



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/AC.24/SR.67

4 August 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH &
FRENCH

Dual Distribution

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Eleventh Session

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Friday, 21 July 1950, at 3 p.m.

CONTENTS:

Report of the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization (item
37 of the agenda) (E/1688, E/1688/Add.1,
E/AC.24/L.10, E/AC.24/L.13, E/AC.24/L.15
and E/AC.24/L.16) (Continued)

Present:

Chairman:

Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico)

Members:

Australia

Mr. WALKER

Mr. CUMES

Belgium

Mr. DELHAYE

Mr. HERMENT

Brazil

Mr. MURTINHO

Canada

Mr. DAVIDSON

Chile

Mr. SCHNAKE-VERGARA

China

Mr. YU

Denmark

Mr. BORBERG

France

Mr. KAYSER

India

Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR

Mrs. SWAMINATHAN

Iran

Mr. ENTEZAM

Mr. SOTOUDEH

Mexico

Mr. de ALBA

Pakistan

Mr. AKHTAR

Peru

Mr. CABADA

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Mr. CORLEY SMITH

United States of America

Mr. KOTSCHNIG

Mr. ROSEMAN

Representatives of specialized agencies:

International Labour Organization

Mr. FLORES

Mr. COX

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. McDOUGALL

Mr. OLSEN

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

Mr. TORRES BODET

Mr. de BLONAY

Mr. BERKELEY

Mr. TERENCE

Mr. ADISESHIAH

International Telecommunication Union

Mr. MULAATIER

Representatives of specialized agencies: (continued)

International Civil Aviation Organization	Mr. MARLIN
World Health Organization	Dr. FORREST
	Dr. HAFEZI
	Mr. BERTRAND

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A

World Federation of Trade Unions	Mr. DESSAU
	Mr. FISCHER
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	Miss SENDER
International Organization of Employers	Mr. KUNTSCHE

Category B and Register

Catholic International Union for Social Service	Miss de ROMER
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations	Mr. WEILL
Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations	Mr. RAPPAPORT
International Co-operative Women's Guild	Miss ROSSIER
International Council of Women	Mrs. DREYFUS-BARNEY
International Federation of Newspaper Publishers (Proprietors) and Editors	Mr. BOURQUIN
International Union for Child Welfare	Miss DINGMAN
	Miss FRANKENSTEIN
International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues	Miss de ROMER
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations	Mrs. DREYFUS-BARNEY
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Miss BAER
World Jewish Congress	Mr. RIEGNER
World's Young Women's Christian Association	Mrs. BERESFORD FOX

Secretariat:

Mr. Laugier	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs
Mr. Martin Hill	Director of co-ordination for specialized agencies and for economic and social matters
Mr. Urquhart	Secretary to the Committee

1. REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (item 37 of the agenda) (E/1688, E/1688/Add.1, E/AC.24/L.10, E/AC.24/L.13, E/AC.24/L.15 and E/AC.24/L.16) (Continued)

The CHAIRMAN, calling for the resumption of the discussion on the annual report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (E/1688 and E/1688/Add.1), asked representatives to make their speeches as brief as possible.

Mr. CORLEY SMITH (United Kingdom) welcomed the Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of his second appearance before the Council. The previous year the Director-General had told the Council of his technical assistance plans which had matured into substantial achievements over the past year. He (Mr. Corley Smith) welcomed in particular the organization of two seminars, one on illiteracy in the Americas, held at Quitandinha, Brazil, the other on rural adult education, held in Mysore, India.

If he and other representatives had some criticisms to make of UNESCO, the Director-General would realize that they were aimed more at the General Conference than at him personally. It would be hard if one group of government representatives were to blame the Director-General for carrying out faithfully instructions given to him by another body of government representatives. The United Kingdom Government was gravely concerned at the fact that UNESCO was still unable to master its budgetary difficulties. The primary cause of those difficulties was the failure of certain member States to pay their contributions. However, without the economies which had been made the Organization's budgetary situation would have been worse. His Government believed it wise to maintain expenditure at its current level, but if it was to be met, member States must pay their contributions in time.

