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**SECOND COMMITTEE, 1379th
MEETING**

Monday, 11 October 1971,
at 10.50 a.m.

NEW YORK

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

GENERAL STATEMENTS (continued)

and

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)

1. Mr. TAN (Singapore) said that the success of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) would depend on common concern and action on the part of developed and developing countries alike. His delegation noted with satisfaction that some countries had already exceeded, while others had pledged to attain by 1975, the target of 1 per cent of their gross national product for financial assistance to developing countries, and it called upon the remaining developed countries to declare their intention of fulfilling the targets listed in paragraphs (43) and (44) of the Strategy.

2. The adoption of the agreed conclusions on a generalized system of non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory preferences was an example of co-operation between developed and developing countries in the cause of development. Paragraph (32) of the Strategy called for the early implementation of the generalized system of preferences but only the European Economic Community and Japan had implemented them so far. His delegation also looked forward to measures by socialist countries to increase their imports from developing countries as well as their technical assistance to those countries for export promotion and industrial development.

3. At the Committee's 1376th meeting, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had commented on western foreign capital and investments in developing countries. The views he expressed were pertinent not only to Singapore, which was one of the countries he mentioned, but to all developing countries which were striving to reduce their level of under-development and provide a better life for their people. His call to developing countries to exercise sovereignty over their natural resource and not to compromise their independence was entirely unexceptionable, but in suggesting that developing countries were allowing themselves to be exploited, he appeared to underestimate the ability of the countries of the third world to ensure that their independence was not bargained away in the development process. The developing countries

had always stressed that development should not compromise independence and, indeed, the vast majority of the non-aligned nations were developing countries.

4. All developed countries, regardless of ideology or geographical location, which invested in developing countries were more interested in profits than in the welfare of the countries in question. The developing countries were not so naive as to believe that the developed countries engaged in trade or provided aid out of sheer altruism or charity. However, the rejection of investments from developed nations was the surest way of ensuring that the developing countries would continue to stagnate. Developing countries had to base their policies on the harsh realities of a world where, for the most part, aid and investments by advanced countries were motivated by cold war considerations. What was important was not whether the developed countries obtained profits but whether the developing country would benefit tangibly without compromising its economic or political independence.

5. Singapore had adopted a policy of promoting foreign investments on mutually acceptable terms. It welcomed investment and aid not only from western countries but also from Eastern Europe and other regions.

6. While it was true that developed countries might invest in developing countries partly because wages were lower, it was quite another thing to suggest that the developing countries were allowing themselves to be exploited. Wages in developing countries might be lower than those earned in developed countries but they could be considered very good in relation to the cost of living. In Singapore, thousands of citizens had been provided with decent jobs, and unemployment had virtually disappeared. The gross national product was the second highest in Asia and the over-all standard of living had improved dramatically.

7. In conclusion, his delegation considered that the success of the Strategy was equally the responsibility of the developing countries, which must make earnest efforts to achieve an economic breakthrough in the coming decade if they were to be able to resist attempts by the major Powers to wage power politics through them.

8. His delegation considered that an increase in the membership of the Economic and Social Council would be justified in principle, but felt that such an enlarged membership and the distribution of the additional 27 seats on the basis of the present distribution might lend substance to arguments that the Council would be unwieldy and ill-represented. It therefore appealed for a compromise solution to make the Council efficient as well as representative of the Membership of the United Nations.

9. Mr. MOLINA DUARTE (Venezuela) pointed out that only a year earlier the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2626 (XXV), under which the more developed countries had directly committed themselves to narrowing the gap between the developing countries and those countries whose history had permitted them to amass economic and political power. However, efforts aimed at giving the developing countries better opportunities for increased participation in international markets, greater access to scientific and technological know-how and sufficient financing for their economic and social development programmes had been seriously affected by the measures recently adopted by the Government of the United States of America, which had had a negative effect on the developing countries in particular and the international community in general. His country viewed with alarm the current international monetary crisis, which was having serious repercussions on world trade and a very heavy impact on developing countries that depended on their external sector to finance their development plans. It was not in keeping with the principles of international social justice that measures unilaterally adopted by a developed country to correct imbalances caused by other commercial Powers should impose the heaviest sacrifices on the developing countries.

