



Chairman: Mrs. Helvi SIPILÄ (Finland).

AGENDA ITEM 53

World social situation: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/8380, A/8403, chap. XV, sect. A; A/C.3/XXVI/CRP.1, E/CN.5/456, E/CN.5/456/Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 to 4, Add.5 and Corr.1, Add.6 and 7, Add.8 and Corr.1, Add.9 to 16, A/C.3/L.1853, A/C.3/L.1854)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
(continued)

1. Mr. ESCOREL (Brazil) said it would have been preferable, in his opinion, if draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853 had been more direct and synthetic, since previous resolutions of different United Nations bodies, particularly the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)), covered adequately the main points of the subject under discussion. Indeed, the sponsors would have done well to place greater emphasis on the importance and meaning of that Declaration, which established the fundamental guidelines for dealing with social problems.

2. However, since the general feeling of the Committee seemed to be that there were good reasons for repeating what had been said in the past, and since his delegation felt that the draft resolution adequately reflected the different views expressed in the debate, he was prepared to support it, on the understanding that, for reasons of principle, he would ask for a separate vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraph 10 (iii). His delegation had already stated its position on the question of population control. He would also like to see the incorporation in the draft resolution of the amendment proposed by Uruguay at the previous meeting on the question of the "brain drain".

3. He welcomed draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854 and would support it.

4. Mr. DAS (India) said he was in sympathy with the spirit of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854, but, like the representative of Egypt, he felt that it might not be possible, for practical reasons, to examine the item proposed at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Furthermore, there were two points that might be reflected in the text of the draft resolution: firstly, recognition by the United Nations of the ideas and aspirations of youth, which sometimes differed from those of the older generation; secondly, the point that youth not only should be given the

right to take part in national development and international co-operation but also should be imbued with a desire to participate actively in the development of their country and of the world in general.

5. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853, his delegation felt happy that the text reflected the various shades of opinion expressed in the Group of 77 and at other meetings. Since many delegations had proposed amendments to the text, it was to be hoped that the new suggestions could be similarly accommodated. However, there were certain basic elements which could not be changed without affecting the spirit of the resolution. At the previous meeting the United States representative had suggested that some changes should be made in order to bring the wording of the draft more closely into conformity with previous resolutions on the subject. His delegation agreed that every effort should be made to pursue a consistent line of thinking in the various resolutions; at the same time, however, it must not be forgotten that the world was changing constantly and that the formulations of yesterday might not answer the needs of today. The basic truth was that the dismal picture presented by the world social situation had emerged as a result of both overdevelopment and underdevelopment. The two phenomena had produced very similar results. The present imbalance between rich and poor countries was the most important, if not the only, cause of the deteriorating social situation. That situation had to change, but the appeals that had been made in the past had been unfruitful. The developed countries must accept the obligation to discharge their international responsibilities. It was to be hoped that, both in their own interest and in the interests of the world community, they would agree to do so, for that would be to the benefit of all.

6. The draft resolution recognized that the primary responsibility for development rested with the developing countries themselves, but it also recognized that lack of capital, colonial exploitation and the existence of outdated social institutions stood in the way of their development. In some parts of the world, the problem of overpopulation had been added to the other obstacles.

7. He did not feel that it would be correct to treat the problem of overpopulation as one which concerned only the countries directly affected. The uncontrolled growth of population in any part of the world was bound, sooner or later, to create problems for the world as a whole and could even jeopardize the survival of the species. It was therefore absolutely necessary to treat the problem on a global basis and to find remedies accordingly. The United Nations was the appropriate body to establish the requisite world guidelines.

8. Finally, the resolution had rightly emphasized the value of increased utilization of science and technology in promoting social progress. In that connexion too the more advanced countries could help by facilitating the transfer of technology to the developing countries in fulfilment of an obligation and a responsibility that clearly had their roots in historical circumstances. It must be recognized, however, that the highly capitalized technology of the industrialized countries might not be suitable for the developing countries, which had to find solutions that would give employment to greater numbers of people.