The Director-General was understandably anxious to rise above financial considerations and to lead the Organization to play a role corresponding to the intellectual challenge of the time. The United Kingdom Government held the view, however, that he must concentrate on a few basic activities, and, in

that narrow field, ensure work of the highest quality. The Director-General had already done much to establish priorities and to press forward his endeavours in that field.

He applauded the Director-General's statement in the report that it was necessary for the Secretariat, Committees, Conferences and Governments to exercise restraint and to ensure full and frank exchanges among themselves. If UNESCO was to work on a sound permanent basis, the questions raised in its forum must be thrashed out in full.

He felt that the Director-General had over-emphasized the extent to which UNESCO was impeded by the size of its budget. It would shortly be receiving substantial additional sums from the Technical Assistance Fund, and if that still seemed insufficient, UNESCO should try to devise new methods so as to produce bigger results. There was still perhaps a certain amount of overlapping. A specific example seemed to be the co-existence of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and the Press, set up by the Economic and Social Council, with the UNESCO body concerned with freedom of information. He suggested that the Secretary-General should be asked to prepare, in conjunction with the Director-General of UNESCO, a report defining the respective fields of work of the two bodies. By approaching budgetary problems in that simple but detailed manner many international bodies could make their programmes more effective without increasing their budgets.

He strongly endorsed the emphasis placed by the Director-General on the importance of active National Commissions in carrying on the work of UNESCO within national borders. Only by such means could UNESCO flourish and become fruitful.

Turning to the draft resolution on co-ordination of the United Nations activities for the development of the arid zones put forward by the delegations of India and the United States of America (E/AC.24/L.16), the representative of the United Kingdom said that, subject to further instructions from his Government and to reservations concerning any financial implications, he would support it in principle.

The draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15) on the annual report submitted by the United States delegation was, however, less satisfactory. In the first place, the Government of the United Kingdom held the view that detailed and complex requests of the kind expressed in that resolution should more properly be brought up in the general conference of the agency concerned. It was a constitutional matter, and all questions relating to the budget should be left to the agency itself, whose membership was not necessarily identical with that of the United Nations.

Further, he could not support the personal reference to the Director-General in the second paragraph of the resolution. The Economic and Social Council was considering the annual report of the agency as a whole, and it would be improper to single out any individual, even the Director-General. He was also unable to support the third paragraph, which might give rise to false hopes of UNESCO being able to make an immediate contribution to the improvement of the current situation, in which peace and security had recently been rudely shaken.

In the fourth paragraph the hope was expressed that UNESCO would be able to reduce the number of meetings it held. While applauding that sentiment, he considered that the expression of such views was again a matter for the general conference of the agency.

The last two paragraphs were in accordance with the desires of the United Kingdom Government, which would like to see a resolution adopted urging Member States to bring about a greater concentration of effort on the part of the Organization, proposing that Council resolution 251 (IX) should be revised in view of the progress achieved in rehabilitating war-devastated countries, and urging UNESCO to concentrate on programmes for improving the educational systems of under-developed countries and teaching methods generally.

Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) said he was happy to associate his delegation with the congratulations addressed to UNESCO, although no miracles could be expected from an Organization with such a wide field of activity and such limited financial resources.

The Government of Iran attached great importance to the establishment of cultural liaison services with the Near East, and of regional scientific co-operation offices; he had been glad to know that an auxiliary office had been opened at Istanbul, and hoped that a similar one would be established at Teheran.

With regard to the role of UNESCO in the implementation of the five-year programme of technical assistance to under-developed countries, the Director-General, in his report, had pointed out that UNESCO could make only an indirect contribution to the development of such countries, through the modernization of education, scientific research and the distribution of educational and cultural material. That indirect contribution was already very considerable. Without an improvement in the education of the masses, it would be impossible to achieve sound economic development, and for that reason the services of UNESCO were most useful for effective assistance to under-developed countries in the educational field. He was glad to note that the draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation (E/AC.24/L.15) emphasized that point.

The Government of Iran hoped that UNESCO would attach more importance to the campaign against illiteracy than to the education of the intellectual elite. He supported the work of UNESCO enthusiastically and without reservation.

Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR (India) said he was particularly glad to be sitting in the Co-ordination Committee while it was considering UNESCO's Report.

