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Chairman: Mr. Bruce RANKIN (Canada).

AGENDA ITEM 47

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment:
report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8688,
A/8691, A/8703/Add.1 (Part II), A/8783 and Add.1;
A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1; A/C.2/L.1227,
A/C.2/L.1228, A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1230-
1234, A/C.2/L.1235)

1. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment had helped to promote a more universal awareness of new social and economic dimensions and their interdependency and of the fact that poverty and degradation were still a greater threat to world peace and a stronger affront to human dignity than any threat arising from pollution created by high levels of industrial activity or by ecological imprudence. The right of man to a life of dignity in an environment which ensured his well-being, his responsibility to protect and improve that environment for future generations and the broad environmental goal of economic and social development were well defined in the Declaration on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, chap. I).

2. The developing countries should seek to avoid the ills which afflicted the highly industrialized world, and developed and developing countries alike should take effective domestic action. Solutions must reconcile development and the preservation of man's natural legacy. The vision and effectiveness—through political will and adequate resource allocation—with which nations pursued and implemented the principles of the Declaration and the recommendations of the Action Plan for the Human Environment (*ibid.*, chap. II) would determine the nature of the quality of life and the peace and stability of future generations. He expressed his delegation's deep appreciation to the Government of Sweden and the Secretary-General of the Conference for their contributions to the success of the Conference.

3. The Conference had crystallized the issues arising from man's relationship with his environment and had articulated a number of basic values and goals that would influence national and international action for many years. The recommendations in the Action Plan covered three broad areas: the innovative global assessment programme, or Earthwatch, environmental management activities and the various necessary supporting measures.

4. In Israel, a Parliamentary committee and a committee composed of the directors-general of a number of ministries had been established to deal with environmental quality; their task was to determine the legal and administrative steps needed to maintain the quality of the environment and to propose solutions to problems of environmental pollution. The National Committee on Biosphere and Environment, established in 1971, was the main co-ordinating authority for environmental activities and included scientists and representatives of the appropriate ministries and public and scientific bodies. In December 1970 a non-partisan committee of Members of Parliament had been established to promote environmental conservation activities within the Parliament.

5. Israel's experience in coping with environmental problems might be relevant to other developing countries. Israel attached high priority to the conservation and maintenance of available water supplies, in view of its critical shortage and ever-increasing demand for water. An intensive research programme was studying ways to reduce and control water pollution and recycle polluted waters after processing, as well as desalination techniques. The Sixth International Conference on Water Pollution Research had been held in Jerusalem from 18 to 24 June 1972, immediately after the Stockholm Conference, facilitating the exchange of ideas and technical co-operation among nations.

6. Israel also recognized the need to cope with other environmental problems such as the increasing pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, soil pollution, the effects of the extensive use of pesticides and herbicides and the effects of expanding industrialization and urbanization. It had also pioneered in some aspects of arid zone research and environmental improvement and would be pleased to intensify its international co-operation activities with other countries in arid zone problem areas.

7. Israel was also approaching the problem of regional development through major research projects. Rural-urban relationships, regional co-operation and the role of new towns and immigrant absorption in developing countries had a direct bearing on environmental improvement. The settlement study centre at Rehovot, in co-operation with the United Nations, conducted a training course in comprehensive development planning for students from developing countries.

8. As a small country with very few natural resources, Israel recognized that the prerequisite for effective environmental action was a broad understanding—accomplished through education at all school levels—by

all groups of society of the dilemmas, choices and costs involved in combating pollution. That understanding in turn led to the political will necessary for action. Those same elements were also essential for international co-operative arrangements. All nations should seize the opportunity for concerted international action which the Stockholm Conference had provided.

9. Mr. P'ANDEY (Nepal), noting that the international community had at last recognized that it must come to grips with environmental problems, paid a tribute to the Swedish Government and the Secretary-General of the Conference and welcomed the concerted international will which was reflected in the report of the Conference (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1).