9. Mrs. GERÉB (Hungary) said she supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854. In view of the importance of the item on youth, it should be considered at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. A few weeks earlier, the Hungarian legislative body had adopted a law on youth which covered many aspects of the question, particularly the participation of youth in social life and in the elaboration and implementation of economic, social and political development plans. She therefore felt it would be most useful to learn of the experiences of other countries in that field.

10. Turning to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853, she said that in general she agreed with the text, which represented an attempt to reflect in so far as possible the views expressed in the *1970 Report on the World Social Situation* and during the debate. However, although she understood the need to emphasize social development in the developing countries, she felt it must be borne in mind that in some highly industrialized countries too the social situation had remained unchanged or had even deteriorated. The resolution should therefore advocate the improvement of social conditions in all countries, while at the same time stressing that the rate of growth of the developing countries should be accelerated.

11. It was also important that the resolution should adequately establish the fact that a country's social situation depended on its economic and social development and was closely related to the economic and social system that prevailed in the country. An increase in a country's income did not automatically improve the social situation of the masses, who could benefit only from a fairer distribution of such income. The distribution of income depended on the social system of each country. Therefore, when mentioning the preparation of the next report the draft resolution should refer clearly to the importance of studying the main social trends in the world. She then proposed a number of amendments. She endorsed the suggestions made by Poland at the previous meeting regarding the fourth preambular paragraph and proposed further that the words "in several countries" should be added before the words "the social situation". After the words "has continued to deteriorate", she proposed the addition of the phrase "and the imbalance in the distribution of wealth has continued to persist". At the end of the sentence, the words "the advancement of the developing countries" should be replaced by the words "social advancement in the world".

12. The second part of operative paragraph 3 should be amended to read: "... are reduced, and progressive and well co-ordinated policies for the promotion of economic

and social progress and development are pursued in all countries". At the beginning of operative paragraph 7, the word "developing" should be deleted.

13. In operative paragraph 8, the words "trends relating to social development throughout the world" should be replaced by "the main social trends".

14. With reference to operative paragraph 10, she proposed the addition, in subparagraph (ii), of the words "and improvement of the living conditions" after the word "incomes". The last part of the subparagraph should be amended to read: "the resources . . . could also be increased through the cessation of all wars of aggression and the achievement of general and complete disarmament". In subparagraph (iii), the words "in several countries" should be added after the word "accompanied". Finally, in subparagraph (v), the words "in developing countries" in the second sentence, should be replaced by the words "in all countries". She hoped the sponsors of the draft resolution would be able to accept her suggestions and that the draft would meet with the approval of the Committee.

15. The CHAIRMAN announced that Algeria had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853 and Nigeria had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854.

16. Mrs. DAES (Greece), referring to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853, said she endorsed the suggestion made by the representative of Ghana at the previous meeting concerning the inclusion of a paragraph that would emphasize the importance of achieving a closer integration of social and economic approaches to planning and development, not only at the national level but also within the United Nations itself. She also supported the suggestion of the Finnish representative made at the same meeting concerning the addition of the words "and guidance" after "women's education and vocational training" in the second sentence of operative paragraph 10 (x). She supported the suggestion made by the representative of Uruguay at the previous meeting regarding the addition of a paragraph stressing the importance of formulating policies and measures to avert the "brain drain", which was especially important to the developing countries. In that respect, she pointed out that in her country the competent authorities had already formulated policies and measures which had helped to reduce the dimensions of the problem of the brain drain. She suggested the addition of the following paragraph to the operative part of the draft resolution:

"Requests the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to study the implementation of the provisions of this resolution and of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development on the question of science and technology in relation to social development."

That suggestion was based on article 24 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and was in conformity with the mandate of the Advisory Committee, which had already dealt with the problems of protein and population. The suggestion would provide impetus for the Advisory Committee to study ways to increase the utilization of science and technology for the purposes of social and economic development. In that connexion, she stated that

she had discussed the proposed paragraph with other delegations and with some of the sponsors of the draft resolution, and that they had supported it.

17. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854, she recalled that her delegation had been among those which from the very beginning had stressed the importance of formulating policies and measures for youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development. Her delegation's position was hardly surprising when one considered the fact that the idea of protecting and educating young people had originated in ancient Greece; it was there that the concepts of human rights, freedom and democracy had been born. Those concepts still flourished in Greece and it was for that reason that her delegation had submitted to the sponsors of the draft resolution certain suggestions relating principally to the fourth, fifth and seventh preambular paragraphs, suggestions which the sponsors had accepted. She hoped that the revised version of the draft resolution would reflect those suggestions and would meet with the approval of the Committee. Her delegation unreservedly supported the draft resolution and, in particular, operative paragraph 3, on the understanding that the report of the Secretary-General on measures to be taken to establish channels of communication with youth would be available to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

18. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853 emphasized the problems of the developing countries, as the representative of Yugoslavia had pointed out when introducing it at the 1836th meeting. That approach did not fully reflect either the International Development Strategy or the conclusions contained in the *1970 Report on the World Social Situation*. The Strategy was more general in scope, covering as it did the problems of all regions of the world. The same could be said with regard to the relationship between the draft resolution and the report, which also covered all regions of the world, both developed and developing. In her view, the suggestions already submitted, in particular those made by the delegations of Sweden, Poland and the United States, would, if accepted, broaden the scope of the draft resolution.

19. The draft resolution should contain a more detailed description of the social situation and should take into account all the policies aimed at halting the deterioration of the situation and accelerating social progress and development. For example, the fourth preambular paragraph specified only the traditional sectors where the situation had deteriorated without mentioning other types of deterioration, which had been pointed out in the introduction to the report, such as the persistence of structural dualism and the marginality of large population strata. In addition, the emphasis placed by the developing countries on the economic measures which could be taken by developed countries in such fields as trade, aid and science and technology should not exclude the possibility of mentioning the measures which could be taken by all countries and, in particular, by the developing countries, to improve their own situation. In that connexion, she supported the suggestion made by the representative of Sweden at the previous meeting in reference to operative paragraph 3, to the effect that mention should be made not only of

disparities between developed and developing countries but also of disparities within countries between higher and lower income groups, between regions and between rural and urban areas.

20. Her delegation would like to suggest to the sponsors of the draft resolution that operative paragraph 6 could be improved if it were amended to read:

"Urges Governments to implement the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade and those of developed countries to attain, and where possible to exceed the targets for trade, financial resources and transfer of science and technology for the development of developing countries embodied in the Strategy."

21. With reference to the question of a unified approach to development, she observed that if the sponsors could accept the suggestions made thus far, the draft resolution would, to some extent, be based on a unified approach. She therefore supported the proposal made by Ghana at the previous meeting to add a new preambular paragraph which would reaffirm the importance of a unified approach to development and Sweden's proposal made at the same meeting to mention of General Assembly resolution 2681 (XXV). The next report should be more oriented towards policy-making since in 1974 the International Development Strategy would be reviewed. Economic and Social Council resolution 1581 C (L) dealt with the scope and utilization of the next report; it would therefore be appropriate to refer to part C of that resolution in the present draft; however, since the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had already proposed mentioning part A of the resolution, it might be best to refer to Economic and Social Council resolution 1581 (L), without any distinction as to parts, in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution.

22. On the whole, her delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854 and was prepared to vote for its adoption. It had, however, taken note of the observations made by the representative of Egypt at the previous meeting concerning the availability of the two reports specified in the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs of the draft and agreed that the sponsors might do well to modify the text to the effect that the General Assembly should consider the question of youth at its twenty-eighth rather than at its twenty-seventh session so that the Commission for Social Development, which would meet only in the early part of 1973, might have the opportunity of considering the reports.

23. Miss SANO (Japan), referring to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853, said that, first of all, she did not think it would be correct to mention only one of the three parts of the resolution on the question adopted by the Economic and Social Council. In her opinion, all three parts, namely, A, B and C of resolution 1581 (L), should be referred to in operative paragraph 1 without giving one any more prominence than the others. She recalled that Japan had abstained in the vote on resolution 1581 B (L) in the Commission for Social Development, but in the present instance her delegation had no objection to including it on an equal footing with the other two parts. Secondly, she

felt that more prominence should be given in the draft resolution to the *1970 Report on the World Social Situation* and that it, together with the two future reports, should provide a basis for the forthcoming review and appraisal of social progress during the Second United Nations Development Decade.

