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Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 47

General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/7603/Add.1, chap. VII; A/7757, A/C.2/L.1088/Rev.1, E/4744 (vol. I and II), E/4744/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/4748/Rev.1)

1. Mr. PARDO (Malta) said that, in spite of the views of certain delegations, the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1088) on co-ordinating of marine activities had not felt able to withdraw it, because of their belief that the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system in ocean space was a matter of sufficient importance to warrant consideration by the General Assembly. The pressure on land-based resources would in future grow at an accelerating rate because of the rapid growth of world population, the increasing rate of industrialization and the rising expectations of improved living conditions. It was estimated that food supplies would have to double within the next thirty years in order merely to keep abreast of population growth, that energy requirements in the next twenty years would be more than three times those of the past hundred years and that consumption of metals in the next thirty years would equal that of the past two thousand years. Despite the advances of technology and science, there was little hope of satisfying such requirements at an acceptable cost from land-based resources alone. Increasing utilization of ocean space was therefore both imperative and inevitable, and was being made possible by rapidly developing technology. A large number of problems were involved in such varied fields as science, pollution, conservation, meteorology, medicine and communications; many of

them had implications which could only be dealt with through international co-operation, while such activities as weather prediction required global services and instrumentation.

2. At present, international co-operation in ocean space was undertaken at the technical level on an informal or formal basis, through a variety of channels, both within and outside the United Nations system. Within that system, some crucial questions which must be asked in reviewing co-ordination were whether or not a general concept of the functions and purpose of substantive activities of the system in ocean space existed; if so, whether it fully took into account the present and emerging needs of Member States; and whether the over-all organization and structure of the system were such as to give some assurance that a focus would be given to international co-operation in ocean space outside the system, and that the greatly increased demands which would be placed on the system in the coming Decade could be satisfied without excessively complex co-ordination and administration. Sufficient doubt existed regarding the answers to warrant a careful and impartial investigation of the questions. Within ten years the demand for effective guidance in international co-operation would greatly increase, and it was by no means clear that the system would be capable of responding effectively to the demand. Present developments were not entirely reassuring, and in the circumstances, it seemed highly desirable for the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to examine the situation as a matter of urgency and recommend such additional investigation and action as might be required. The matter was urgent because of the slowness of change within the United Nations system, even when recommended by the General Assembly.

3. While the sponsors were unwilling to withdraw their draft resolution, they had, in a spirit of co-operation, made amendments to it in response to comments by other delegations and the revised version had been circulated (A/C.2/L.1088/Rev.1). They had recognized that both the reconstituted CPC and the Economic and Social Council should be given an opportunity to comment on the need for a review and, if it was found desirable, to define its scope and the manner in which it should be conducted. The revised draft had no financial implications and was of an essentially procedural nature; it did not prejudice the position of any delegation on the substance.

4. The preamble was essentially factual, while operative paragraphs 2 and 3 were routine. Operative paragraph 1 might require some comment; there were three reasons why the reconstituted CPC, rather than the Council, was requested to examine the need for a review. First, the Council's heavy agenda made it difficult for it to give the

matter the careful and detailed consideration which was desirable. Secondly, the Council normally considered matters relating to co-ordination at its summer session, and might not find the time to make clear recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. If the Council at its forty-ninth session were to refer the matter to CPC, at least two years would elapse before any recommendation for a review could reach the General Assembly, and nearly five years before such a review could be completed. The third reason pertained, in particular, to his delegation, which had no prospect of becoming a member of the Council and could therefore not participate effectively in its debates. Operative paragraph 1 should not be interpreted as designed to detract in any way from the competence of the Council under the Charter of the United Nations, and members of the Council would have the opportunity to review any conclusions reached by CPC before they were submitted to the General Assembly. The rapidly expanding activities of the United Nations system in ocean space were being conducted in a constitutional framework less rigid than that governing substantive activities in other fields. In many cases ocean space activities were developing on the basis of *ad hoc* arrangements, or of the unilateral assumption of competence without clear constitutional authority. In view of the importance of international co-operation in the marine environment, the General Assembly could not refuse to ascertain whether the need for a review of the situation existed. By doing so it would avail itself of an opportunity to shape international structures in accordance with needs. The fact that his delegation held views on the subject which were not shared by all should not debar discussion of the subject. There might be differences of opinion as to whether a comprehensive review was necessary and, assuming it was, as to its precise scope and the manner in which it should be conducted, but there could be no difference of opinion on the need to examine the matter; to fail to conduct such an examination would be an abdication of responsibility on the part of the General Assembly.

5. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that, although his delegation welcomed the improvements in the revised draft resolution, it still doubted whether even the more limited action it now proposed was not premature. In particular, the draft failed to take into account activities already undertaken, such as the submission by the Secretary-General of a report entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals",¹ in response to General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI), which had already been submitted to the Assembly, and assumed that a new study should be made. It also failed to take into account the discussions taking place in the First Committee and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction. Furthermore, the relationship between the proposed review and the examination of the existing Secretariat machinery for providing scientific and technical advice in the United Nations system, approved by the Committee at its 1301st meeting (A/C.2/L.1090), was not made clear.

6. His delegation believed that, if the review was to be taken up by the reconstituted CPC, the discussion should aim at deciding not whether there should be a review of a specific type, in other words an impartial review by

consultants outside the United Nations system, but whether any type of study should be conducted. In any case, it would be difficult for the reconstituted CPC, with its heavy workload, to make meaningful recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in time for the matter to be discussed at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In contrast to the proposal (A/C.2/L.1090) to reconstitute CPC which the Committee had adopted, the present suggestion had not been given extensive consideration either by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination or by the Council, let alone the Second Committee. His delegation therefore believed it desirable to postpone discussion of it until 1970.

7. Mr. DENORME (Belgium) said that, in his statement at the Committee's 1295th meeting, the representative of Malta had described the activities of the United Nations in ocean space as a special example of the situation described in General Assembly resolution 2188 (XXI), whereby activities in economic and social development had evolved on the basis of unrelated proposals rather than in accordance with a co-ordinated plan. The obvious result of that situation was a danger of duplication and overlapping, of conflicts of competence and, more important, of gaps in programmes. The representative of Malta had said that the United Nations system, instead of considering problems and trying to solve them in the context of ocean space as a whole, took or proposed action on the basis of narrow sectoral views (see 1295th meeting, para. 17). The question might arise as to whether any co-ordination did not in fact involve difficulties. An example could be found in the terms of reference of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction. When considering the establishment of that Committee (see General Assembly resolution 2467 (XXIII)), the Assembly had felt that the fact that other specialized organs were dealing with matters with which the Committee would deal could not justify the failure to co-ordinate such activities, and that the study of the question should not lose its cohesion because of the fact that different aspects were distributed among different specialized functional organs. However, it had at the same time been recognized that specialized studies of a technical nature should remain the province of experts. It was quite possible that the situation with regard to the activities of the United Nations system as a whole could always be described as chaotic, depending on the criterion adopted. His delegation tended to agree with the Secretary-General, who had noted, in his report entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals", that the problems involved were specialized and primarily technical and should therefore be examined within the framework of the specialized agencies concerned, which possessed the required technical competence.

8. The representative of Malta had cited as an example of the gaps existing in programmes the fact that nine agencies were dealing with the prevention of pollution, but that none of them was competent with regard to the discharge of waste of whole regions into international water many miles from the coast (see 1295th meeting, para. 16). During the discussions in the First Committee² of the text which had become General Assembly resolution 2467 B (XXIII),

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, First Committee, 1588th meeting.*

¹ Documents E/4487 and Corr.1-6 and Add.1-2.

the Belgian delegation had agreed with the representative of Malta that its scope should be enlarged to cover pollution resulting from accidents or deliberate acts extraneous to exploration and exploitation. With the approval by the Second Committee (see 1300th meeting, para. 26) of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1083/Rev.1 on promoting effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution, it appeared that the General Assembly was already aware of the problem referred to by the representative of Malta, and he believed that no further measures should be taken until the reviews requested in that resolution had been submitted.