10. At the recent session of the International Monetary Fund, the Latin American countries had demanded greater participation by the developing countries in the process of decision-making to restructure the international monetary system. The new monetary system should first provide for an expansion of international trade, which was indispensable if the international economy was to show sufficient growth. Secondly, it should provide an impetus for the economic development of the less industrialized countries. While the development of those countries should spring from their own efforts, those efforts should be supplemented by the transfer of sufficient financial resources from the developed countries.

11. If those objectives were to be fulfilled, it was essential to gear international action to the implementation of a series of decisions aimed at restoring the balance in favour of the developing countries, which had been the most seriously affected by the present crisis. The three criteria for international co-operation were that developing countries should have greater access to markets for their exports, increased financial resources for development and access to scientific and technological know-how. To meet those criteria it would first be necessary to establish a new body to co-ordinate the international monetary system. That body should have sufficient authority to see that its decisions and recommendations were implemented. Secondly, increased financial resources were needed to promote the expansion of international trade and administer the flow of capital to the developing countries. Thirdly, the source of international liquidity should, to an increasing extent, take the form of a fiduciary instrument which, like the Special Drawing Rights, was not identified with any national currency. In addition to those measures, which should be taken at the international level, the Government of the United States of America should abandon the 10 per cent surcharge on imports from the third world along with its plan to reduce development financing, since such measures were a barrier to exports from the least developed

countries and would jeopardize the initiation of the generalized system of preferences. In that connexion, he appealed to the Government of the United States to do all it could to take the necessary legal measures for the implementation of the preferential system.

12. Two events of unusual importance for the developing countries were the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and the third session of UNCTAD. It was to be hoped that those conferences would result in practical recommendations aimed at solving the serious problems that faced the third world and at increasing co-operation among developing countries in their search for common solutions to the problems of international trade, technical co-operation and economic development. It was also to be hoped that at those conferences there would be greater co-operation among countries producing raw materials and that there would be dialogue with the consumer countries on each of the products concerned.

13. His Government was firmly convinced of the need for organized markets and for international conventions on basic commodities beset with special problems. Other products should be carefully studied with a view to problem identification and the establishment of machinery for better co-ordination of the policies of the producing countries. Secondly, the conferences should concentrate on the need for increased exports to the industrialized countries. In that connexion, it was necessary to ensure the prompt establishment of the generalized system of preferences and the creation of export-oriented industries in the developing countries. The industrialized countries should supplement such efforts by progressively eliminating their non-customs barriers with a view to providing greater access to their markets. Finally, financial assistance, the transfer of technology and shipping questions were all of vital importance to the formulation of a world development policy.

14. In addition to the measures he had referred to earlier with regard to the monetary crisis, his delegation considered it especially important for the developed countries to abide by their commitment to provide external financial assistance in the amount of 1 per cent of their gross national product. Where the transfer of technology was concerned, his delegation wished to reaffirm its support for the work programme of the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology, which should be made a permanent organ of UNCTAD, since its work was of special importance to the economic development of the third world. Finally, the whole question of maritime transport should be analysed and pressure put on the maritime Powers to fulfil the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

15. If the development of all peoples was to be achieved, those countries which, to a large extent, had profited from the natural resources of the less advanced countries and had achieved a greater degree of development, of scientific and technological know-how and of financial wealth should be fully conscious of their responsibility to contribute to the development of the developing countries. The latter were not asking for favours but simply for the application of the principles of international social justice.