10. The United Nations was faced with a new challenge, for a new area for international co-operation had been opened up. The industrialized countries now had a greater responsibility to seek and implement measures to decrease the economic and technological disparity between themselves and the remaining two thirds of the world. The developing countries should learn from the experience of the industrialized nations and seek alternatives to avoid the perils of industrialization. It was also relevant to recall principle 12 of the Declaration and recommendation 103 of the Action Plan adopted at the Conference which concerned assistance to the developing countries to enable them to pay the additional costs resulting from environmental protection measures. His delegation also attached importance to principle 20 of the Declaration, on the transfer of scientific information and experience to developing countries on terms which would not constitute an economic burden on them, and to principle 21, which called on States to exploit their natural resources without causing damage to other States. In that connexion, it supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1227 and was optimistic that negotiations concerning the Canadian amendments (A/C.2/L.1233) would produce an acceptable solution.

11. His delegation agreed that environmental problems would have to be reflected in the International Development Strategy (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)). Various implications of environmental action required further examination, and it was appropriate that the United Nations should evaluate them and co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan. His delegation endorsed the establishment of a Governing Council for Environmental Programmes and a small environment secretariat. The representative of Yugoslavia had very pertinently pointed out (1470th meeting) that the proposed Governing Council and the Committee on Review and Appraisal should have the same status. His delegation endorsed draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228, although it agreed with the representative of Sri Lanka that the distribution of seats in the Council as envisaged in the draft resolution was inequitable so far as Asia was concerned. As to the proposed financial arrangements, the concern of the developing countries regarding the utilization of the proposed Environment Fund was understandable. To those countries, the improvement of the human environment meant lifting them from the state of under-development in which they were plunged.

12. Although the flow of aid to developing countries was insufficient, his delegation preferred not to adopt a gloomy approach; it supported the establishment of the Environment Fund, on the understanding that it would supplement, and not be a substitute for, the flow of resources envisaged in the International Development Strategy. His delegation also supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1.

13. Recalling General Assembly resolution 2849 (XXVI), he said that the proposed Governing Council should formulate programmes in such a way that the economic development objectives of the developing countries were taken fully into account. In that connexion, draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1230 and A/C.2/L.1231 dealt with the question of human settlements, a matter to which his delegation attached considerable importance. Population pressures in Nepal had created a need for additional housing and cultivable land, with the result that the country was faced with the devastating effects of haphazard deforestation, including soil erosion and disruption of the climate.

14. The CHAIRMAN announced that Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and the Sudan had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1227 and that Cameroon and Romania had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1235.

15. Mr. JOHNSON (Jamaica) said that he had been honoured to serve as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and as Rapporteur-General of the Conference and expressed the sincere gratitude of the Government and people of Jamaica to the Government and people of Sweden, the Secretary-General of the Conference, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations and all others who had helped to make the Conference a success. His delegation had regretted the absence of those States which had contributed so much to the preparatory process and which, despite their deep interest in environmental matters, had been constrained not to participate. It was to be hoped that the barriers to universal participation, which was so essential to the development of international order in environmental affairs, were disappearing.

16. As Jamaica's immediate concern was to maintain the momentum gained at Stockholm and to see the establishment of the proposed machinery and the early implementation of the Action Plan, it was a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1228 and A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1. His delegation was proud to be associated with the results of the Conference.

17. In order to ensure that the fragile balance of co-operation reached at Stockholm would be preserved, it was necessary to avoid reopening difficulties encountered there; at the same time, all parties must genuinely recognize the interests of others within the framework of the Declaration in terms of a commitment to support the implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference. The success obtained at Stockholm must not be undermined by narrow self-interest on the part

of any group or the refusal of others fully to appreciate differing environmental priorities.

18. The issue of housing and human settlements was given a particularly high priority in the developing countries. He welcomed the statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference that additional funds would become available to deal with that issue, among others, and recalled that the Prime Minister of Jamaica had suggested on 20 October 1972, during the general debate in the General Assembly (2049th plenary meeting), that the international community should develop a world-wide plan for housing. In view of its concern with the issue, his delegation attached particular importance to the implementation of recommendations 1, 15, 16 and 17 of the Action Plan adopted at the Conference. While the bulk of capital in the housing sector must be raised by the developing countries themselves, the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for housing, as proposed in recommendation 17, was a necessary measure of international support. The proposal had received the endorsement of many authorities in the field of international finance, and his delegation hoped that the original opposition to the proposal at Stockholm had stemmed more from a lack of understanding of its objectives and proposed operations than from any basic disagreement with the idea itself. He announced that his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1231 and commended it to the Committee.

