excessive volume of documentation. Consequently, the activities of the specialized agencies in that area should be supported, in so far as they contributed to over-all review and appraisal activities and were integrated with the work of the Committee for Development Planning. Since the essential objective of the Strategy was to promote over-all co-operation for the purposes of development, the discussions which had taken place in UNCTAD and UNIDO were of major importance, and it was for the intergovernmental bodies of those organizations to draw the attention of the Committee for Development Planning to any question falling within their respective spheres of competence.

24. Mr. MORENO (Cuba) said that operative paragraph 5 (*ii*) should be amended, for the General Assembly could not decide that national review authorities would supply data and information to the Committee for Development Planning. Such a decision would constitute an

infringement of national sovereignty. He therefore suggested that the reference to national review authorities should be deleted from the subparagraph and that the following words should be added to operative paragraph 7: "and upon national review authorities to supply the Committee for Development Planning with such data and information as it requires".

25. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that his delegation had difficulty with some of the provisions of the draft resolution. That was the case, in particular, with operative paragraph 5 (*i*) and (*iv*) which the sponsors might wish to reconsider more closely. The subparagraphs in question were replete with consequences which might seriously jeopardize review and appraisal activities. In his introduction of the draft resolution, the Indian representative had said, in connexion with operative paragraph 5 (*i*), that the sponsors had been deliberately vague about the report to be submitted by the Committee for Development Planning since the over-all arrangement had not yet been concluded. The Committee on Review and Appraisal had already been established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 C (LI); consequently, the General Assembly had no decision to take on the matter and he did not see why the draft resolution should remain vague on the question of the submission of the report. Operative paragraph 4 endorsed the measures set forth in Council resolution 1625 (LI) with regard to the role of the Committee for Development Planning in review and appraisal: in paragraph 4 of resolution 1621 C (LI), the Council had requested the Committee for Development Planning to assist the Committee on Review and Appraisal; however, operative paragraph 5 (*iv*) contained the words "which they deem would facilitate the task of the Committee" which implied that UNCTAD and UNIDO would not submit all the documents available to them on the question of review and appraisal but only those which they considered necessary. He wondered how the Committee for Development Planning could effectively assist the Committee on Review and Appraisal if it did not have all the necessary documentation. The words in question should therefore be deleted. The last part of subparagraph (*i*) ("and submit in report for intergovernmental consideration") should also be deleted.

26. Mr. PRAGUE (France) observed that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182 marked a step forward in the formulation of a coherent system of review and appraisal.

27. However, with regard to the fifth preambular paragraph—which was to a certain extent a consequence of the fourth paragraph relating to the dynamic aspect of the Strategy—the French delegation, which had never denied that the Strategy must be dynamic and flexible, considered that by stressing unduly its dual nature there was a danger of depriving the Strategy of its reality and substance. Believing that a distinction must be maintained between dynamism and fluidity, his delegation considered that the fifth preambular paragraph went beyond dynamism and made the Strategy too fluid in character by providing that the negotiation of new areas of agreement should be an integral part of the over-all review and appraisal process.

28. His delegation, like that of the Philippines, tended to believe that the wording of operative paragraph 5 (*i*) was

excessively cautious and constituted a somewhat retrograde step, in relation to the resolutions already adopted by the Economic and Social Council. Since, in pursuance of the Strategy, it was in fact the responsibility of the Economic and Social Development Decade, his delegation did not see any need to use, in that subparagraph, words as ambiguous as "intergovernmental". Although it was advisable, at the present stage, to display a certain amount of caution, such caution must not lead to an inversion of the role of the intergovernmental body and that of the experts—in the present case, the Committee for Development Planning. It was the task of that Committee to collect information for the purpose of the over-all review; it was certainly not competent to undertake such a review.

29. Operative paragraph 5 (ii), which should be brought closer to operative paragraph 7 in order to bring out its full implications, was excessively restrictive in so far as it excluded any secretariat which did not belong to the United Nations system; other secretariats, in particular that of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, had an important role to play in that matter. The Committee should therefore express willingness to provide for the collaboration of such bodies and should, to a certain extent, amend operative paragraph 7 accordingly.