16. Mr. OGISO (Japan) said, with regard to a matter touched upon by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in his introductory statement, that his delegation felt that the economic measures recently taken by the Government of the United States of America should be only temporary. It was essential to stabilize the international monetary system on a permanent basis and to abolish such restrictive trade measures as the 10 per cent surcharge at the earliest possible date so that international trade might continue to expand to the benefit of both developing and developed countries as called for by the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade. His delegation fully concurred with the resolution adopted on 1 October by the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund calling for the establishment of a satisfactory structure of exchange rates maintained within appropriate margins. The present economic situation posed a danger to the world economy as a whole. Continuing monetary instability would certainly damage the trade of developed and developing countries alike and would also affect the flow of financial assistance from the developed to the developing countries. The recent trend towards protective trade practices should also be of urgent concern to the international community. The solution of such problems largely depended on a new economic order to be established by all countries, which, regardless of their own interests, should adopt a global perspective. Although it was imperative for Member States to concern themselves with the unstable international monetary situation, in fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Strategy, the concrete and detailed examination of the international monetary problem should be undertaken by the competent United Nations bodies.

17. With regard to one of the questions covered by the report of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation supported the view that, owing to the increasing number of United Nations activities in the fields of economic and social affairs, it was necessary to increase the authority of the Council and to strengthen its competence with regard to co-ordination, which would become increasingly important during the Second Development Decade. His delegation agreed with many other delegations that if the Council was to discharge its responsibilities more effectively, it was essential that its membership should ensure better co-ordination of the social and economic activities of United Nations bodies and would aid in establishing guidelines concerning the priority to be given to those activities. In addition, it would enlist the direct interest of more countries in the work of the Council. It was also important to enlarge the membership of the Council's sessional committees, as an interim measure, and to allocate substantive items on the Council's agenda to these committees.

18. As to the question of machinery for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, his delegation believed that the Economic and Social Council, in the exercise of its role as the central co-ordinating body of the United Nations system in the economic and social field, should, under the authority of the General Assembly, be the main forum for review and appraisal. The establishment of a new Council committee on review and appraisal would be of considerable help to the Council in discharging its responsibilities.

19. The strengthening of the functions of the Economic and Social Council was also connected with the question of future institutional arrangements for science and technology. In view of the increased importance of the application of science and technology to development, his delegation believed that the central and policy-making functions in that field should be carried out in the Economic and Social Council, which was responsible for such activities under the Charter. It should also be borne in mind that the establishment of a committee directly dependent on the General Assembly might weaken the Council's authority.

20. For the reasons he had just given, his delegation fully supported resolution 1621 (LI) adopted by the Council at its fifty-first session. It hoped that the General Assembly would endorse that resolution at its current session and would take the necessary steps to implement it.

21. His Government believed that the success of the Second Development Decade was the responsibility of all Member States and, for its part, it had established a policy aimed at attaining the 1 per cent aid target by the year 1975. In 1970, aid from Japan to the developing countries had exceeded \$1,800 million, which represented 0.93 per cent of the gross national product of Japan for that year. In addition, on 1 August 1971, it had implemented the generalized system of preferences and on 1 October 1971 the number of items on which there were quantitative trade restrictions had been reduced to 40, which meant that the list had been reduced by two thirds since December 1968. Further efforts to liberalize trade were contemplated.

22. Mr. McCARTHY (United Kingdom) said that he would present his delegation's general views because various delegations had expressed interest in hearing them, although he considered that the general debate was a duplication of what had already been said in the plenary and could be dispensed with in the interests of saving time and money.

23. The introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had been as much philosophical as specific, and his delegation had not been surprised to hear different speakers base different arguments on it. For instance, the representative of the Soviet Union had predictably used part of it as a preface to the standard allegation that the current monetary crisis was the fault of dominant monopoly capital. It would be as easy to demonstrate, still taking as a starting point the Under-Secretary-General's statement, that the crisis arose largely from the successful efforts of developed countries to promote unprecedented volumes of trade and aid, with unprecedented benefits to all countries.