It had been suggested by some of the previous speakers that UNESCO had taken too much on itself and tried to cover too vast a field, thus making it impossible to achieve the objects for which it had been created. It must, however, be borne in mind that where social matters were concerned the nature of the work necessarily entailed a certain flexibility and vagueness. Where economic matters were concerned, the field of activity could be detailed and compact, but in the fields of education and culture people had innumerable ideas which it was difficult to confine within fixed limits. The Organization

had started with such a surge of enthusiasm and with so many ideas and schemes for a new world that the Director-General's difficulty in selecting priority plans was very understandable. For the first three years the number of suggestions and plans made had been enormous. The danger had then been recognized, and for the next two years some rationalization and concentration of effort had been introduced. In his view, the recent (Fifth) General Conference of UNESCO was itself to be congratulated on trying to bring order into the many projects put forward for its consideration.

The idea which had eventually crystallized as UNESCO had first been expressed in London well before the end of the second world war. Amidst the dangers and horrors of war, thoughtful men and women among the Allies had realised that the real cause of the war had been the perversion of young minds and of the masses by fallacious doctrines and educational theories. Dictatorship had taken hold in the aggressor countries because the theory of the master race had been propagated and because education had been divorced from the cultural enlargement of the mind and concentrated on fostering the desire for conquest and domination. The idea nurtured by those who had gathered together at that time, to set up an international organization which would work against such perverted education and thought, had been expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO. That preamble stated that "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." Political exchanges and economic agreements between countries were necessary, but primary social justice was an essential pre-requisite if peace was to be maintained; above all, the arrogance of racialism had to be removed. On that basis programmes had been proposed for UNESCO to undertake, and by that criterion the value of future programmes should be judged.

There was, however, a feeling which was finding expression in certain quarters that UNESCO was not performing and never could perform, a satisfactory task. The "Manchester Guardian", an English liberal newspaper with a reputation for quality and reliability, had recently published an article

contributed by its correspondent in Rome. The Article was entitled "Should UNESCO die?". The writer of the article had stated that Benedetto Croce, whom he described as a great Italian writer, poet and philosopher, had declined to lead his delegation to the last UNESCO General Conference. According to the article, Croce had published an article in the newspaper "Il Mondo" in which he had rejected the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an impossible conception based on a fallacy, had expressed the view that there was no human right which could be accepted as common to all peoples in every part of the world, and had concluded that UNESCO could not be cured and that it should therefore commit suicide. It was necessary, it appeared, to take courage and dissolve the Organization, thus proving that "the western world of liberty" knew how to correct itself even though it involved some mortification. Without going deeper into the conception of liberty which might be held by a national of Italy, which had only recently emerged from years of dictatorship, it must be recognized that the charge brought against UNESCO by Croce was that it was stultifying people's minds on the proper worth of human dignity.

In another newspaper a commentator on the same article had declared that many shared the view expressed by Croce that UNESCO should be dissolved. That commentator appeared to base his support of that proposal on the fact that UNESCO had recently published the conclusions of a group of scientists to the effect that racial discrimination had no scientific basis; and that given a similar degree of cultural opportunity, the average achievements of each ethnical group was about the same. Such an idea was apparently intolerable to the commentator and intolerable to those who wished to bring the activities of UNESCO to an end. The spread of such ideas could only lead to another war, and to combat them UNESCO must carry on its work, properly based on the foundations laid during and immediately after the war.

Perhaps too much attention should not be given to the views expressed by the two newspapers to which he had referred. The recent development of National Commissions to carry on the work of UNESCO within the borders of member-

States gave hope for the broader dissemination of ideas through which the common desire for peace and security might more certainly be fulfilled. By such means the Organization would be able to continue its good work in removing the skin-deep differences between peoples, and so to build up peace.

In conclusion, he thanked the Director-General for his good work in leading UNESCO out of the morass and trying to ensure that the essential purposes for which it had been constituted were carried out. In assessing any suggested programme, he urged him to place the preamble to the Constitution before the General Conference as the criterion by which that programme should be judged.