9. The representative of Malta had also stated (see 1295th meeting, paras. 18 and 20) that several agencies were engaged in a competitive race to stake a competence to which they had no clear right, and had noted that steps taken by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission showed its intention to become an autonomous organization in the United Nations system primarily concerned with science and the exploration of the marine environment. In that connexion, the Belgian delegation had announced, in the Second Committee at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly (see 1226th meeting), its support of the participation of other specialized agencies in IOC's activities, on condition that the latter remained an integral part of UNESCO's work, and during the present session had co-sponsored the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1079/Rev.1) on marine science which the Second Committee had adopted under agenda item 12 (see 1288th meeting, para. 3), which commended the close working relations that had developed between IOC and other agencies. He paid a tribute to the self-discipline imposed by IOC in its resolution VI-16, in which it had decided that the existence of its working group on marine pollution was no longer justified in view of the existence of a Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution.

10. As a general observation, his delegation could not dispute the fact that co-ordination of activities was necessary. With regard to the specific proposal made by the representative of Malta that a group of consultants should be appointed to review the activities of the United Nations system in ocean space and to make recommendations for more effective and systematic co-ordination, he recalled that, in resolution 2172 (XXI), the General Assembly had recognized the need for a greater knowledge of the oceans and of the opportunities available for the utilization of their resources, and had considered that there was a need to maximize international co-operative efforts for the further development of marine science and technology and to avoid duplication or overlapping efforts. A small group of experts had been appointed, and the result of their activities had been the submission of the Secretary-General's report on marine science and technology of which the General Assembly had taken note with appreciation in its resolution 2414 (XXIII). Operative paragraphs 5 to 10 of that resolution approved the recommendations of the report dealing with international co-operation, while operative paragraph 11 requested the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution.

11. Under the circumstances, study of the matter should not be resumed until that report had been submitted to the

General Assembly. If a study such as that which draft resolution A/C.2/L.1088/Rev.1 recommended was deferred, according to the representative of Malta the General Assembly might well be confronted with the necessity in a few years' time of approving the establishment of not one, but three, new specialized agencies. Was it to be inferred from that comment that the conclusion of the study referred to in the draft was already prejudged and would involve the establishment of a new specialized agency? Whether or not that was the case, consideration of the question should be postponed until 1970 when the Secretary-General made his report under General Assembly resolution 2414 (XXIII).

12. Mr. DE SOTO (Peru) said that the original version of the draft resolution before the Committee had been somewhat premature, since neither the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination nor the Economic and Social Council had had the opportunity to study its proposals at length. The amended text (A/C.2/L.1088/Rev.1) did not prejudice the form which the comprehensive review would take, or indeed even the need for it, and his delegation was therefore not opposed to its adoption. However, it reserved its position with regard to the desirability of the proposed review, and believed that both CPC and the Council should be given an opportunity to decide whether or not they considered it necessary. It should not be forgotten that some lack of co-ordination was inevitable when the organizations involved, like IOC and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, had only recently been established. Indeed, some types of duplication were even desirable, for example, the study of the draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof by both the Committee on Disarmament and the sea-bed Committee.

13. The representative of the United States had made a number of procedural comments which merited attention and, in particular, had pointed out that CPC had not yet been reconstituted and that therefore some rewording of operative paragraph 1 was necessary. Furthermore, as the representative of Belgium had pointed out, the matter was less urgent than might be supposed.

14. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) suggested that the sponsors of the revised draft resolution should add a preambular paragraph acknowledging the work on the marine environment being done by FAO, IMCO and IOC. The words "competent and impartial" in operative paragraph 1 implied that some of the reviews undertaken by organizations in the United Nations system were not competent and impartial. Since that was not the case, perhaps those words should be deleted.

15. The sponsors had improved the text considerably, but the United Kingdom was still unable to vote for it. The question of co-ordinating international activities relating to the marine environment had been raised by the representative of Malta in the final series of meetings of the Enlarged Committee and was referred to in the Committee's final report (see E/4748/Rev.1, paras. 94-98). The Second Committee had approved resolution A/C.2/L.1090, in the last

operative paragraph of which it was agreed that the proposals in sections A to E contained in chapter IV of the Enlarged Committee's final report should be reviewed by the reconstituted Committee. It seemed unnecessary to adopt another resolution requesting the reconstituted Committee to do the same thing. He therefore appealed to the sponsors not to press for a vote.

16. Mr. PRAGUE (France) said that he shared the reservations expressed by previous speakers, particularly the representatives of Belgium and the United States. France would be unable to vote in favour of the revised draft resolution.

17. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) said that Canada would vote for the revised draft resolution but suggested that the end of operative paragraph 1 should be amended to read: "with a view to making the Committee's recommendations available to the Council at its forty-ninth session".

18. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) pointed out that, although it had opposed the original draft resolution, the Philippines had become a sponsor of the revised text. In the statement of the representative of Malta in the general discussion (see 1295th meeting) and in introducing the draft resolution, he had clearly explained why CPC should examine the need for a comprehensive review of existing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans. It was necessary that the activities on the marine environment being undertaken by eight or nine specialized agencies should be co-ordinated. The amendment to operative paragraph 1 suggested by the Canadian representative (see para. 17 above) was acceptable to his delegation.

19. Mr. RUTTEN (Netherlands) said that, if the revised draft resolution was put to the vote, the Netherlands would vote in favour of it on the understanding that CPC was being requested to determine whether or not there was a need for a comprehensive review, taking into account the work already done in the matter and the Secretary-General's report entitled "Marine science and technology: survey and proposals".

20. He supported the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom representative (see para. 14 above).

21. Mr. FERRETTI (Italy) endorsed the amendments proposed by the Canadian and United Kingdom representatives. His delegation would support the revised draft resolution, particularly if those amendments were incorporated. Italy interpreted operative paragraph 1 to mean that CPC, or any other Council body appointed to replace CPC, would determine whether or not a comprehensive review was necessary.

22. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had requested the sponsors to defer consideration of the matter until the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council or the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

23. Mr. PARDO (Malta) thanked those delegations which had spoken in favour of the revised draft resolution. The sponsors had no objection to incorporating the United

Kingdom amendments (see para. 14 above). An additional preambular paragraph could, for instance, be inserted after the fourth preambular paragraph to read: "*Noting with appreciation the work done in this field by the organizations in the United Nations system,*" and the words "competent and impartial" could be deleted from operative paragraph 1. The sponsors could also agree to the deletion of the word "reconstituted" before the word "Committee" in operative paragraphs 1 and 2, and could accept the Canadian amendment (see para. 17 above).

24. Those requesting the sponsors to defer consideration of the question until the following year should remember that, before the matter could be brought to the General Assembly, some technical preparations would have to be made in CPC and the Council. If, therefore, the matter was to be raised in the General Assembly in 1970, it was essential that it should be discussed by CPC and the Council earlier in the same year. Hence, the draft resolution served a useful purpose.

25. He could not agree with the United Kingdom representative that, since CPC would have to discuss all the proposals in chapter IV of the Enlarged Committee's final report (E/4748/Rev.1), the draft resolution was unnecessary. CPC's agenda was so crowded that discussion of some items would inevitably be delayed. The sponsors wanted CPC to examine the need for a comprehensive review early in 1970 so that the question could be considered by the Council at its forty-ninth session and the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

26. The need for a resolution of the type under consideration was borne out by reference to paragraphs 247, 257 and 281 of the report of the Secretary-General.³ So far as the last sentence of paragraph 257 was concerned, it should be noted that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination did not operate at the intergovernmental level. His delegation considered that it would be useful for ACC to receive instructions from Governments so that it could more effectively ensure the advance consultations the Secretary-General wished to initiate.

27. Mr. GOBBA (United Arab Republic) requested the sponsors to defer the vote until the next meeting. In that way his delegation would have time to examine the draft more carefully.

28. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked to which CPC operative paragraph 1 referred. The existing CPC would wind up its work on 31 December 1969 and it was not yet clear whether another would be set up and, if so, what form it would take. It would be interesting to know, too, whether the General Assembly could give instructions direct to CPC without going through the Council, CPC's parent body. He requested answers to those two questions before the revised draft resolution was put to the vote.

29. Mr. PARDO (Malta) said that he would have no objection to the words "after reconstitution" or "if reconstituted" being inserted after the words "Committee for Programme and Co-ordination" in operative paragraph 1. As to the Soviet representative's second question,

³ See foot-note 1.

he had already explained that the Economic and Social Council would be unable to consider the co-ordination of marine activities until its summer session and might not, therefore, be in a position to give its advice on the matter to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. It was possible that, if directed by the General Assembly, CPC would give priority to the subject and deal with it early in 1970. In that way it would be able to transmit its report on the matter to the Council before the latter's summer session and the Council would be able to express its opinion to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

30. He appealed to the representative of the United Arab Republic to agree to the revised draft resolution being put to the vote at the current meeting.

31. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Maltese representative's argument was not entirely valid. The Economic and Social Council would meet in January 1970 and would thus have sufficient time to prepare its decision on the matter before the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Committee would be creating a dangerous precedent if it by-passed the Council when there was no need to do so. The beginning of operative paragraph 1 might be amended to read: "*Requests the Economic and Social Council, acting through its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, to examine . . .*".

32. Mr. PARDO (Malta) said that he could agree to the beginning of the paragraph being amended to read "*Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in January 1970, to consider instructing the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, after re-constitution, to examine the need . . .*".

33. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) accepted that wording.

34. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) suggested that the Council should be free to decide whether the matter should be referred to CPC or not.

35. Mr. PARDO (Malta) said that Malta was not a member of the Economic and Social Council and was unable to influence its debates. It was therefore anxious that the matter should be dealt with by CPC which was an expert body and competent to discuss the technical details. It was essential for CPC to take up the matter as soon as possible, in any case before the summer session of the Council.

36. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) suggested that the idea of the text should be clarified. His delegation was concerned that the Council should be requested to refer a matter to CPC without first discussing whether such action was necessary or not. Malta could always ask to attend and participate in the Council's debates as an observer.

37. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) thanked the representative of Malta for having accepted some of his suggestions and much regretted that he would not be able to vote for the revised draft resolution, not because he had difficulty in accepting its main purpose, but because he did not consider it really necessary. The representative of Malta had said that he wanted CPC to consider the question as a matter of

urgency. But that had the effect of laying down priorities for the work of the reconstituted CPC, which was not for the Second Committee to do. Chapter IV of the Enlarged Committee's final report (E/4748/Rev.1) suggested that its work would include, as well as co-ordination of international activities relating to the marine environment (*ibid.*, paras. 94-98), another question that the representative of Malta also considered a matter of urgency, namely common premises for United Nations field offices (*ibid.*, paras. 90-92). Chapter IV indicated that two other tasks, relating to the impact of national priorities in the planning, execution and evaluation of international programmes, and to regional co-ordination, required action by the reconstituted CPC in 1970. Thus that Committee must decide its own priorities in the light of its work as a whole.

38. The CHAIRMAN suggested that discussion on the matter should be closed and that a text incorporating the amendments accepted by the sponsors should be submitted to the Committee for approval at its next meeting.

It was so agreed.

Mr. Amirmokri (Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 40

Second United Nations Development Decade: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade (*continued*)* (A/7525 and Add.1-3, A/7603, chap. I; A/7603/Add.1, chap. I; A/7699, A/C.2/L.1060)

39. Mr. VALLEJO (Colombia) referred to his statement at the Committee's 1262nd meeting when he had read out a text of a draft resolution on the Second United Nations Development Decade, which was now before the Committee (A/C.2/L.1060). One of the main reasons why the First United Nations Development Decade had not achieved the success expected of it was that there had been no global strategy. In addition, many developing countries lacked efficient planning systems and the political determination to impose the structural changes required to ensure more active economic growth over the long term. Nevertheless, much had been achieved in economic planning, evaluation of programmes and projects, organizing national and international financing of those projects, and identifying common regional problems, particularly in Latin America. The First Development Decade must be regarded as a period of education for the developing countries. But they could not tackle the problems of development unaided. In the past, rapid industrialization and capital formation had been made possible by a number of conditions that had either disappeared or become unacceptable, such as slavery, colonialism and the exploitation of labour. Help from the industrial countries was neither a gesture of pity nor a means of avoiding revolutions; it was strictly an act of justice.