24. Since, as the Under-Secretary-General had said, it would not be proper for the General Assembly to attempt to legislate in monetary matters, he would not repeat in detail the proposal for a modified system of Special Drawing Rights which the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom had made at the recent meeting of IMF. His delegation's general approach to the current monetary crisis had many points in common with the views of other delegations. It was generally agreed that as a result of the Bretton Woods agreements there had been an unparalleled expansion in world trade, and also that if the

system established by the agreement was to meet future needs, it must be overhauled. There was no doubt that the present situation was of vital concern to developing as well as developed countries. Although the causes of the situation were deep-rooted, the immediate occasion for concern was the United States balance of payments deficit which had led to the measures announced by the United States Government on 15 August. Some realignment of parities was essential as part of any solution, and most Governments shared the view that there was a danger of protectionist measures spreading if action was not soon taken to reach an agreed solution.

25. The measures taken by the United States, particularly the 10 per cent import surcharge, had been widely criticized. His Government had urged early modification of the United States position, and had requested clarification of the conditions under which the surcharge would be lifted. Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that the United States balance of payments difficulties derived largely from the unparalleled liberality with which its Government had sought to aid both Europe and the developing world. While Governments had a right to request the United States to take action to mitigate the effects of its recent measures, the United States equally had the right to call upon them not to forget their shared responsibilities for working out immediately acceptable solutions to the situation. The developing countries, which, like the United Kingdom, depended on world trade for their livelihood, should play a full part in the search for an early settlement. It was not sufficient to argue that the developing countries were not responsible for the situation, and it was irrelevant and unhelpful to blame a so-called "clique" of developed countries. Naturally, those who bore the main international currency burden would have to take the lead in the management of exchanges and trade, but the resolution recently passed by the Board of Governors of IMF called on all members to participate in seeking a solution to the problem. Membership in IMF was open to all States Members of the United Nations, including those of eastern Europe. As the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had pointed out, it was in the interests of the latter, too, that the present uncertainties in the world monetary situation should be dispelled. They should therefore play a constructive role. They had spoken of their concern to increase trade both with the developing countries and with the developed countries of the West, and his Government welcomed their increased participation in GATT, as well as the process of economic reform which was leading to an improved trading climate. However, a major barrier to further progress, especially towards multilateral trade, was the lack of a convertible eastern European currency, together with the prevalence of the barter approach. It was to be hoped that progress could be made in those areas.

26. His delegation believed that solutions must be found through co-operation by all nations within the framework of IMF. It was surprising to hear in the Second Committee, in opposition to that view, deprecating references to the concept of burden-sharing. That concept was fundamental to the purposes of the United Nations, and to civilized neighbourliness among peoples. It would be easy for the United Kingdom, one of the richer countries, to refuse to share burdens, but that was not its policy. The United

Kingdom was still suffering from its recent economic problems, a major factor in which had been the maintenance of a multilateral reserve currency to finance world trade. It also faced the likelihood of severe damage to its trading prospects if the example of protectionism set by the United States was followed by other countries. His Government had nevertheless decided to increase by one third its contribution to the United Nations Development Programme in 1972, and to make an additional contribution of over \$100 million to the International Development Association. It had also met fully every regular budgetary requirement, both normal and extraordinary, arising from its membership of the United Nations system, and had responded immediately and substantially to the calls for voluntary contributions to meet the deficit problem. It had done so during a period in which many other Members of the United Nations had been content to remain chronically in arrears with their assessments, and in which some had simply failed to meet their obligations. His Government had acted in that manner, in spite of its disapproval of many of the forms of expenditure which the United Nations had authorized, because it accepted the concept of sharing burdens within a system which assumed common responsibility. In the same sense, it would work within the framework of IMF.