19. His delegation was heartened to note that IBRD had in its recent policy statement on urbanization recognized the connexion between housing and over-all social and economic development. That recognition was all the more heartening since recent figures showed that the percentage of total multilateral aid to housing and related investments was less than one half of 1 per cent. Introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1230, which called for IBRD assistance to Governments in the field of housing and human settlements, he pointed out that it was firmly based on recommendation 1 of the Action Plan, which had been adopted without objection, and emphasized that the implementation of that recommendation was one of the fundamental tests by which the ultimate success of the Conference would be judged. He could not agree with those delegations which felt that the draft resolution should be tabled under agenda item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council). He quoted from the recent IBRD publication, *World Bank Operations—Sectoral Programmes and Policies*,¹ which emphasized the acute shortage of housing and resources in the developing countries. To bridge the financing gap successfully, an international programme of seed capital and technical assistance was required.

20. His delegation supported draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1234 and A/C.2/L.1235 and, with regard to the latter, whole-heartedly welcomed the initiative of the Canadian Government in offering to host a Conference/Demonstration on Experimental Human Set-

tlements, as had been called for in recommendation 2.2. Such a conference would be most desirable in conjunction with the implementation of other recommendations on the subject of housing and human settlements.

21. It was now incumbent upon the international community, in a spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation, to begin the work called for in the Action Plan.

22. Mr. METWALLI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the economic growth of the industrialized countries and the continual progress in technology led to the high living standards characteristic of consumer societies. On the other hand, the slow economic growth of the developing countries, caused primarily by their inability to use human and natural resources rationally, as well as by illiteracy, disease, poverty and overpopulation, led to the appearance of what could be termed "under-consumption societies".

23. The consumer societies suffered as a result of lack of concern for the environment. The developing countries, therefore, could not simply follow the pattern of economic growth of the industrialized countries, but must introduce a new industrialization policy in order to avoid doing so, and must take the physical environment into account in the preparation of development policies. The criteria of economic development had proved inadequate in the light of the deterioration of the environment on a world-wide scale. In the future, no doubt, the term "environment economies" would become current, indicating that man, who hitherto had been responsible for destroying the environment, had finally shown himself capable of restoring it.

24. It was in that context that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment had taken place. Even before that, the Symposium on Problems relating to Environment organized by ECE at Prague in May 1971 had demonstrated the interest attached to the subject, above all by the industrialized countries. The Syrian Arab Republic attached particular importance to the environment, and a number of studies were already under way to determine the consequences on its human and physical environment which would result from the construction of the Euphrates Dam.

25. Naturally, the problem of the environment was of the greatest interest to developed as well as developing countries. Since relations among all countries were governed by their interdependence and by a community of interests, it might well be asked why the spirit of co-operation and conciliation manifested at Stockholm had not been more clearly apparent in the final results of the third session of UNCTAD, held at Santiago in April/May 1972. It was in the nature of things that there must be a conflict of interests between developed and developing countries; but that should not mean that more importance should be attached to problems of air transport and noise than to the economic problems resulting from the deteriorating terms of trade and the amount of their indebtedness, which paralysed the growth of the developing countries.

¹ Published for the Bank by The Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore and London, 1972).

26. A number of statements during the debate had shown an awareness of the problems of economic growth and social development in developing countries. However, for international co-operation to succeed, words must be translated into deeds. Those problems should therefore be given priority in the future activities of United Nations organs responsible for environmental questions. His delegation had every confidence in the ability of the Secretary-General of the Conference to translate into action the statement he had made before the Committee (1466th meeting).

27. His delegation supported the request made by the Libyan Arab Republic (1471st meeting) concerning the removal of minefields which hindered the normal exploitation of arable land. Although his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1227 and A/C.2/L.1234, it could not but regret that most of the socialist countries had not participated in the Conference. His Government had attached great importance to the Conference, and its interest had led it to request that, after the establishment of the environment secretariat, Damascus should become the regional centre in the Middle East for environmental questions. His Government would do everything necessary to facilitate the success of such an important project.

