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**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

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**THIRD COMMITTEE, 1904th  
MEETING**

Friday, 10 December 1971,  
at 10.55 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mrs. Helvi SIPILÄ (Finland).

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters VIII (section F), XV, XVI, XVII, (Sections A and B and D to M), XVIII (sections A to C), XIX, XXI and XXII] (A/8342 and Add.1, A/8403, A/C.3/L.1870, A/C.3/L.1900, A/C.3/L.1908, A/C.3/L.1909, A/C.3/L.1917/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1924, A/C.3/L.1926)**

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (A/8403, CHAP. VIII, SECT. F, A/C.3/L.1900)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to begin its consideration of agenda item 12, concerning the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/8403) and drew attention to chapter VIII, section F, of the report, which dealt with the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

2. Mr. HEYWARD (United Nations Children's Fund), referring to the policy problems relating to UNICEF's participation in the Second United Nations Development Decade, said that the Executive Board would review that contribution in 1972 and on other occasions throughout the Decade. The Board believed that the improvement of the situation of children depended mainly on countries including in their development plans measures for the protection of children and their preparation to contribute to society. Consequently, UNICEF's co-operation with countries would be directed to strengthening that process. The Board had also considered the Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System<sup>1</sup> and had decided that UNICEF should contribute to country programming by helping the Ministries with which it was working to present a comprehensive view of children's needs and the opportunities for action. Furthermore, allocation criteria had been reviewed in order to give more help to the least developed countries.

3. Each year the UNICEF Board reviewed one or two fields of assistance. In 1970 it had considered a report on UNICEF's assistance policy for projects relating to child rearing. In 1971 the Board had considered another report on what could be done for children and adolescents in slums and shantytowns, a problem which would increase during the Second Decade. The Board had decided that UNICEF should expand its assistance for projects benefiting children in slums and shantytowns. The first projects for that purpose were currently being prepared. At the

1970 and 1971 sessions of the Board about \$140 million had been committed to project assistance and administrative services. Total commitments somewhat exceeded UNICEF's income during 1970 and 1971, which had been a little over \$110 million for the two years.

4. In the field of child health, the funds channelled into malaria eradication were being reduced as child mortality decreased. On the other hand, assistance for extending the network of basic family and child health services was growing. Furthermore, assistance for extension of the health network was sometimes derived from funds received by UNICEF from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for family planning projects. Those funds would amount to some \$3 million in 1971 and were increasing each year. In the field of child nutrition, a panel of experts on protein had met in 1971 and UNICEF continued to act as a sponsoring agency of the Protein Advisory Group to help nutrition projects, including the production of low-cost protein-rich foods for young children. In the field of education, the proportion of resources allocated to education projects had increased and amounted to 28 per cent of programme aid in 1971. Some members of the Board had felt that that was excessive and a report on education assistance policy was being prepared for consideration at the next Board session. The 1973 session would consider a report on non-formal education, particularly of children who had not been to school or who had dropped out.

5. Although most of UNICEF's resources were used to improve the situation of children, there had been an increasing number of emergencies in 1970 and 1971. In that connexion, mention should be made of UNICEF's work in East Pakistan and India; it should also be noted that UNICEF had received over \$3 million in direct contributions and about \$27 million as trust funds from focal points. The first objective had been to reach over 2 million children in refugee camps and 1,200,000 children in East Pakistan. In future, it was anticipated that there would be a greater need for child relief and for the rehabilitation of services benefiting children. The Executive Director had invited the UNICEF national committees to raise funds from the public for that emergency. When the United Nations set up new machinery for relief in cases of natural disaster UNICEF hoped to contribute its programming, purchasing and field experience.

6. He had referred mainly to the work done by UNICEF with money received from other United Nations sources. It was obvious that the demands made on Governments and individuals did not diminish the need for co-operation in long-term projects benefiting children in the developing

<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.I.10.

countries. For that purpose, UNICEF depended on its own income, which was increasing slowly and would amount to some \$60 million in 1971. The Executive Board hoped that UNICEF's annual income would amount to \$100 million by 1975. He was glad to see that the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.3/L.1900) mentioned that hope, because UNICEF had no funds beyond those required for current operations. It should be remembered that at its latest session the Board had noted as worthy of support projects costing \$10.7 million, which UNICEF did not have enough money to finance.

