

appreciated by the public at large. ECWA intended to work along those lines.

was convinced that only decentralization would enable the regional commissions to achieve positive results.

46. He was glad that member States seemed to be convinced of the desirability of decentralization: he himself

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

1971 st meeting

Tuesday, 22 July 1975, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1971

AGENDA ITEM 8

Economic, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau and to the Territories still under Portuguese domination (A/10105 and Add.1, A/10106 Corr.1 and Add.1)

1. Mr. BURNS (Director, Office of Technical Co-operation) said that agenda item 8 concerned, first, economic, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau and, secondly, assistance to the territories which at the time of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly had still been under Portuguese domination: Angola, the Cape Verde Islands, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe. In pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session (resolutions 3339 (XXIX) and 3340 (XXIX)), the Secretary-General had prepared two reports concerning the assistance given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to Guinea-Bissau (A/10105 and Add.1) and to the territories under Portuguese domination (A/10106 and Corr.1 and Add.1). He had not received enough information to report on the measures taken by Governments pursuant to the resolutions in question. Much still remained to be done to assist the States that had just become or were soon to be independent in their efforts for reconstruction and development, and he urged those countries which had not yet done so to furnish information about their assistance activities, since the inventory of the measures taken by Member States would serve as a starting-point for the General Assembly's discussion at its thirtieth session.

2. Mr. BARREIROS MARTINS (Observer for Portugal), speaking at the invitation of the President, said he would give some information about the assistance and aid furnished by his Government to the States of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe and the territory of Timor.

3. His Government had concluded several agreements with Guinea-Bissau, including one on a loan; even before the conclusion of the agreement, medical teams and teachers had been sent to Guinea-Bissau.

4. With regard to Mozambique, his Government had supplied more than \$100 million to the Transitional Government between September 1974 and June 1975, in addition to the loans contracted on the responsibility of the

Portuguese Government, a contribution for the Cabora Bassa dam, subsidies for solving the problems of decolonization and the taking over of budget items relating to commitments to Portugal entered into by the State of Mozambique. Before Mozambique had become independent in June 1975, Portugal had signed several agreements of both a general and a special nature with the Transitional Government.

5. As far as Cape Verde was concerned, Portugal had supplied over \$35 million in 1974, including emergency assistance of almost \$19 million and commitments of more than \$6 million under the fourth development plan. The two States had signed a general agreement of co-operation and friendship and a scientific and technical agreement.

6. With regard to São Tomé and Príncipe, Portuguese assistance amounted to more than \$5 million in 1974 and more than \$3 million in 1975; it was likely that the latter sum would be increased still further. On independence day, the two States had also concluded an agreement on co-operation and friendship and an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation.

7. His Government's economic assistance to the territory of Timor had amounted to more than £12.5 million in 1974. For the first half of 1975, its contribution amounted to nearly \$7 million, according to estimates which might in actual fact be exceeded.

8. That was Portugal's contribution to the States of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe and the territory of Timor. It represented an enormous effort on the part of his country, which, in view of the magnitude of the needs, would deeply appreciate any economic, financial and technical contribution which the United Nations and its associated organizations could consider.

9. Mr. SAKALA (Zambia) said that the phase of national reconstruction and consolidation of the former Portuguese territories which had now become independent would be full of difficulties. It was necessary, therefore, for the international community to contribute assistance as a matter of urgency, while respecting the sovereignty of the new States, especially since some of them might assume international responsibility with regard to territories still under the domination of racist régimes. His country would

continue to do its best to help the former Portuguese territories and their peoples, as it had done during the liberation struggle. It was taking measures, for example, to arrange for the return of thousands of refugees to their homes.

10. His country, convinced that the independence of the territories opened up new prospects for financial co-operation in many fields, urged all Member States which were in a position to do so, together with the United Nations and other international organizations, to give the territories all the necessary assistance for them to develop in accordance with the programme which they had drawn up.

11. Mr. KASTOFT (Denmark) said that his country had assisted national liberation movements in the territories under Portuguese domination and that it was furnishing assistance to the new States.