Mr. WALKER (Australia), recalling that he had been associated with UNESCO since its earliest days, congratulated the Director-General on the substantial progress the Organization had made after several difficult years of work. Its difficulties had arisen largely from the variety of conceptions existing as to its main function. While some Members regarded it primarily as a technical agency for facilitating co-operation in education, culture and science, others conceived its purpose to be the promotion of scientific progress and knowledge, irrespective of the interests of countries seeking help from those more advanced or wishing to offer help to their neighbours. Yet a third group wished UNESCO to concentrate on influencing the minds of men and inducing a spiritual attitude more favourable to the maintenance of peace in the world. All those objectives were included in the Constitution of UNESCO, but difficulties arose when the Organization tried to make a synthesis of them.

In the selection of fields of activity, again, it was hard to find agreement. In some countries illiteracy was the main problem, whereas in others it hardly existed; it had become only too clear that cooperation, even in the cultural field, was not easy between countries which were not equally wealthy or powerful. Finally, there was not always agreement on the fundamental question whether culture was for the few or for all.

Thus, it was easy to see whence the trend, which the Director-General was now successfully fighting, towards diffusion of effort in the programmes of

UNESCO derived its force. Part of the solution to the problem might lie in the role to be played by National Commissions, which the Director-General had already stressed. Clearly, the impact of UNESCO on the minds of men would be insignificant unless it were brought about through activities rooted in member States. Books, speeches and statements could only have a passing influence unless the ideas in them were taken up at national level and developed there by publicists and educationalists. Only then could the statement on race, and the publicity given to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, be effective.

The Director-General had emphasized the limitations imposed by a comparatively small budget, but he (Mr. Walker) held the view that a stabilized budget need not necessarily involve limiting the expansion of UNESCO's work. Member States not only contributed to the Organization's central budget, but could also make further contributions within their national borders. Even if the funds spent on national programmes were no greater than the main contribution, the return might be more valuable. Such, indeed, was the experience of his country, where a seminar had been held on the same lines as the UNESCO conference on teaching about the United Nations, with very successful results.

He drew attention to the Director-General's statement that the technical assistance programme would eventually call for an increase in UNESCO's budget.

Passing to the proposals before the Committee, he was ready to support either the United Kingdom or the French draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.10 and E/AC.24/L.13 respectively), calling for a report delimiting the respective activities of UNESCO and the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, provided it were made clear that the report would cover only the present situation, and would not pre-judge any future decision on the part of the Economic and Social Council as to whether or not the Sub-Commission should continue in being. Before coming to a decision on the joint Indian and United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.16), on co-ordination of United Nations activities for the development of arid zones, he would like to know how far the

programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization met the needs involved.

In the United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15), he supported the recommendation that the activity of UNESCO should be concentrated on problems of prior importance and the emphasis on assistance to under-developed countries, provided that the term "educational system" was interpreted in a broad sense so as to cover assistance in the development of scientific resources.

In conclusion, he congratulated the Director-General on the quality of the Organization's report and the Organization itself on the progress made during the year.

Mr. DAVIDSON (Canada) paid tribute to the qualities of the Director-General, whose rare combination of freedom of spirit and sense of discipline inspired confidence that the programme of UNESCO, under such leadership, would lead to genuine results.

Speaking on the internal organization of UNESCO, he suggested that the Director-General should find more encouragement in the increase in the number of Member States and National Commissions than any words could give. For a single critic such as Benedetto Croce there were a thousand distinguished philosophers whose attitude was one of support, and the confidence reposed in UNESCO by the Governments and peoples of the world would become ever more clear now that an effort was being made to reduce its programme of work to certain limited, well-defined fields. If Canada had not yet been able to set up a National Commission, that was simply because of the constitutional difficulties facing a federal government. The Royal Commission on Arts, Letters and Sciences, however, which had been recently set up, had been instructed to examine the methods by which the relations of Canada with UNESCO and similar organizations could be continued and developed.