40. A number of events in recent history made it essential to deal promptly with the problem of development. They included rapid urbanization; the widening gap between the industrial and the primary producing countries; rapid

* Resumed from the 1285th meeting.

demographic growth at the poorer levels in the developing countries; the trade policies of the developed countries, unfavourable to the primary exports of the developing countries and to their manufacturing industries; the persistence of outdated economic and social structures that prevented a policy of savings and capital formation for development; the demonstration effect of high consumption in rich countries, which created artificial needs among the poorer classes and led to political tensions; education problems resulting from the costly specialization required at advanced stages of development; the fact that domestic markets were too small to justify a modern competitive industry; the difficult terms accompanying the financial aid provided by the developed countries, and the uncertain nature of that aid, which had adverse effects on development plans; the inadequate flow of technical assistance to developing countries; the backwardness of agriculture in those countries, which meant that production was costly and output not sufficient to meet the domestic needs of the population or permit exports; the serious problems of unemployment and inflation, and the shortage of foreign exchange resulting from the low volume of exports and the inadequacy of aid.

41. The background to the global strategy for the Second Development Decade was provided in General Assembly resolutions 2218 B (XXI), 2305 (XXII) and 2411 (XXIII), and in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1152 (XLI), 1260 (XLIII), 1356 (XLV), 1409 (XLVI) and 1447 (XLVII); more recent information was contained in the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its fourth and fifth sessions (E/4682), in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade on its fourth session (A/7525/Add.3) and in that Committee's report on the preparation of a preliminary draft of an international development strategy (A/7699), and also in the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its ninth session.⁴

42. What emerged from all those documents was that the General Assembly was approaching the end of its twenty-fourth session without having reached any decision on the broad lines of a global strategy for the Second Development Decade. The real problem was that the Assembly had left political questions to be decided by bodies that were equipped only to deal with technical problems. That was why the crucial difficulties had not been resolved. Consequently, Colombia was submitting draft resolution A/C.2/L.1060 in an attempt to bridge the gap and provide some foundation for detailed preparations for the Second Development Decade. As the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had pointed out in 1968 in a report entitled *Towards a Global Strategy of Development*,⁵ there was no reason why the global strategy should not be drawn up on broad lines and given a flexible character, so that the details could be filled in later in the light of the plans for each country and region. A flexible strategy would permit plans to be adapted as required in the light of experience. Once the general policy had been laid down by the General Assem-

bly, it could be left to the Council to establish the more detailed lines of the strategy in the form of resolutions embodying the recommendations of the advisory bodies concerned and the suggestions of delegations. In view of the need for policy guidance, the General Assembly must take enough decisions at its current session concerning the global strategy to permit the Preparatory Committee to have before it, at its session in February 1970, a document that was at least complete in its broad lines; that Committee could then fill in some of the details and provide the General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session, with a complete strategy that could be proclaimed on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization as part of the celebrations. What the Trade and Development Board and the Committee for Development Planning had failed so far to provide need not delay consideration of the global strategy by the General Assembly, although it did hinder the implementation and crystallization of that strategy by the Council. In any case, if certain changes did prove to be necessary, they could still be made by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

43. There were a number of reasons why action should be taken without delay. There would be little time at the twenty-fifth session for the General Assembly to discuss the global strategy at any length, and consequently it should then receive a fairly comprehensive document from the Preparatory Committee; furthermore, that Committee was not equipped to deal with the general policy aspects of the global strategy, which must be determined by the General Assembly at the current session. If the Assembly could not agree on certain general principles, the Preparatory Committee would not be able to do its work and the whole global strategy would be jeopardized. Moreover, a whole year would have been lost during which countries could have been preparing their own plans, so that they could carry them out promptly as soon as the Decade began. World developments would not wait while the Assembly made up its mind to take action; some developed countries, including the United States and the Netherlands, had recently made interesting statements and offers that should not be allowed to go by default. Nor should it be argued that the global strategy should wait until the developing countries had agreed on a reclassification of their group, or on various regional arrangements. In that case, too, general rules could be adopted as part of the global programme, and it could be left to the Council and other bodies concerned to define, for example, the technical criteria for classification of groups of countries.

44. It might be wondered whether certain developed countries were not trying to postpone meeting their obligations by stirring up divisions between the less fortunate countries, although if so, they were clearly not succeeding. In any case, the General Assembly had before it certain recommendations prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade in its report (A/7699) and by the Trade and Development Board in its report on the second part of its ninth session that provided the basis for the discussion of a draft, at least in outline form. The General Assembly could not turn its back on those recommendations without abdicating its responsibilities to the peoples of the world who were longing to escape from the prison of underdevelopment.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/7616), part four.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.II.D.6 (TD/3/Rev.1), paras. 465-466.