12. In 1974/75, Denmark had given financial assistance to Guinea-Bissau through UNHCR for rehousing refugees who were still in Senegal and Gambia. It would make an additional contribution, either in goods or in project assistance, through the United Nations organizations.

13. In Mozambique, his Government had given financial assistance to FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front), either directly or through UNHCR and the World Council of Churches. For the fiscal year 1975/76 it expected to contribute nearly \$2 million as bilateral assistance, and it had made a contribution to UNHCR for a rehousing project.

14. In Angola, his Government had granted about \$800,000 to MPLA (People's Liberation Movement of Angola) directly and had made a contribution in kind through the World Council of Churches. Through OAU, it had assisted the liberation movements in Angola and Mozambique. In 1975/76, it would contribute more than a million dollars to Angola after its achievement of independence.

15. All that assistance was minimal compared with the needs. He was therefore glad to learn that Portugal intended to assist its former territories, and he hoped that other countries would do the same. He was pleased that the Governing Council of UNDP had decided, at its twentieth session, to supply assistance to Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique under its regular programme (see E/5703, para. 187).

16. Mr. MICHEEL (German Democratic Republic) said that his country had always supported the liberation movements of the African peoples under Portuguese domination and that to-day it was maintaining friendly relations with the new sovereign States. In addition to official State aid, the people of his country were contributing voluntarily to a solidarity fund. Teachers and medical staff had been sent to Africa, while African students and workers chosen by the liberation movements were received in the German Democratic Republic for the purpose of continuing their training. For example, his Government had concluded an agreement with the new Republic of Guinea-Bissau for

consultants and experts to be sent to Guinea-Bissau and for Guineans to be given vocational training in the German Democratic Republic.

17. Solidarity with Guinea also extended to the population of the Cape Verde Islands, particularly in the form of supplies of foodstuffs and medicaments.

18. For more than ten years, his Government had supported FRELIMO, by training specialists, sending teachers and educational supplies, providing medical treatment for the fighters and sending gifts. On the day when Mozambique had become independent in 1975, the two Republics had agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

19. His Government would continue to provide assistance to the former Portuguese territories both through bilateral aid and by endeavouring to ensure that the relevant General Assembly resolutions were carried out.

20. Mr. da COSTA (Brazil) said that Brazil had always shown active sympathy for newly independent nations, but felt even closer to those with which it shared a common heritage. In February 1975, his Government had sent 18 tons of food and medical products to Guinea-Bissau. In the field of technical co-operation, Brazil was helping to set up a telecommunications system and had offered Guinea-Bissau scholarships. Brazil had also decided to support projects submitted by Cape Verde and Angola. When immediate assistance had been required by the former Portuguese colonies, Brazil had sent 150 tons of food to Cape Verde and 16 tons of food and medical products to Angola. Brazil had also decided to make a financial contribution to UNHCR to assist in the repatriation of people from Mozambique.

21. Mr. NGALLI-MARSALA (Congo) said that the technical, financial and economic assistance which the United Nations and its specialized agencies had promptly given to Guinea-Bissau and the territories still under Portuguese domination was very encouraging. New African States were therefore quite right to place new hopes in the United Nations, which would after all have been their historical ally throughout their struggles for liberation. He was confident that the United Nations would not betray those hopes and would be able to initiate a real movement of international solidarity.

22. Mr. CISSE (Mali) also paid tribute to the United Nations for having foreseen as early as 1974 the difficulties which Guinea-Bissau and the territories still under Portuguese domination were going to encounter and for having quickly taken action to help them. Apart from Angola, all those territories were now independent, but still faced considerable difficulties. He hoped that the international community would give them even more aid.

23. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) thanked the Governments and peoples of all the countries which had given effect to the General Assembly resolutions on assistance to Guinea-Bissau and the territories still under Portuguese domination. The United Nations must now move beyond the stage of appraisal to give those countries still greater positive assistance, calling on the aid both of the rich countries and

of those developing countries in a position to provide economic and technical assistance. Algeria had already signed several economic and technical co-operation agreements with Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. Several fellow-ship holders from other Portuguese territories were at present studying in Algeria.

24. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the Portuguese authorities, who, in spite of many difficulties, were endeavouring to help their former colonies achieve independence in peace and to support them in their work of national construction.

25. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that in 1974 the Federal Republic of Germany had launched a major programme in Guinea-Bissau in co-operation with UNICEF. As soon as the country had become independent, the Federal Republic had sent gifts and had contacted its Government to see in what way it could increase its co-operation to help develop the country. It had done the same with the Government of Cape Verde. The Federal Republic of Germany was most willing to study ways and means of co-operating on the same basis with the other territories under Portuguese domination, if they so desired.

26. Mr. DINU (Romania) said that Romania firmly supported the efforts made by peoples liberated from the colonial yoke to consolidate their independence, as was shown by the many meetings between Romanian leaders and the leaders of national liberation movements. The United Nations had a duty to help those new countries in their task of reconstruction and economic and social development, and his delegation had noted with satisfaction that the UNDP Governing Council had decided to approve an indicative planning figure for Guinea-Bissau for the period 1977-1981. The organizations belonging to the United Nations system, however, should give even more substantial support to those countries and to peoples still under colonial domination, in the shape of economic, technical, health and cultural assistance and training programmes.

27. Mr. PETRONE (Italy) said that the Italian authorities, in order to give effect to General Assembly resolutions 3339 (XXIX) and 3340 (XXIX), had already informed the Secretary-General that they wished to establish ties of economic and technical co-operation with Guinea-Bissau, and that contacts were planned to achieve that aim. They were also envisaging economic and technical co-operation with Mozambique and Angola.

28. Mr. FALL (United Nations Children's Fund) said that the aid provided by UNICEF for many years to Guinea-Bissau and the territories under Portuguese domination amounted to \$2 million. In drawing up its aid programmes for those countries and territories, UNICEF co-operated closely not only with the appropriate United Nations bodies but also with OAU and bilateral aid programmes. As a result of political developments in those countries, it should be possible to work out more programmes and carry them out in more favourable conditions. Those countries needed assistance all the more because most of them were among the least developed countries; some of them, including Cape Verde, had recently been afflicted by a

disastrous drought, and war had also prevented their development. Consequently, the situation in those countries called for emergency measures and measures in aid of reconstruction and development as a matter of priority. The UNICEF Executive Board had given its full attention in 1975 to the programmes to be carried out in those countries and there could be no doubt that the international community should show greater generosity to them.

29. Mr. BOURGOIS (United Nations Development Programme) said that during its last three sessions the UNDP Governing Council had considered what action should be taken to help the colonial countries and peoples, including Guinea-Bissau and other Portuguese countries and territories. The decisions taken by the Governing Council at its twentieth session in June 1975 were designed to increase the help which UNDP could give those countries and territories by programming adapted to their specific needs.

30. The appointment of a UNDP Resident Representative in Guinea-Bissau made it possible to organize United Nations assistance as an integrated whole. UNDP procedures were applied with all due flexibility in keeping with the very spirit of the "new dimensions" of technical co-operation which the UNDP Governing Council had recently approved (see E/5703, para. 54).

31. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) described the action that his Government had already taken to provide economic, financial and technical assistance to Guinea-Bissau and the territories still under Portuguese domination. The United Kingdom had contributed £200,000 towards the programme carried out in Guinea-Bissau by UNHCR, and had provided some transport. In addition it proposed to send a team of officials to Guinea-Bissau to discuss possible agricultural development projects which might be the subject of bilateral aid in the future. In any event, the United Kingdom would play its full part, as a member, in the actions of various international agencies, such as EEC, which was already providing some food aid for Guinea-Bissau. The Community was also able to provide such aid to Cape Verde. In the case of São Tomé and Príncipe, the United Kingdom believed that the aid to be provided would be most effective if it was distributed through the appropriate multilateral organizations.