With regard to the financial problem, he counselled the Director-General to exercise the same patience that he (Mr. Davidson) himself had to exercise when he presented budgetary estimates to his Government. He was convinced that as UNESCO's programme developed and countries succeeded in meeting their manifold international commitments, UNESCO would receive its due contributions

from member governments, especially now that it was beginning to prove its ability to achieve constructive action, and no longer showed the tendency which had led him, in its earlier days, to compare it with the knight in Leacock's story "who rode off madly in all directions". Already its budget was as large as, if not larger than, that of any other specialized agency, with the exception of the International Refugee Organization, and Canada contributed more to it than to any other specialized agency. He was inclined to deprecate the idea of recourse to voluntary contributions, except in particularly urgent cases, since there was a danger of too many uncoordinated appeals being made to the same people as had to provide the national contributions to the various United Nations organs, and a further danger that government representatives in international assemblies might be led to support programmes without sufficient regard for their real financial implications.

Passing to UNESCO's relationship with the Economic and Social Council and the other main bodies of the United Nations, he commended the Organization on the manner in which it had carried out a variety of requests. Its work in connection with the teaching of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and on the dissemination of information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were examples of fruitful co-operation. Again, there was the Declaration on Race, which had been noted with satisfaction in a resolution of the Social Committee.

He wished particularly to commend the introduction to the annual report, which would allay any doubts which might have existed as to the value of the work of the Co-ordination Committee. On page 8 was the frank, most significant, statement that the system of priorities introduced in 1949 had not proved wholly satisfactory, since a number of projects, while still appearing in the programme, were not being worked on with any intensity; not only was the general public thus being misled, but there was the circumstance that an activity carried on at a slow tempo was likely sooner or later to lose its significance. It was far better that there should be a small number of projects on which real work was being done than a large number which were hanging fire for various reasons.

He hoped that the Director-General's hand would remain firm at the helm in the year to come, and asked him to persist in his efforts to cut away any remaining undergrowth, and to maintain the sense of restraint and discipline which were now beginning to manifest themselves in UNESCO's programme.

Mr. YU (China) congratulated the Director-General on his statement and on the work accomplished by UNESCO under his able leadership. He had, however, to protest with amazement at the passage on page 3 of the addendum to the annual report (E/1688/Add.1) which implicitly endorsed the conclusions of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/1682), expressly mentioned as inspiring the action of UNESCO. The statement in that report in the name of the chief administrative officers of the United Nations, led by the Secretary-General, that efforts should be directed toward achieving true universality in the membership and programme of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, represented a political manoeuvre disguised as administrative policy. He was sure that the Director-General had not taken into account the legal and moral implications of such an endorsement. Moreover, the resolution quoted in paragraph 12 of the addendum, on credentials, called for explanation. In the report of the Credentials Committee, of which China was not a member, the arguments of the States which had objected to the admission of the Chinese delegation were quoted, but not those of States that had supported its admission. When the report had been discussed, the Chinese delegation had reserved the right to make a statement which would be sent to the Director-General of UNESCO. The resolution in paragraph 12 was based on an erroneous conception of how universality should be achieved. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the specialized agencies should endeavour to persuade States which had withdrawn from the deliberations of these bodies to return, instead of seeking solutions which were in contradiction with the provisions of the Charter. The rights of China were clearly defined in Articles 4 and 5 of the Charter. The question was of extreme importance, and involved the whole future of the United Nations. In Korea, the United Nations were acting to check aggression. UNESCO should assist in that task, taking

truth and the Charter for guidance. It should be remembered that UNESCO had not been alone in succeeding in working fruitfully without counting the USSR among its members; the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and other important bodies had also succeeded in doing so. He asked the Chairman to transmit his comments, as reported in the summary record, to the Director-General of UNESCO, and also to transmit to him the relevant passage of the summary record containing the statement he had made in the Council on 11 July (E/SR.384), so as to relieve him of the necessity of repeating on the present occasion arguments which were essential for the presentation of his case.

In conclusion, he wished to speak of two practical aspects of UNESCO's programme. First, he hoped that when UNESCO issued further textbooks, it would emphasize the moral principles of human relationships. Whatever their differences of creed, the peoples of the world held more or less common basic convictions as to what constituted right and wrong, but if there were any difficulties in reaching agreement on the moral principles to be applied, recourse could be made to those enunciated in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Secondly, UNESCO publications should explain the various philosophies of life, including political philosophies, advocating those that had proved most conducive to the promotion of human welfare. Democracy as practised by the British or the Swiss had never been imposed on other countries by force, but had provided an example which had been freely copied because of its obvious benefits. UNESCO should seek to persuade all nations to return to reason and to build a world founded on real and lasting mutual understanding. That would be a most important activity because it would contribute directly to world peace.