27. There appeared to be a wide measure of agreement that, if the instabilities in the present system were to be removed, what was needed was a genuinely neutral reserve allowing an adequate international liquidity to be controlled by international agreement. The aim of the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the recent IMF meeting at Washington had been that currency equilibrium should be coupled with adequate liquidity for world finance and trade, and that was precisely the objective of the developing countries. His Government therefore hoped that it would be possible to make early progress within the appropriate institutional framework towards a settlement, which was vital to all States Members of the United Nations.

28. With regard to the report of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation shared the support of the representative of the Philippines for the proposal to appoint a natural disaster relief co-ordinator. That point could appropriately be mentioned in the Second Committee, since natural disasters had an extremely serious effect on the development plans of developing countries. His delegation hoped that at its current session the General Assembly would take action on that score.

29. His delegation was firmly convinced that the Economic and Social Council should play the main role in advising the General Assembly on the question of review and appraisal machinery for the Second Development Decade. It had therefore welcomed the establishment by the Council of a Committee on Review and Appraisal, and believed that the role of the Council and its necessary committees should be treated as a package. The decision to set up that Committee, and the associated decision that the Council would consider questions of science and technology, were fully consistent with the Council's central role under Article 60 of the Charter, which was subordinate to that of the General Assembly and in no way conflicted with the Assembly's prerogatives.

30. His delegation recognized the importance of the purposes of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. It welcomed the consistent interest of many developing countries in the question of the environment, and their awareness that environmental problems were not simply those which attracted the most publicity and affected primarily the developing countries. Some Governments appeared to be in favour of global solutions to environmental problems, irrespective of local situations, whereas others saw the whole question as a plot against certain of the developing countries. The truth was that the question of the environment was one affecting the future of the planet as a whole; if it was approached in that spirit, polemics could be avoided at the Conference.

31. In its statements during the Committee's consideration of its other agenda items, his delegation would constantly stress that resources were limited and that the finances of the United Nations were in an extremely serious state; the most optimistic estimate of the deficit was \$170 million. All delegations must therefore show a greatly increased sense of responsibility and realism, and should bear in mind the valid comments made by the Secretary-General both in the Introduction to his report to the General Assembly and in his statement before the Fifth Committee.

32. Mr. OSORIO (Mexico) said it was clear from the present world economic situation that the time had passed when great Powers could take decisions on economic matters solely on the basis of national objectives. The interests of all nations were interrelated, and world rather than national interests should be placed first, not simply as a gesture of human solidarity but in order to ensure national survival. Political decisions must now more than ever be based on a broader vision, rather than simply on immediate goals.

33. It had cost the developing countries years of arduous negotiations to achieve the acceptance of such principles as preferential tariff treatment for the developing countries, as a first step towards a new philosophy of development. Already, however, in contradiction to those principles, measures implying a return to earlier, outmoded concepts were being taken. The efforts to induce a larger number of countries to grant preferences, to institute a general situation of preferences and to advocate that the latter should embrace non-tariff barriers as well were endangered by recent protectionist measures. The current situation was a challenge to the third world; the developing countries must not yield the position they had won for themselves, but must fight for the abolition of the protectionist measures taken. To accept that they were subject to reciprocal concessions would be a step backwards. The world had formally accepted the need to grant preferential treatment to developing countries, and accordingly, the latter should be exempt from the 10 per cent import surcharge. That would simply be remedying an injustice. Even if discussion was confined to the context of the United States balance-of-payments deficit, the developing countries should be exempt from the surcharge, since they had in no way contributed to that deficit, and it was not within their power to correct the situation which had caused it.

34. It had been said that the surcharge would be removed when the deficit problem was corrected. To consider the

United States balance of payments with all countries in that context would be incorrect, since examination of its balance of payments with developing countries showed that it was not the latter which had caused the deficit. The problem had arisen in the economic relations among the developed countries, and they should bear the resulting burden. The developing countries would indeed be fully justified in going further and demanding adequate compensation for the damage they had already suffered as a result of the surcharge.