28. Mr. PANYARACHUN (Thailand) said that the more tangible results of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, namely, the Declaration, with its 26 principles, and the Action Plan, with its numerous recommendations for positive action by individual countries and regional organizations, would provide valuable guidelines for the international community in determining the appropriate measures to deal with the many-faceted problems of the human environment.

29. The Thai officials who had participated in the Conference had been able to gain useful information and insights into the problems which affected industrialized States and which might well beset Thailand in the future. Although, according to some economic analysts, Thailand had reached the state of industrial take-off, its current problems were much simpler and focused on air, water and noise pollution and deforestation. The relevant principles and recommendations of the Conference were being studied and would eventually be incorporated into the Government's third five-year economic and social development plan.

30. In Thailand the national machinery was being strengthened with a view to protecting and improving the human environment. The Ministry of Education was introducing the subject of the human environment into the curricula of primary and secondary schools. Thai officials had participated in, and had been able to avail themselves of, the conclusions and recommendations of meetings such as the Seminar on Development and Environment held under the auspices of ECAFE at Bangkok in August 1971, the Regional Workshop on Water Resources, the Environment and National Development held in Singapore in March 1972, and the meeting of the Special Committee on

Environmental Problems held in Canberra in August 1971. A senior Thai official had been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the International Institute for Environmental Affairs in New York. His Government had also agreed in principle to Singapore's proposal that a Regional Environmental Control Organization of South-East Asian countries should be set up. Thai legislation concerning the protection of the environment was currently being reviewed with a view to enhancing its relevance and effectiveness in the light of recent developments.

31. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment had produced many less tangible results. Throughout the world, people had become more conscious of environmental problems and the havoc man had wreaked on nature and its consequences for his own future. Also, the Stockholm Conference and its outcome had redounded to the credit of the United Nations and had shown that it was able to identify and agree on recommendations for solutions to a complex problem affecting mankind. Furthermore, the United Nations had proved itself capable of becoming the focal point for international environmental protection. His delegation wished to express its gratitude to the Swedish Government and people for the excellent arrangements they had made for the Conference, and hoped that the Secretary-General of the Conference would continue to make his leadership available to the United Nations. The absence of several States from the Conference had been regrettable.

32. His delegation welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/L.1227 since it concerned the one matter in the Declaration which had not been solved at Stockholm. The Canadian amendments were interesting and merited full attention. His delegation hoped that a compromise wording could be found to satisfy the parties concerned.

33. His delegation was in full agreement with the preamble to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228, but had difficulties with paragraph 1 concerning the establishment of the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes with a membership elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI). At the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Lebanese representative had stated, on behalf of the Asian Group, both in the Second Committee on 14 December 1971 (1445th meeting) and later in the General Assembly on 20 December 1971 (2026th plenary meeting), that the Asian Group was prepared to accept the formula for geographical distribution of seats for the enlarged Economic and Social Council set out in General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) only in a spirit of compromise, and that it would not accept that formula as a precedent for ensuring the equitable geographical distribution of seats for other bodies. His delegation, therefore, although fully in agreement with operative paragraphs 2 and 3 relating to the functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council, had some reservations with regard to operative paragraph 1, which prompted it to request reconsideration of either the size or the distribution of seats in the

Governing Council. It wished to point out that General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) did not follow accurately the principle of equitable geographical distribution as understood in the United Nations. First, in the view of his delegation, proportional representation of regional groups should be reflected in the composition of the governing Council. Secondly, many representatives of developed countries had in the past voiced their serious concern and disappointment at the initial lukewarm attitude of a large number of developing countries towards environmental problems, although it was true that the developing countries had recently adopted more positive attitudes and enunciated more active policies in regard to both international and national aspects of the problem. His delegation believed that the process should be continued and strengthened by giving an appropriate number of seats in the Governing Council to the developing nations, many of whom were in a position to make significant contributions to its work, while others would derive important benefits from their involvement in its policies and activities in that field. Only by increased understanding of the objectives and by active involvement would developing countries be in a position to join in the international efforts on environmental programmes. Thirdly, the number 54 was not sacrosanct. While every effort should be made to prevent the Governing Council from becoming too large and unwieldy a body, some flexibility would help in solving the problems, especially since there had been no consistent policy in the United Nations with regard to determining the size of a subsidiary organ.