30. With regard to subparagraphs (iii) and (iv) of operative paragraph 5, his delegation, like that of India, considered that a distinction must be drawn between the specialized agencies, on the one hand, and UNCTAD and UNIDO, on the other, since the two latter organizations were more closely connected with the United Nations system. It would therefore have been logical to establish, somewhere in the draft resolution, a closer link between those two organizations and the over-all appraisal process. However, the two subparagraphs did the opposite in asking the specialized agencies to ensure that their review activities were fully integrated with the work undertaken by the Committee for Development Planning, whereas they seemed to exempt UNCTAD and UNIDO from such an obligation.

31. The observations which he had just made were of a preliminary nature only and did not yet constitute formal amendments, which he reserved the right to make at a later stage if necessary.

32. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that he wished to state his Government's position of principle on the problem under discussion and recalled that at the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Economic and Social Council and in the course of the general debate in the Second Committee, the Italian delegation had explained the reasons which had led it to consider that the Economic and Social Council was the body which, under the Charter, had the function of making an over-all evaluation for submission to the General Assembly for the final study of the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

33. Present-day realities demonstrated the interdependence of both peoples and continents and of the various sectoral aspects of the life of peoples. The International Development Strategy accepted that fact and recognized that the progress of peoples did not depend only on economic factors but also on such social components as education, food, public health, etc. Since, under the

Charter, the Council was the body which carried out a continuous review of the economic and social situation in the world, scrutinized international programmes, and co-ordinated the activities of various specialized agencies and expert bodies, there could be no doubt that it had a predominant function in the process of over-all review and appraisal, as the Secretary-General had very rightly emphasized in paragraph 34 of his report on the review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy (E/5040). Since his delegation favoured the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council to be able better to cope with the task before it, it approved an increase in the membership of the Council, and it had therefore fully supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 (LI).

34. At the Council's fifty-first session, some delegations had particularly stressed the importance of sectoral appraisals with special reference to the role of UNCTAD, and his delegation was fully aware of the importance of such appraisals. It believed, however, that the dynamic nature of the Strategy made it progressively clear that at the four levels of appraisal envisaged, particular relevance must be given to those essential aspects of development that were not sectoral, such as qualitative changes in the economic and social structure of society which might contribute to a progressive reduction of disparities between rich and poor, urban and rural areas, privileged and under-privileged regions within countries, and above all the minority of the fully employed and the large majority who lacked the means of earning a living. While sectoral appraisals were essential, none of them could by itself show in which direction development was going. That opinion had been shared by the Commission for Social Development, the Committee for Development Planning, and the General Assembly itself in its resolution 2681 (XXV).

35. With regard to appraisals at the national and regional levels, the Italian delegation agreed in general with the comments contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/5040). At the regional level, however, his delegation felt that due consideration should be given to the contribution which intergovernmental organizations, such as the European Economic Community and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, were prepared to make to the appraisal of progress in the achievement of the Strategy.

36. As to the list of indicators to be used in checking performance of the various elements of the Strategy, his delegation considered that list as a first attempt to find ways and means of measuring those elements. The indicators were continually redefined and the provisional list had to be constantly modified. His delegation hoped that during that process a proper distinction would be made between quantitative and qualitative performance, since that distinction was of particular importance for various social components of development for which precise indicators were lacking.

37. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) thought that the Committee should try to determine the nature of the review and appraisal, in a way in which it would be undertaken and the bodies which would be entrusted with that task. He associated himself with the reservations expressed by the

representatives of the Philippines and France. In particular, he agreed with the representative of the Philippines that the decisions of the Committee should be clearly set forth in the draft resolution in view of the importance of the first review and appraisal activities under the International Strategy for Development.

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, A/C.2/L.1181)

38. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that there was a series of amendments (A/C.2/L.1181) to resolution 1622 (LI) of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.2/264) concerning the organization of its work.