32. In the case of Mozambique, his Government had responded to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator's appeal by providing a charter aircraft in February 1975. It had also contributed £300,000 to the work of UNHCR in Mozambique and when the country had become independent had given it some ambulances. The United Kingdom had already had discussions with Mozambique about the possibility of a bilateral aid programme. He hoped that under United Nations auspices it would be possible to work out a programme of international assistance, to which the United Kingdom was prepared to contribute generously. Such a programme would assist an independent Mozambique in applying sanctions against the illegal régime in Rhodesia.

33. Mr. KEITA (Guinea) said that the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America were still the victims of an

iniquitous system of exploitation which kept them in an outrageous state of under-development and subjection. States which said they were prepared to help those countries to emerge from under-development were in fact supplying the weapons used to massacre innocent people. The basic question was to apply the resolutions relating to the granting of independence to all peoples. So long as part of the African continent was occupied, no African country would feel free. After centuries of colonial domination, the territories in question urgently needed aid to establish their hard-won political independence and then achieve economic independence. The United Nations bodies and all States should redouble their efforts. He appealed on behalf of the oppressed to the international community, whose responsibility it was to come to the aid of newly independent States. Lastly, he noted with satisfaction the statement by the UNDP representative concerning more flexible procedures for territories having a special need of aid.

34. Mr DUMAS (France) said that his country, which was always mindful of the requirements of international co-operation and wished to supply aid to the territories in question, had tried to put its principles into practice. Co-operation with Mozambique, which had gained independence very recently, was still at the pre-programming stage; with Guinea-Bissau, however, there was already considerable co-operation in several fields, while in the case of Angola various projects were at an advanced stage of preparation. He cited various examples of co-operation and said that his delegation appreciated the action taken to provide the new States with the necessary assistance.

35. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) stressed the urgent need to supply economic, financial and technical assistance to Guinea-Bissau and the territories still under Portuguese domination, to enable them to become viable nation States. He commended those Governments that had given assistance to the territories in question, in pursuance of the two resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject. His country had always supplied and would continue to supply, within the limits of its human and other resources, all possible financial and material aid to those peoples and territories that were still under colonial domination or had recently gained their independence.

36. Mr. ZHUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country had always supported national liberation movements and had helped them in various ways. His Government had been one of the first to recognize Guinea-Bissau, to which it was supplying economic aid under various co-operation agreements. His country had also established diplomatic relations recently with Mozambique and was going to supply it with aid, particularly in the field of training.

37. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report by the Secretary-General on economic, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau (A/10105 and Add.1) and the report by the Secretary-General on economic, financial and technical assistance to the territories still under Portuguese domination (A/10106 and Corr.1 and Add.1), and should decide to transmit those reports to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

It was so decided.

38. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had concluded its consideration on agenda item 8.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional co-operation (*continued*) (E/5608/Rev.1, E/5608/Add.1, E/5619, E/5651, E/5656, E/5657 and Corr.1 and 2, E/5658, E/5700, E/5721, E/5722 and Corr.1, E/5723, E/5728; E/L.1665, E/L.1670)

39. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Argentina) requested that consideration of the draft resolution on regional co-operation (E/L.1670), submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mexico, Romania, Thailand and Yugoslavia, should be postponed until the following day so that informal consultations on a text likely to be adopted by consensus could continue. The delay would also enable delegations to receive instructions from their Governments.

It was so decided.