34. His delegation hoped that, in making their voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund referred to in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228, the developed countries would not reduce their support for other United Nations bodies which aided the developing countries, specifically UNDP, and that the growth rate of development aid would not decline further as a result of the establishment of the Fund. While his delegation was in full accord with draft resolution A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1, it was somewhat puzzled by the wording in operative paragraph 5. It was not clear whether the sponsors intended the Governing Council to report its views and recommendations on the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment direct to the General Assembly or through the Economic and Social Council, according to the procedure envisaged in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228.

35. His delegation, which was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1231, attached great importance to the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements. Low-cost housing would not only help the less-privileged to attain a better standard of living but would also provide the necessary stimulus to developing countries to focus their attention on one of the most neglected sectors of development, which in turn affected the environment.

36. The economic problems facing the developing countries, where two thirds of the world's poor lived, were both numerous and complex. The Stockholm

Conference had brought home the immense significance of yet another problem. A question of priority was involved, and it should be understood that not every aspect of the Declaration and Action Plan would or could be given top priority by the poorer countries, in view of their limited resources, especially since the priorities established by the three sessions of UNCTAD corresponded to their more immediate needs. However, the results of the Stockholm Conference were relevant not only to the well-being but to the survival of mankind. It was in that light that his delegation viewed the question of the human environment and pledged its continuing support for the endeavours of the United Nations in that field.

Mr. Pataki (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

37. Mr. FONSECA (Colombia) said that the deterioration of the environment and the ever-increasing pollution had created problems which called for both individual and collective efforts to achieve positive and radical solutions. Although his delegation was confident that all States were doing everything in their power on an individual basis to preserve and improve their ecological systems and the environment, the problems called for international solutions, either bilateral or multilateral, which took account of the causes as well as the effects and, to that end, the assistance of all countries, rich and poor alike, was needed.

38. His delegation believed that major responsibility for the problem must be borne by the affluent countries where industrialization had come earlier, and whose excessive and frequently unnecessary use of resources was threatening to destroy the environment. Those countries were frequently becoming exporters of contamination by sending technology and equipment in an indiscriminate way to the developing countries. Since his Government realized that the production of arms and expenditures for the purposes of war were inversely linked to a general policy of well-being and the defence and protection of the environment, any measure to limit them would enjoy its support. Without prejudice to current contributions and commitments, the greatest contribution to the Environment Fund should, of course, come from the developed countries. It would be unjust and unacceptable for the financing of programmes to rectify the deterioration of the environment to become yet another burden for the developing countries and a further obstacle to their growth.

39. The Stockholm Conference had dealt directly with the issue of the survival of man himself, and was therefore a milestone in the history of mankind. It had helped to promote an awareness and concern with regard to the problems of the environment, and had given a fresh image to the United Nations. The results achieved by the Conference had exceeded the expectations of the most optimistic participants, and balanced solutions and conclusions had been achieved after extensive and arduous negotiations. Certainly, the discussions would have been more fruitful if those countries which found it impossible to attend had been able to bring their experience and contribution to bear.

40. His Government was able to give its full support to draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1228 and A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1. While supporting the establishment of the Environment Fund, his Government wished to state once again that measures to reduce or eliminate pollution should in no way affect the sovereignty of the developing countries, their growth, or their right to exploit their own resources, nor should they paralyse the efforts of those countries to achieve industrialization. Such measures should not result in further barriers against the products of the developing countries, or in increased production costs, or become an additional burden impeding their economic and social advance.

41. The phenomenon of rural migration in developing countries was attaining alarming proportions. The Colombian development plan was tackling the problem of the growing shortage of housing and was giving priority to the construction of low-cost housing. His Government endorsed the recommendations of the Conference and draft resolutions A/C.2/L.1230 and A/C.2/L.1231. It hoped that the sponsors of the two draft resolutions would reach agreement on a single text for submission to the Committee.