39. Mr. AYOUB (Tunisia) recalled that resolution 1622 (LI) of the Council had been adopted in a charged atmosphere, at the 1798th meeting, on the last day of the fifty-first session of the Council. The resolution had been adopted by 8 votes to 4, with 15 abstentions. The opposing votes had been cast by Tunisia, Brazil, New Zealand and Pakistan. In explaining its vote, the Tunisian delegation had stated that it did not question the importance of the matter but it considered it necessary to ensure as a first step that the membership of the Economic and Social Council would be increased. While the Council had made such a recommendation to the General Assembly in its resolution 1621 A (LI), it would still be necessary to wait for the ratification of the Assembly's decision by two-thirds of the States Members including five prominent members of the Security Council. It would therefore be advisable to discuss only the deeper meaning of resolution 1622 (LI) of the Council.

40. In introducing the amendments contained in document A/C.2/L.1181, he wished to indicate a slight change in paragraph 2 of the document which related to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. The change would result in the following text:

"1. *Deems it advisable*, whenever possible, and without prejudice to expeditious action and to the right of the General Assembly to inscribe new items on its agenda, for any new economic and social questions to be considered first by the Economic and Social Council;"

41. The delegations of Brazil, Netherlands, Philippines, Sudan and Tunisia deemed it necessary to propose amendments to the draft resolution which the Economic and Social Council recommended the General Assembly to adopt (A/C.2/264) in its resolution 1622 (LI), because it dealt with a very important question which had not been discussed as fully as it should have been. In the opinion of those delegations, resolution 1622 (LI) went a little too far with regard to the functions of the Council.

42. In operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly, the Council established a rule which was a little too strict and which would have the effect of subordinating the General Assembly to the Council; moreover, the rule was prejudicial to the efficiency both of the Council, which it would over-burden with work, and of the General Assembly, which should remain as the supreme body. In addition, sponsors of the amendment felt that it would be better not to mention scientific and technical questions and to stick to the language of Chapter X of the Charter. What was more, they considered it advisable to reaffirm the General Assembly's right to inscribe new items on its agenda with a view, precisely, to emphasize the fact that the General Assembly must remain the master of its procedure and that there could be no question of another organ, preventing it from acting as it saw fit, even if that organ was established by the Charter. On the other hand, operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly contained a very interesting idea, namely that the Economic and Social Council might, in a way, prepare the work for the General Assembly. The sponsors of the amendment felt that the idea that new questions would first be examined by the Council should be retained but only in cases where that would be possible and where such procedure was not liable to interfere with quick action by the General Assembly.

43. As to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly, the sponsors of the amendment felt that while it was unwise for the Council to make recommendations to the General Assembly, that should not be done in a peremptory manner, since the Assembly must remain the supreme body. Accordingly, in their amendment to operative paragraph 2, the sponsors softened the original wording somewhat in the hope of making it more acceptable to the majority of the members of the Committee.

44. With reference to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the sponsors of the amendments proposed that it should be deleted, on the grounds that it was not for the Council to determine the sphere of action within which it would have the right to take final decisions.

45. With regard to operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft resolution, what the sponsors of the amendments were proposing was in effect to bring the ideas together in a single paragraph, while deleting the reference to scientific and technical activities, as they had done in their amendment to operative paragraph 1.

46. In conclusion he said that the sponsors of the amendment would welcome any suggestion and would be glad to hold consultations with a view to arriving at a final text.

47. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Panama) said that he reserved the right to comment on the question later but wished to make some preliminary observations on the amendments contained in document A/C.2/L.1181.

48. In his view there was a contradiction between paragraph 2 and paragraph 5 of those amendments. In para-

graph 2 the sponsors gave the Economic and Social Council some new functions, whereas in paragraph 5 they drew the Council's attention to the need for greater precision and efficiency in the exercise of its functions and powers as defined in the Charter. If the Council was not efficient, it was hardly logical to give it new tasks.

49. With regard to the wording of the amendment to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, he suggested that in the Spanish text the word "*injerirse*" should be replaced by the word "*afecten*"

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.