35. Under the current international monetary system, the developing countries suffered its negative effects without any participation in the decision-making process. They were opposed to any claim that the power of decision should be based exclusively on wealth. The current system was governed by criteria which did not take into account the effects of decisions on economies at different levels of development. The developing countries did not believe that the problems of an over-developed economy, such as increased unemployment, outflow of capital and threatened lowering of living standards in any way justified the implementation of a policy which placed pressure on them and increased still further the hunger and poverty of millions of human beings. While it might not be practical to claim compensation for the damage already caused to them, the developing countries must insist that as a preventive measure they should be allowed to participate actively in future decisions on the world monetary system. They would use such participation not only to insist that a new system should serve the weaker economies, but also to ensure that it became a decisive factor in economic and social development, including machinery for channelling to the developing countries a continual and growing flow of resources, under conditions which would ensure continued economic growth. Revision of the current system could be achieved through a conference similar to that which had taken place at Bretton Woods, but in which the developing countries would be active participants rather than bystanders.

36. The adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade implied that while the developing countries must base their progress on their own efforts, economic and social progress was nevertheless the joint responsibility of the whole of the international community. The nature and scope of future changes would depend to a great extent on the actions of the developed nations and on the effectiveness of co-operation machinery. In general, developing countries relied on exports for the income used to purchase the means of development; their development potential was thus determined by the level of their exports. In the current situation, their hopes of exporting manufactured goods to the developing countries had been considerably reduced. The negative effects might be even greater in the future if the attitude of the developed countries led to an increasingly protectionist system, which would greatly reduce the exports of developing countries and thus limit their capacity to import. The consequent reduction in their development potential would make it impossible to reach the objectives of the Second Development Decade. The events which had taken place less than a year after the adoption of the International Development Strategy gave no grounds for optimism in that respect. There was reason to doubt whether all States

Members of the United Nations were in fact prepared to comply with their pledge, individually and collectively, to pursue policies designed to create a more just and rational world economic and social order, in which equality of opportunities should be as much a prerogative of nations as of individuals within a nation.

37. His delegation hoped that at the forthcoming meeting of the Group of 77 at Lima, the developing countries would achieve a solidarity which would ensure the success of the third session of UNCTAD, to be held at Santiago in 1972. The poorer nations must together determine the limits within which they could participate in the international community. They saw international relations in terms not of domination but of autonomy and development. They rejected anachronistic power theories and believed that national independence must lead to the establishment of a democratic society at the international level.

38. In conclusion, he suggested that it would be extremely useful if, by the time the third session of UNCTAD took place, the Secretariat could prepare a more detailed study of the origins of the monetary crisis, taking fully into account the various aspects of the role played by the dollar as an international reserve currency over the past 25 years.

39. Mr. AMIRMOKRI (Iran) said that his delegation was concerned that the recent monetary crisis and the uncertainty it had created would adversely affect international trade and the flow of capital on which the economy of developing countries depended. It was disturbed by the lack of a sense of international solidarity and feared that the preoccupation of some of the most developed countries with their balance of payments situations would threaten the insufficient level of assistance and co-operation already achieved. Liberalization of trade and a better international division of labour had been singled out as two of the prerequisites for the success of the Second Development Decade, but the recent economic and monetary crisis was not particularly conducive to its attainment.

40. His Government supported the measures undertaken to strengthen the Economic and Social Council's co-ordinating role as well as its powers to formulate policies. It favoured any attempt to make the Council more representative without undermining the authority of such bodies as UNCTAD and UNIDO. It also fully supported the efforts of the developing countries to formulate their requirements and adopt a unified stand through such channels as the meeting of the Group of 77, to be held in Lima, in their negotiations with developed countries.