42. His Government believed that the new environment secretariat should be located in a country where United Nations organizations had already been established and where as many developing countries as possible already had accredited representations.

43. Finally, his delegation wished to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the Government and the people of Sweden.

44. Mr. GOUNARIS (Greece) said that, among the most important achievements of the United Nations during recent years, the Stockholm Conference was perhaps the best example of what international co-operation and political goodwill could accomplish in a field where national, regional and interregional interests were intertwined and not always compatible. The expectations raised by the very success of the Conference made it important not to upset the delicate balance struck by the Declaration, the Action Plan and resolution 1 (I) on institutional and financial arrangements adopted at Stockholm. In the view of his delegation, the recommendations of the Conference should be endorsed without delay so as to make them a living reality.

45. The report of the Conference (A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1) was a milestone in the work of the United Nations and in many respects exceeded expectations by opening up a completely new field of international action and co-operation.

46. It was regrettable that a number of countries had not found it possible to participate in the Conference and had thus deprived it of their valuable experience and knowledge. His delegation noted with satisfaction that those countries were now expressing the views of their Governments on environmental policies, which transcended national boundaries and therefore required a universal approach.

47. His delegation particularly wished to emphasize its support for the Declaration on the Human Environment. In view of the number of conflicting opinions involved, the fact that agreement had been reached clearly indicated the importance attached to it by Governments and world public opinion. The Declaration was a joint statement by a great many of the nations of the world with regard to the environment and could serve as a basis for future action.

48. His delegation also supported the Action Plan, the implementation of which called for increased co-operation on the part of nations and was a major challenge to all.

49. With regard to the institutional and financial arrangements, his delegation would like to see a flexible and not too large environment secretariat. It felt that the Environment Fund should be used only for the purpose for which it was created, namely the protection of the environment, since, if used correctly, the Fund could not but contribute to economic development.

50. In Greece, an accelerated trend towards industrialization in recent years had not helped in the preservation of the environment. Legislative measures were now being enacted in order to preserve and improve the environment, but Greece's environmental problems were complicated by long coast lines and a large number of islands. The prevention of marine pollution by the policing of vast areas of the sea was particularly difficult, but his Government was doing everything in its power to deal with the problem and severe penalties were being imposed upon those responsible for marine pollution. In that respect, his delegation was particularly interested in the recommendations regarding international action and the preparation of an over-all instrument for the control of ocean dumping and in the outcome of the forthcoming intergovernmental meeting in London at the beginning of November.

51. His delegation fully understood and appreciated the arguments adduced by certain countries, in particular the least developed among the developing countries, that it was difficult to consider protection of the environment when one lacked the basic necessities of life. On the other hand, it appreciated the warnings of the developed countries against excessive industrialization without proper care for the protection of the ecosystem. There was an apparent conflict of interests, but in fact all were pursuing the same purpose, namely the preservation of a world fit to live in.

52. Miss FAROUK (Tunisia) said that Tunisia's active participation in the Stockholm Conference had demonstrated its conviction that the interests of those who were concerned about pollution and those who still suffered from poverty could be reconciled. Both the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Government of Sweden merited praise for their contribution to the Conference's success. The results of the Conference showed a clear need for a commitment to the common enterprise of regulating and correcting the imbalances which constituted an increasing threat

to the world, taking into account physical as well as social, economic, cultural and political factors.

53. In that spirit, her delegation was sponsoring four draft resolutions. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228, her delegation did not feel that General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) necessarily applied to the distribution of seats on the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes; it was to be hoped that consultations among the regional groups would make it possible to reach a just distribution based on consensus. Moreover, the wording of operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution could have been more specific. In sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/L.1229/Rev.1, her delegation had wished merely to reaffirm the commitments entered into at Stockholm and the consensus at which the Conference had arrived. Her delegation was sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/L.1227 as an indication of its satisfaction at the agreement reached on principle 20 of the Declaration. Furthermore, it endorsed all the provisions of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1234.

54. Her delegation would be prepared to view in a favourable light proposals designed to improve the draft resolutions before the Committee, on condition that they did not reopen a debate on the results achieved at Stockholm following delicate negotiations.