45. What the Second Committee should do was to prepare a draft of a global strategy covering the political principles, in other words, those that involved commitments by countries, and leave the Preparatory Committee to complete it for submission to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. In the meantime the Trade and Development Board would present its report on its own contribution to the strategy for the Second Development Decade, and it was to be hoped that its contribution would harmonize with the general policy ideas adopted by the Second Committee. If some inconsistencies arose, there would still be time to dispose of them at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Committee for Development Planning could also complete its studies concerning economic and social targets to assist the Council in applying the global strategy. Other advisory organs concerned could also contribute; if the Assembly's global strategy was given a broad character, that would make it possible to absorb ideas from many quarters and to adapt the strategy during the course of the Decade. Any progress that the Assembly could make in arriving at political commitments would be of the greatest value in paving the way for action by the Preparatory Committee and the Council. The difficult problems were the debt-servicing burden of the developing countries, the access of the developing countries to capital markets, and the conditions needed to increase the contribution of private investment to development. The facts and figures given in the report of the Commission on International Development, notably in tables 9, 10 and 11,⁶ revealed how heavy the debt-servicing burden of the developing countries was. The recommendations of the report on that point might provide a good basis for agreement in the Assembly. The Trade and Development Board had also made useful recommendations on that subject. As to the contribution of private investment, chapter V of the report of the Commission on International Development contained ten recommendations that could provide a basis for discussion, and the report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD⁷ also offered some valuable suggestions.

46. He appealed to the Committee not to end its work without trying to make some headway with a draft for the global strategy. His delegation did not expect all problems to be solved, but hoped that at least those political issues that could not be dealt with by either the Preparatory Committee or the Trade and Development Board would be tackled, so that those two bodies could complete the draft of the global strategy. The Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which was complementary to the global strategy, had required two sessions of the General Assembly for its preparation. The draft resolution contained much that was non-controversial, constituting points already

agreed on either in the United Nations or in some other international body. Those points could be adopted without discussion and the debate could be centred on the matters on which opinions were divided. For example, section V of the draft plan (see A/C.2/L.1060) entitled "Nature of the commitment" was of a political nature and precisely for that reason should be dealt with by the General Assembly. Possibly section VI entitled "Executive organs" might take some other form, according to what the Committee decided should be the general nature of the global strategy, i.e., whether it should be of a broad type, whose detailed implementations should be left to the Economic and Social Council, or whether it should be sufficiently detailed to cover most situations. The introduction was merely informative and non-controversial. He thought that a reference to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and perhaps to other agencies might be added. The draft preamble put forward by the Preparatory Committee (A/7699) might also be considered. In the draft resolution, section I of the draft plan entitled "Targets and objectives" contained a statement of principles, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and also a technical element, in that some figures were put forward as the basis for discussion, such as the proposal to achieve a minimum annual rate of expansion of 6 per cent in the gross product.

47. The General Assembly must try to reach agreement on the political issues, although the technical points could be left fairly flexible for final resolution by the advisory bodies which had still to consider the draft global strategy. Section II of the draft plan entitled "Methods and programmes of work" was also basically political in nature, since it involved commitments at the governmental level. The Trade and Development Board and the Preparatory Committee had dealt with those matters, but they had had to be referred to the Assembly to permit Member States to define their attitude. Nothing was to be gained by deferring those problems once more for consideration by the two advisory bodies, which would be forced to leave them pending until the Assembly re-examined them at its twenty-fifth session. There had been a full exchange of views on section III of the draft plan in the Preparatory Committee and he did not believe that it would be difficult for the Second Committee to arrive at agreement on the formulation and implementation of plans. Section IV entitled "Mobilization of public opinion", was also of a political character and could not be decided by the other bodies referred to. It had already been sufficiently discussed by the Preparatory Committee, which could make no further headway with it. He was convinced that the Second Committee would take the next step forward by adopting a draft global strategy on the basis of the material available to it, including his draft resolution, whose main merit was that it brought together a number of ideas already accepted.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

⁶ See Commission on International Development, *Partners in Development* (New York, Praeger Publishers, Inc., 1969), annex II.

⁷ See foot-note 5.