Mr. CABADA (Peru) noted with satisfaction that the specialized agencies whose work was of such importance to the United Nations were headed by men of such outstanding personality as, in the present instance, Mr. Torres Bodet. His Government attached great importance to UNESCO, and particularly to its work in connection with the press and co-operation in the fields of

scientific research and technical progress. There was also its contribution, which would prove decisive, in the field of technical assistance, its propagation of human rights and its fight against prejudice and intolerance. The Organization's cultural work provided the best means of achieving the purposes of the United Nations, especially in connection with the under-developed regions, for the ultimate goal would have been reached only when education, ethics and standards of living - in a word, culture in the truest sense - had become equal for all men. Such measures as the safeguarding of authors' rights and the preservation of ancient monuments were also important. He was convinced that, under its able leader, UNESCO, would be able to make considerable progress along the lines he had mentioned.

Mr. AKHTAR (Pakistan) associated himself with the tributes which had been paid to the Director-General of UNESCO and to his Report. His delegation had been impressed by the variety and magnitude of the tasks undertaken, and fully agreed with the objects of the Organization, especially the ultimate one of bringing about international peace through mutual understanding. International conflicts arose ultimately from a sense of frustration, based upon real or imagined injustices. Where the causes were real, efforts should be made to remove them through the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations, but where they were imaginary UNESCO in particular could do much to dissipate misunderstanding and ignorance. He was gratified to note that UNESCO was not only aware of that responsibility, but had taken practical steps to discharge it, as was indicated on page 23 of its Report. His delegation entirely agreed with the programme there set forth of first collecting and broadcasting facts, then helping greater numbers to benefit from them, and finally using that improved familiarity with the human inheritance to promote understanding and peace.

His delegation had learned with concern of the financial difficulties which had led to the application of a severe financial discipline to the activities of the Organization. He noted the new methods by which, after 1951, annual programmes would be coupled with financial appropriations commensurate with their comparative importance and urgency, and hoped that any restriction of activity entailed would not adversely affect the interests of the under-developed

countries. If it did, it would be a false economy.

His delegation was particularly gratified to learn that the future programme included such activities as the exposure of the fallacies which led to racial discrimination, a study of the causes of the social tensions which were often the prelude to acts of war, objective studies of some of the concepts which led to misunderstandings and conflicts, an endeavour to direct education towards a better understanding of human culture and, finally, exchanges of individuals in the interests of mutual understanding. Reflection on the purposes and activities of UNESCO deepened the conviction that it was potentially the greatest source of enlightenment in the present dark and discouraged world. But that, as the United States representative had emphasized, called for the fullest co-operation on the part of member States. Pakistan had always followed the work of UNESCO with keen interest, and his Government could ensure it of its continued co-operation in the future.

He supported the United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15) on the UNESCO report.

Mr. BORBERG (Denmark) associated himself wholeheartedly with the tributes which had been paid to UNESCO and the Director-General. He deplored the poverty which obliged UNESCO to limit its activities. The two hundred projects which seemed excessive to his United States colleague seemed to him very few in relation to the potential fields of useful work. If governments could not grant more money, funds would have to be sought elsewhere. If science were properly organized it could become self-supporting, and there should be a possibility of calling upon voluntary workers. He welcomed the increased co-operation with private organizations and universities. All the projects undertaken by UNESCO were at present being carried out at the expense of other projects. He wished it were possible, for instance, to make an enquiry among scientists on the value of scientific conferences as at present organized. He was not putting that forward as a proposal, but wished to emphasize the importance of the wisest possible selection of activities. It seemed inappropriate that that selection should be made by governments. Science was not a national interest, but UNESCO was obliged to work as though it were. The Report on

Scientific Laboratories at least showed a tendency to an organization of science such as could be undertaken by scientists themselves.