24. With regard to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, she observed that the International Development Strategy was the subject of a resolution and not of a treaty or an international convention. Accordingly, she felt that it was inappropriate to use the word "obligation" in paragraph 6. The fourth preambular paragraph, which described the world social situation in terms that were too general and lacked precision, was less satisfactory than paragraphs 2 and 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1581 C (L). Furthermore, paragraph 4 was superfluous in view of the wording used in paragraph 10 (i), and the first lines of paragraph 10 (ii) repeated the thought expressed in paragraph 6. Her delegation shared the view of those who had objected to the inclusion of the word "rich" in subparagraph (ii) and those who had suggested that subparagraph (vii) was out of place in the present resolution.

25. In view of the circumstances, she felt that it would be useful for the sponsors of the draft resolution and of the amendments to consult each other and attempt to reach a consensus. As it now stood, her delegation could not support the draft resolution despite its many positive elements.

26. Miss GROZA (Romania) asked the Director of the Social Development Division if he could give a progress report on the studies referred to in the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854.

27. Mr. JANSOON (Director of the Social Development Division) replied that the analytical study of the world social situation of youth, prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1407 (XLVI), would be ready in time for the next session of the General Assembly; however, the Commission for Social Development would not be able to consider the study before its next session in March 1973.

28. The report by the Secretary-General on measures to be taken to establish channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations, requested by the General Assembly in resolution 2497 (XXIV), would also be completed in time for the next session of the Assembly. However, since that report would not be exclusively concerned with the social aspects of youth, it might not be necessary for the report to be considered in the first place by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development.

29. There was also a third report concerning youth which had been mentioned by the Egyptian delegation at the previous meeting and which dealt with the possibility of convening, in the future, world youth assemblies, as the General Assembly had urged in resolution 2633 (XXV). In order to obtain the views of Governments on that question, questionnaires had been addressed to the countries concerned with the request that they should be returned before

the end of the year. Accordingly, the report on that subject would also be available to the General Assembly at its next session, either as part of the report on channels of communication with youth or as a separate document.

30. Mr. AL-SHAWI (Iraq) said that his delegation could accept draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854, especially if the suggestion put forward by the representative of Egypt was taken into account.

31. On the whole, draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853 appeared to be acceptable, with the inclusion of certain of the proposed amendments. He would, however, like to suggest adding a fifth preambular paragraph, which would read:

"Recognizing the necessity of the elimination of all forms of economic exploitation by foreign monopolies in order to enable the people of every country to enjoy in full the benefits of their inherent rights over their natural resources for the purposes of social development and improvement of their standards of living."

The new paragraph was in the spirit of operative paragraph 7. He also supported the suggestion for inclusion of the phrase "in many countries" before the words "the social situation" in the fourth preambular paragraph. With regard to operative paragraph 8 he supported Hungary's amendment and suggested that after the word "colonial" a comma should be added and the word "occupied".

32. Mr. LOSHCININ (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853 and agreed with some of the proposed amendments. He thought, for instance, that France was right in suggesting that the expression "rich countries" in operative paragraph 10 (ii) should not be used and that it should be replaced by the more usual expression "developed countries". He also agreed with the proposals of the representative of Iraq and thought that the problem of monopolies should also be mentioned in the conclusions in operative paragraph 10.

33. He supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854. In 1973, UNESCO would sponsor an international youth conference and it would be very useful if the General Assembly's discussions on the subject could be examined at that conference.

34. Mr. AKYAMAÇ (Turkey) proposed the following amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853: the addition of the following phrase at the end of operative paragraph 10 (ii): "as well as through the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed outside national jurisdiction". His country was also looking forward to the day when funds released through disarmament would be directed to social and economic development. Unfortunately, there was little hope that that would happen in the near future. In the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the General Assembly referred both to the release of funds through disarmament and the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and, although there was no reference to the latter in the *1970 Report on the World Social Situation*, it was to be hoped that his amendment would be favourably received by the sponsors of the draft resolution, since it was perhaps a less remote possibility than that of disarmament.