7. UNICEF would celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary on 11 December 1971. The General Assembly had requested that more attention should be given to the least developed countries, to backward areas and to the neglected social aspects of development. Applying those criteria to children, it would be seen that the great majority of the several hundred million children living in rural areas and slums and shantytowns were out of reach of the health services; a shocking proportion was suffering from undernourishment and many did not go to school long enough to become literate. There was thus urgent work to be done which called for increased assistance from UNICEF and the other agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and bilateral aid.

8. The CHAIRMAN thanked the UNICEF representative and asked him to convey the Committee's congratulations to the Executive Board and staff of UNICEF on the occasion of that body's twenty-fifth anniversary.

9. Mr. HEYMAN (Sweden) said that in its 25 years of existence UNICEF had evolved from a body originally set up to provide emergency assistance for children and mothers in the war-devastated countries of Europe to its present status as an integral part of the combined United Nations effort to assist the developing countries. Currently, UNICEF's main concern was long-range programmes for children and mothers, aimed at the full development of the individual. His delegation welcomed that evolution and on behalf of the whole Committee wished to congratulate UNICEF on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

10. Two important developments had taken place in the United Nations in the past two years, namely the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the consensus reached on the basis of the UNDP Capacity Study (see General assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), annex). The Strategy was based on a comprehensive approach to development which gave due consideration to the social aspects of economic change, recognizing that economic expansion would not by itself create the conditions necessary for long-term economic and social progress. Given the scope of its activities, that approach to development was perhaps more natural to UNICEF than to any other international organization, and his delegation was therefore looking forward with interest to the study to be submitted to the next session of the Board on the prospects for children and adolescents during the Decade.

11. The second important event which had a direct bearing on UNICEF's activities was the adoption of the consensus based on the UNDP Capacity Study and the

consequent use of country programming procedures. UNICEF's response to that new approach had been positive from the outset and the work on integrating UNICEF into country programming was progressing. His delegation considered that UNICEF's field activities should be well integrated into country programming and that the field representatives of the United Nations system should work as one team under the leadership of the UNDP resident representative. It was also looking forward with interest to the report of the joint UNDP/UNICEF working group established to look into the possibility of providing joint headquarters for UNDP and UNICEF field representatives.

12. Emergency assistance had always been an important aspect of UNICEF's activities and the various disasters which had occurred in 1970 and 1971 had made heavy demands on UNICEF in that sphere. Because of its experience in the purchase and delivery of a wide range of supplies, UNICEF had been able to provide speedy relief for children and mothers, who were, of course, exceptionally vulnerable in any disaster situation. Children should clearly not be the victims of political differences and that applied also to children living in areas struggling to free themselves from colonial rule. His delegation therefore believed that consideration should be given to ways of improving the situation of those children.

13. In order to fulfil its responsibilities and achieve its objectives UNICEF had to have funds. His Government considered that the contribution target of \$100 million in 1975 was realistic and would accordingly increase its contributions substantially over the next few years. Of course, the contributions of other countries would to a certain extent determine the amount of the Swedish contribution, since multilateral aid should be seen as a joint undertaking and the joint responsibility of all donor countries. His delegation therefore hoped that other countries would find it possible to increase their contributions, so as to give UNICEF the necessary tools for its vital task.

14. He then introduced draft resolution A/C.3/L.1900. The preambular part mentioned UNICEF's problems, role and responsibilities, and congratulated it on its efforts to provide emergency assistance in cases of disaster. Operative paragraph 2 endorsed UNICEF's policies, and although it was, of course, for the Executive Board of UNICEF to decide upon its policies there were some matters, such as country programming and the follow-up of the International Development Strategy, which deserved the General Assembly's support. Operative paragraph 4 contained an appeal to Governments to make every effort to increase their contributions so as to attain the target of \$100 million approved by the Executive Board and the Economic and Social Council.

15. In conclusion, his delegation felt that, in view of UNICEF's increasing contribution to United Nations development efforts and its closer integration with UNDP activities, it would be better to consider UNICEF in the Second Committee among other operational activities. If the Third Committee agreed with that idea, it could be included in its report on the item. The final decision would, of course, lie with the General Committee and the General Assembly.

16. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would command unanimous support in the Committee.

17. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) thanked the UNICEF representative for his informative statement and expressed his delegation's sincere gratitude to the whole staff of UNICEF for their dedicated service during that body's 25 years of existence. As the Committee was aware, the Executive Director of UNICEF was currently in Indonesia carrying out a survey of village life, thus demonstrating clearly UNICEF's interest in Indonesia's development. Furthermore, within the framework of Indonesia's first five-year development plan, UNICEF was participating actively in the health and family planning programme, especially the aspects relating to nutrition, community development and social welfare, and was also contributing to the development of Indonesia's educational activities. During the past four years UNICEF had increased its total assistance to Indonesia to the present annual level of \$3.5 million. Indonesia was grateful for its cordial association with UNICEF and recognized the valuable contribution UNICEF was making to national development throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries. His delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1900, in which UNICEF was requested to continue and expand its programmes. But broader programmes entailed additional expenditure, and his Government had therefore decided to increase its contribution for the current year by 20 per cent to the amount of \$60,000. His delegation urged other Governments to remember the indispensable services provided by UNICEF to children and adolescents in many countries and to make every effort to increase their contributions in order to express in an appropriate manner the general approval of UNICEF's work.

18. Mrs. ASIYO (Kenya) praised the activities of UNICEF and the positive results it had achieved in its 25 years of existence, not only in connexion with natural disasters, where it had done and continued to do magnificent work, but also in the fields of education, health services, the improvement of family life and so on. All the countries of the third world should be very grateful to UNICEF for its assistance.

19. In the UNICEF report it was rightly stated that certain Governments did not seem to realize what adverse effects malnutrition could have on the physical and mental growth of the young child, nor what a serious deterrent that could be to national development. Kenya had already suggested on another occasion that a comprehensive survey of the extent and incidence of malnutrition and dietary deficiencies should be carried out in African countries so that the Governments of that continent could size up the magnitude of the problem. The survey would also provide a more rational basis for the formulation of programmes for eradicating malnutrition. Kenya therefore urged UNDP to work in even closer co-operation with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, not only in that field but in all other fields related to child welfare and development. It would also be highly desirable for UNICEF to intensify its participation in the country programming system in the areas within its competence.

20. Kenya welcomed UNICEF's participation in the implementation of the International Development Strategy

for the Second United Nations Development Decade and was sure that that would have a significant impact on child welfare. She hoped that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1900 would be adopted by acclamation.

21. Mr. CALOVSKI (Yugoslavia) said that his country had always stressed the importance of child welfare in building a better future. It therefore considered that UNICEF was doing outstanding work, which should always be linked to general national development.

22. In the final analysis, UNICEF's success would depend on the international community's contribution to that body. It was to be hoped that all concerned would make a contribution, no matter how small, so as to enable UNICEF to attain its target in 1975. The co-operation of other United Nations bodies with UNICEF was likewise very important, and he hoped that it would be intensified. For the aforementioned reasons, Yugoslavia would continue to give whole-hearted support to UNICEF's activities and hoped that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1900, of which it was a sponsor, would be adopted unanimously.

23. Mr. STILLMAN (United States of America) said he was highly gratified by the statement by the representative of UNICEF and by the successes achieved by that body. UNICEF had been created 25 years previously to alleviate the sufferings caused to children by the Second World War. Since then it had not only become a relief organization which had provided outstanding services in emergencies, but had expanded the scope of its activities to promote the progress of the developing countries and, in the past decade, had assisted children as part of over-all development programmes, stressing the interrelationship between health, education, nutrition, social welfare and community development services.

24. The flexibility and foresight of UNICEF's programming had enabled it to achieve the greatest possible results with the assistance which its limited resources enabled it to provide. Furthermore, UNICEF brought valuable experience to the country programming policies adopted by UNDP, and the close working relationships which had always existed between UNICEF and the other members of the United Nations system had made it possible to undertake United Nations development assistance activities in a more systematic manner.

25. In each of the emergency situations which had unfortunately been so numerous in recent years, such as the civil war in Nigeria, the earthquake in Peru, the cyclone in East Pakistan and the influx of millions of refugees into India from East Pakistan, UNICEF had been in the forefront of the international assistance efforts. In Nigeria, for example, impressive progress had been made in reconstructing schools and health centres in the regions devastated by the war. The UNICEF child-feeding and health-care programming in India and East Pakistan had saved many lives and restored the health of many children. The alpha and beta emergency programmes for preventing and curing acute malnutrition problems had helped 1.5 million refugee children in India. In addition, UNICEF had been a major supplier of blankets, shelter and clean water for the refugees. It was noteworthy that all those activities had been carried out quickly and efficiently without detriment to regular programmes.

26. The full impact of UNICEF's work in the 25 years of its existence could never be fully known, but there was no doubt that millions of children owed much to UNICEF, whose aid had in many cases meant the difference between life and death. Furthermore, UNICEF had subsequently

enabled those children to contribute, as productive citizens, to the economic and social development of their countries.

*The meeting rose at 12 noon.*