With regard to the United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15), he naturally agreed that the first problem before UNESCO was that of the promotion of peace and security. He did not, however, share the desire to see the number of conferences and meetings of experts **reduced**. If such meetings were important, the government departments concerned should be subjected to sustained pressure to expand their activities; services which might have been adequate thirty years before were not so for the present day requirements of international life. The approach should be dynamic, not static; that indeed was the attitude of UNESCO as shown in its report.

Speaking at the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. TORRES BODET (Director-General of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) began by replying to the questions put to him by various representatives.

Since all UNESCO's activities were governed by its programme, it seemed impossible, in carrying out the current programme, to cut down administrative expenditure as suggested by the Belgian representative. That could only be done if the programmes were further compressed, as indeed, the United States representative had recommended.

Replying to the question put by the Brazilian representative as to the utilization of contributions in soft currencies, he pointed out that, at the Fifth General Conference, he had suggested a new scheme for apportioning percentages. However, the Conference had not seen fit to adopt his proposals.

With regard to the point raised by the United Kingdom representative, it was unfortunately true that there had been quite a few cases of default in the payment of contributions by certain Member States. Obviously that weakened UNESCO's initiative.

The United States representative had asked why reference had been made in the 1951 programme to an International Arid Zone Research Council. The Fifth General Conference had been obliged to include the subject in the programme in view of the possibility that the Council in question might be established during the course of 1950.

He went on to consider the various draft resolutions submitted to the Committee. He agreed with the United States delegation that the number of meetings of experts, and of conferences, should not be unduly high. There had been some talk at the Fifth General Conference of convening the General Conference only once every two years. The idea was worth considering, but in that case there would have to be a programme and a budget covering a two-year period. That would call for a certain amount of flexibility.

It must not be forgotten that meetings of experts enabled UNESCO to escape from an atmosphere possibly rather too governmental for an international body. The only way of reducing the number of such meetings would be for UNESCO to concentrate its efforts on a number of major projects, as in fact the Executive Board had advocated. On the other hand, the findings of those meetings of experts were greatly appreciated, and it was desirable that a draft resolution suggesting that their number be reduced should not give the impression that their activities were not valued at their proper worth.

The United Kingdom draft resolution(E/AC.24/L.10) called attention to the danger of overlapping between the activities of UNESCO and those of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press. In that respect, the overall responsibility in respect of freedom of information, laid on UNESCO by its Constitution, ruled out any de jure restriction of its competence in that respect. A working agreement had been reached with the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, which had so far given excellent results in delimiting precisely the fields of activity of UNESCO and of the Sub-Commission. Document E/CN.4/Sub.1/109 brought out the fact that in that particular sphere, far from there being overlapping, there was collaboration and a satisfactory division of labour.

Passing to the draft resolution submitted by India and the United States of America on research into problems of the arid zones (E/AC.24/L.16), he intimated that UNESCO fully realised that it was not the only body concerned with those problems. At the same time, UNESCO had been active in that field for several months, and the Fifth General Conference had approved the proposals of a committee

of experts to set up not merely a single institute, but a council to co-ordinate the activities of a number of bodies active in various parts of the world. That council, which it was intended would give UNESCO, and, if necessary, the United Nations, advisory opinions, would warmly welcome the views of other specialized agencies, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Generally speaking, the discussions in the Committee had stressed both the necessity for a concentration of effort to render UNESCO's activity more effective, and the budgetary issues. While he fully understood the opposition to a policy of budget increases, he pointed out that he could not expect his collaborators to make still greater efforts than they had made during the past year, which had been particularly arduous. It was impossible to ask the administration of UNESCO to balance its budget and at the same time to give its staff the long-term contracts necessary to attract a better type of recruit, since such contracts of necessity resulted in increase expenditure.

Certain reservations had been made regarding the programmes financed by voluntary contributions. It was, of course, essential to avert any lop-sidedness, by arranging that such contributions should be made on as wide an international basis as possible. The difficulty might be overcome by effecting better co-ordination of the action of member governments with that of the UNESCO Secretariat. While some National Committees were extremely active, a great many of them, unfortunately, existed only on paper, and had no means of action. It would be helpful if the Economic and Social Council would lend its weight to that of the General Conference to ensure that the national committees of all countries were brought to life and rendered active.