41. His delegation was particularly concerned at the emerging protectionist trend in certain developed countries which threatened to undo the scant progress achieved in recent years. At a time when the products of the developing countries were beginning to find new markets, they were being confronted by protectionist tariffs. His delegation urged the developed countries to make a new commitment to development by liberalizing trade and removing prohibitive tariffs, particularly on goods from developing countries. If, however, the developing countries failed to secure the co-operation of developed countries in attaining their objectives within the framework of the forthcoming session of UNCTAD, they might be obliged to turn to other

methods of persuasion. The results of the recent Teheran negotiations on oil had demonstrated the effectiveness of a united stand in collective bargaining by the oil-producing countries of the Middle East. His delegation had no doubt that a united stand would prove equally effective in the case of other raw materials, but it hoped that the developed countries would demonstrate greater flexibility, understanding and co-operation at the forthcoming session of UNCTAD.

42. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) said that his Government had already explained its reasons for adopting the new policy to restore balance to the economic situation at home and abroad, and that the position of his delegation had been set out in the 1950th plenary meeting of the Assembly by the Secretary of State on 4 October. Domestically, the programme was directed towards controlling inflation, reducing unemployment and improving productivity. Internationally, it was directed towards correcting the exchange rate structure and reforming the monetary system.

43. His delegation was particularly anxious to emphasize his Government's abiding concern for the economic health of the developing world at a time when the new United States policy might have raised some doubts regarding its economic objectives. His country had not abandoned its commitment to aid developing countries by means of continued high levels of assistance nor had it abandoned the conviction that a liberal international trade and monetary system was in the best interests of developing and developed countries alike. By strengthening its domestic and international position, the United States could enhance the public and congressional support which those objectives required. The purpose of its policy was to enable the United States to meet its responsibilities and deepen its constructive involvement in the world. His delegation believed that the International Monetary Fund resolution 26.9 on the international monetary system was an important step towards realizing those objectives.

44. Turning to the report of the Economic and Social Council, he said that his delegation believed that the Council must be revitalized to play the role envisaged in the Charter. His delegation attached great importance to the establishment of the two standing Committees on Review and Appraisal of the Second Development Decade and on Science and Technology. In the view of his delegation it was wholly in accordance with the Charter and also with the resolution on the Second Development Decade for the Council to have established a standing committee to assume responsibility for review and appraisal. The action of the Council could in no way diminish the extremely important role of UNCTAD and other United Nations bodies in the Development Decade; on the contrary, the Council would be a central point from which to relate the contributions of all United Nations bodies so as to achieve optimum value and meaning in the evaluation and appraisal process. The task of evaluation and appraisal would depend heavily on the work of the Committee on Development Planning, the specialized agencies, and other parts of the United Nations system, especially UNCTAD, which had played such a key role in the earlier preparatory work.

45. Similarly, the specialized agencies, other parts of the United Nations system, UNCTAD and UNIDO would have

specific competences and responsibilities with regard to the standing Committee on Science and Technology established at the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council.

46. His delegation supported the proposal to enlarge the membership of the Council and together with other delegations intended to table a resolution concerning the enlargement of the Council and providing for the adoption of an amendment to the Charter.

47. A significant step forward had been taken in Council resolution 1642 (LI), which called for in-depth consideration of only two or three reports from specialized agencies in any one session instead of a cursory review of all reports. Resolution 1643 (LI) on the role of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) would bring about a more fruitful relationship between that body and the

Council and the new reporting procedures would ensure better communications between both bodies. Again, his delegation had found the report prepared by the Secretariat on a system of over-all review and appraisal (E/5040) particularly pertinent to the Council's role in the global review and appraisal process.

48. In conclusion, he observed that Council resolution 1612 (LI) calling on the Secretary-General to appoint a disaster relief co-ordinator to mobilize, direct and co-ordinate the relief activities of the United Nations system in response to requests for assistance throughout the world was worthy of prompt endorsement by the General Assembly at the current session so as to enable the Secretary-General to set up the disaster relief machinery without further delay.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.