35. At the previous meeting the representative of Costa Rica had submitted an amendment to operative paragraph 10 (ii), drawing attention to the fact that excessive military expenditure was not limited to the rich countries and that there were developing countries that spent considerable sums on armaments. Possibly the same effect would be achieved by deleting the phrase "which in some rich countries have reached unbearable proportions" at the end of that paragraph.

36. Mr. HANDL (Czechoslovakia) suggested the following amendment to operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853: after the words "within the framework of over-all development," add the words "probe more deeply into the fundamental causes of social problems, examine critically the obstacles to social progress and draw conclusions and suggestions useful for practical policy-making and planning".

37. He also suggested that in operative paragraph 10 (iii) the words "reforms aimed at securing just distribution of national wealth and income" should be inserted between the words "such as agrarian reforms" and "and such programmes".

38. He hoped that the sponsors would accept those amendments and that the Committee would see fit to adopt the draft. He had already stated that he fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854.

39. Mr. SANE (Senegal) said that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1854 posed no problem for his delegation. The remarks made by various delegations were indicative of the international community's interest in the problems of youth; that should be sufficient to warrant inclusion of the subject in the General Assembly's agenda at the twenty-seventh session.

40. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853, he wished to refer to operative paragraph 10 (iii) in which the question of family planning in overpopulated countries was raised. In his opinion, the population problem was of no direct interest to the international community; in essence, it was firstly an individual and secondly a national problem. In west Africa, for example, where there were five or six inhabitants per square kilometre, the policy could not prove effective. Moreover, it was very difficult to decide whether or not a country was overpopulated. He believed that the problem should be left to the discretion of each State. He therefore proposed that the words "and such programmes as measures for family planning aimed at controlling the rate of growth of population in overpopulated countries" should be deleted.

41. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) agreed with the suggestions made by various delegations on draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853, particularly those of the representatives of Uruguay, Guinea, Iraq, Poland and Czechoslovakia. However, she thought that operative paragraph 4, in which various obstacles to development were enumerated, could be improved and that it might be better for that paragraph to

come before the others. There were other obstacles besides those referred to in the paragraph, such as anachronistic structures, for example, and they should be mentioned. That was why she supported the amendment proposed by the representative of Iraq, which was extremely important, because domination by foreign monopolies was one of the major obstacles to development in the developing countries. She therefore joined with the delegation of Iraq in requesting the incorporation of that amendment in the draft resolution.

42. She also proposed the addition of a new operative paragraph reading roughly as follows:

"Reaffirms" the principle of the right and duty of every nation and people freely to determine its own social development objectives and to decide upon the means and methods of attaining them without outside interference."

43. She also suggested that the words "social and national" should be inserted between the words "and other" and "policies of oppression" in operative paragraph 4. She further proposed that a reference should be made to the continued existence in many countries of anachronistic economic and social relationships which hindered the development of productive forces and constituted an obstacle no less important than those mentioned in paragraph 4. Lastly, she suggested that the words "the causes of deterioration in the social situation in certain areas" should be added after the word "analyse" in operative paragraph 8, since it was extremely important that those causes should be identified in the next report.

44. Mr. PEACHEY (Australia) suggested that the clause "that the social situation . . . has continued to deteriorate," should be deleted from the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1853.

45. He also thought that it was unfair in operative paragraph 1, to refer to only one of the three resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the same question. In operative paragraph 2 he would like to delete the words "aimed at halting the deteriorating world social situation". With regard to operative paragraph 6, it should be noted that implementation of the International Development Strategy was not compulsory and he would therefore prefer to see the phrase alluding to the obligation to implement the Strategy deleted. In paragraph 7, he suggested eliminating the word "permanent" and substituting "all countries" for "developing countries". With regard to operative paragraph 10 (ii), his delegation agreed with the delegation of France on the question of military expenditure and the need for a liberal approach to questions relating to trade and aid. His country had been giving preference to products from the developing countries for several years. Lastly, if the proposed amendment to paragraph 6 was accepted, the first sentence of operative paragraph 10 (v) would have to be deleted.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.