40. Mr. van LAETHEM (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the work of the regional commissions was a form of United Nations activity which deserved the special attention and support of the Council. The Council's discussions on the subject, in which delegations had participated to the full, had been highly constructive. The regional commissions were very different from each other in several ways but had certain features in common. They were led by people of high quality who showed great dynamism and devotion and, in some of them, teams of collaborators had gradually been built up and were working in an atmosphere of co-operation and friendship. Since each commission was in close touch with the economic situation and the economic authorities in its region, it had opportunities for getting to know the problems and tackling them from which the United Nations could and should derive great benefit. In fact the regional commissions were technical and geographical channels which had become indispensable. It would therefore be desirable for Governments to provide first-rate staff -- seconded, if necessary, from their administrations -- in order to strengthen those of the commissions which were still too weak to do what they had to do or which needed to develop. The regional commissions' chances of asserting themselves and playing an increasing role would largely depend on the talents they could offer the Governments of the regions and on the influence and authority which, through their qualified staff, they gradually acquired among national leaders. That might entail greater financial implications, which should be borne in mind by the competent financial bodies of the United Nations.

41. The regional commissions should be given opportunities for asserting themselves. That was essentially, but not exclusively, the responsibility of the United Nations Secretariat, which, whenever possible, could associate them more closely with the planning of global policy, ask for their suggestions or proposals in formulating and implementing projects of a regional or sub-regional nature, promote direct relations between the commissions and seek out areas of co-operation for joint action by them and, lastly, give them increasing operational powers in technical

assistance fields formerly dealt with exclusively from Headquarters. He personally would try to promote those various forms of action by the regional commissions. The success of the efforts made would to a large extent depend on support from Governments, which, in some cases, would have to resist the temptation to short-circuit the regional commissions, a thing they sometimes did on the — correct — grounds that the commissions were still not competent enough in some fields. Governments should ensure that the attitudes of their national departments were in certain respects brought into line with the wishes and recommendations formulated at the international level regarding an increase in the responsibilities of the regional commissions. During the transitional phase it might be desirable for delegations to make a special effort to encourage that process and thus speed up the practical realization of a needed change, on the principle of which there now seemed to be clear agreement.

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of ECE for the period 30 April 1974 to 24 April 1975 (E/5651), of the views expressed during the Commission's discussions, and of the resolutions and other decisions adopted by the Commission at its thirtieth session contained in part IV of the report; and, further, endorse the programme of work and priorities contained in parts V and VI of the report.

It was so decided.

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of ESCAP for the period 7 April 1974 to 7 March 1975 (E/5656) and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in chapters II and III of the report; endorse the programme of work and priorities contained in chapter IV of the report; and amend the wording of paragraph 2 of the Commission's terms of reference by replacing the term "Continental Australia" by the word "Australia".

It was so decided.

44. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of ECLA for the period 10 March 1974 to 6 May 1975 (E/5608/Rev.1) and of the resolutions contained in part III of that report; decide to endorse the programme of work and order of priorities contained in part V of the report; and take note of the report of the

Committee of the Whole of ECLA on its ninth extraordinary session (E/5608/Add.1) and of the resolutions contained in part II of that report.

It was so decided.

45. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Conference of Ministers of ECA and reproduced in part IV of the annual report of ECA (E/5657 and Corr.1 and 2).

It was so decided.

46. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of ECWA on its second session (E/5658) and of the resolutions contained in the report; and endorse the programme of work and priorities set out in chapter IV of the report.

It was so decided.

47. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the annual report on the meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions (E/5700).

It was so decided.

48. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations export promotion and development efforts (E/5619) and on an excerpt from the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its fourteenth session on the subject of export promotion efforts (E/L.1665).

It was so decided.

49. The PRESIDENT pointed out that, under its resolution 1819 (LV), the Council should have had before it a report of the Joint Advisory Group on the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre. Since that report had not yet been received, however, he suggested that the Council should request the Secretary-General to submit it to the Council at its sixty-first session, together with the comments and suggestions of the Trade and Development Board thereon.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

1972nd meeting

Wednesday, 23 July 1975, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1972

AGENDA ITEM 6

Economic assistance to Zambia
(E/L.1671, E/L.1672)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider agenda item 6. It had before it draft resolution E/L.1671

on assistance to Zambia and a statement submitted by the Secretary-General of programme budget implications of the draft in document E/L.1672.

2. Sir Robert JACKSON (Under Secretary-General and Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance to Zambia) said that since his last report to the Council almost a year earlier