Finally, he thanked the Committee for its goodwill towards UNESCO and towards him personally.

The CHAIRMAN, after thanking the Director-General for his illuminating

statement, laid before the meeting the United Kingdom and French draft resolutions (E/AC.24/L.10 and E/AC.24/L.13 respectively), which both called for a delimitation of the respective fields of competence of UNESCO and the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press.

Mr. CORLEY-SMITH (United Kingdom) withdrew his proposal in favour of that of the French delegation.

The French draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.13) was unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN laid before the meeting the United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15).

Mr. CORLEY-SMITH (United Kingdom) proposed that the second and fourth paragraphs be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the United Kingdom proposal that the second paragraph be deleted.

The amendment was rejected by 10 votes to 3 with one abstention.

Mr. WALKER (Australia) explained that he had voted for the deletion of the paragraph, not because he did not approve of the Director-General's efforts to establish priorities, but because he thought it inappropriate for the Economic and Social Council to pass resolutions commenting on the work of the Director-General of a specialized agency, who was responsible to that agency and not to the Council.

Mr. BORBERG (Denmark) and Mr. CORLEY-SMITH (United Kingdom) said that their attitude was precisely the same as that of the representative of Australia.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) suggested that a slight modification to the wording of the fourth paragraph might meet the objections expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom, and also take into account the views of the Director-General of UNESCO; he proposed that the sentence should read:

"Expresses the hope that this concentration of effort will result in a reduction of the number"

Mr. CORLEY SMITH (United Kingdom) regretted that the new text did not meet his objections. However, as they were of a procedural nature and not substantial, he would not press the matter.

Mr. KAYSER (France) proposed that the fourth paragraph of the United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15) be worded as follows:

"Expresses the hope that this concentration of effort will result in a reduction of the number of expert meetings and conferences held under its auspices in order to allow adequate preparation for such meetings and proper implementation of their findings and recommendations"

He pointed out, moreover, that if those responsible for drafting that paragraph wished to see the number of expert meetings, so that better preparations might be made for them at national level, it would be better to make that clear in the text.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said he had had in mind both savings on the national and on the international plane, and had deliberately chosen the words to allow the double interpretation in order to draw attention to the equally heavy burden of numerous meetings on national governments and experts and on the international secretariat.

Mr. TORRES BODET (Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) pointed out that the reduction of the number of meetings would no doubt enable UNESCO to organize them better, but that

it was also expedient to draw the attention of States to the need for improving the organization of their experts' collaboration in those meetings. For that reason he suggested adding to the United States draft resolution the words "on the national and international planes".

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) accepted the suggestion of the Director-General of UNESCO, and proposed that the words "both nationally and internationally", should be added at the end of the paragraph,

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, the Secretary then read out the fourth paragraph, as amended, namely:

"Expresses the hope that this concentration of effort will result in a reduction of the number of expert meetings and conferences held under the auspices of UNESCO in order to allow adequate preparations for such meetings and proper implementation of their findings and recommendations, both nationally and internationally;"

The fourth paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN put the United States draft resolution (E/AC.24/L.15) as amended, to the vote, pointing out that the words "continue to" should be inserted after "Requests UNESCO to ..." in the fifth paragraph, as had been requested by the United States representative,

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. YU (China) said he had strongly supported the resolution on the understanding that all the records of the Council's discussion of it would be transmitted to UNESCO for careful study. He considered his statement of 11 July 1950 to form part of those records.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to consider document E/AC.24/L.16, containing a draft resolution on co-ordination of United Nations activities for the development of arid zones, submitted by the delegations of India and the United States of America.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that he had been approached by other delegations and representatives of FAO with a view to amending the resolution. He believed it would take too long to reconcile all views in Committee, and that it would be best to defer consideration of the draft resolution until item 43 of the agenda came up for discussion.

Mr. SEN (India) supported that suggestion.

It was so agreed:

The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Director-General of UNESCO for his assistance in its consideration of the UNESCO Report. He also congratulated the Committee itself on the fine spirit shown during the day's business.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.