55. Tunisia associated itself with the new approach to world problems which was required in the light of environmental considerations. It was for Governments, national and international organizations and individuals to ensure that the environment was viewed from the standpoint of the interdependence of the interests of both industrialized and developing countries, an interdependence which must not be allowed to be detrimental to the latter. In a rapidly changing world, solidarity in the pursuit of common objectives was essential. The new organ which was to be established to deal with environmental problems should provide a means of assuming joint responsibility for the "fall-out" of development, which affected most seriously those who benefited the least from development. Tunisia would continue to contribute fully to any co-operative action designed to protect the environment and improve the quality of life of its people. At the national level, it would take measures to alert public opinion and co-ordinate all environmental activities. At the regional level, it would co-operate with neighbouring countries in such matters as the removal of minefields remaining as a result of the Second World War, a problem which had been referred to by the representatives of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Republic. It would also co-operate with the Mediterranean countries, since it was particularly concerned to prevent pollution and conserve the resources of the Mediterranean Sea in view of the special nature of enclosed and semi-enclosed seas. At the international level, it would participate actively in meetings organized by the United Nations and in the various conferences which would take place in 1973 and 1974. It would also study ways in which it could accede to any future conventions, treaties or agreements relating to the environment.

56. In conclusion, her delegation wished to stress its belief that the Environment Fund must cover regional programmes, and to point out that Tunisia had been one of the first countries to announce its candidacy for the Governing Council for Environmental Programmes.

57. Mr. ARUEDE (Nigeria) said his delegation hoped that the Secretary-General of the Conference would be able to continue to serve the United Nations in its future activities relating to the environment. At the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, his delegation had expressed the view in the Second Committee (1438th meeting) that the efforts of the United Nations in relation to problems of the deteriorating environment would be enhanced by universal participation in the Conference. It regretted that that had not been possible, and hoped that the situation would be rectified as soon as possible.

58. There was much merit in the view that the site for the headquarters of the environment secretariat should be in a developing country. Such a location would go far to counter the view held in certain quarters that the developing countries as a whole showed insufficient concern for the environment. Once the principle was agreed to, those countries which had offered sites could be requested to consult each other and offer a single agreed candidate. The developing countries could not accept the argument that they did not have adequate facilities to host United Nations secretariats. The representative of Kenya had described in detail at the 1469th meeting the facilities which his Government undertook to provide if Nairobi was selected as the headquarters site. When such assurances were available, the difficulties of communications and the problems of remoteness from research centres were a small price to pay for centralizing the United Nations system to the benefit of developing countries.

59. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.1231, relating to human settlements, had been ably introduced by the representative of the Philippines at the 1471st meeting. The Stockholm Conference had taken into account the problems of all members of the international community, and the debate had stressed that the problems of the environment differed in developed and developing countries. His delegation could not therefore accept the argument that the improvement of human settlements was too specialized a matter to be included within the general context of environmental problems. It supported recommendation 17 of the Action Plan adopted at the Conference, and believed that the establishment of a fund or institutions as recommended therein would do much to ensure that the activities of the United Nations in relation to the environment did not aim solely at solving the environmental problems of developed countries. Admittedly, there was considerable opposition to the establishment of any new funds. Despite that, there was already general support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1228, of which his delegation was a sponsor, which called for the setting up of a voluntary fund to finance environmental programmes. There was no reason why another similar exception should not be made.

60. Mr. AKSOY (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden, and Tunisia, as well as his own, introduced a draft resolution² welcoming the initiative taken by the Government of Iran to allocate 130,000 hectares of land at Arjan, which included fresh and salt water wetlands and a diversity of wild life and covered the eastern extension of the Zagros mountain range, for the conduct of ecological research, and to establish an annual international prize for the most outstanding contribution to the cause of the environment, to be known as the Pahlevi Environmental Prize.

That initiative was in line with recommendation 38 of the Action Plan, that Governments should take steps to set aside areas representing ecosystems of international significance for protection under international agreement, and the sponsors of the draft resolution felt that if the Committee were to commend it other States might be induced to take similar action.

61. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that the Committee would be able to deal with the draft resolutions before it on the afternoon of either Tuesday, 31 October, or Thursday, 2 November.

² Subsequently circulated as document A/C.2/L.1237.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.