

the drafting of the United Nations Charter. The celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism had taken place in the presence of many women who, particularly in the Soviet Union, had fought for the liberation of all the peoples of the world. Their determination to strengthen international peace and security was reflected in many of the Conference's resolutions.

53. Moreover, the Conference drew the attention of public opinion to certain problems which had yet to be solved: discrimination against women in various fields of social life and the fight against racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. In his statement at Mexico City, Mr. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, had stressed that socialism had liberated women and enabled them to participate in the life of society, the development of production and the administration of the State. The social policy of the Soviet Union was designed to create the best conditions to enable women to participate.

54. Although it was one of the major events of the International Women's Year, the Conference was only a beginning, for women's struggle was not over. The efforts must be continued, both within countries and at the international level and particularly in the context of the World Congress of International Women's Year, to be held at Berlin in October 1975.

55. His delegation was convinced that the International Women's Year would enable the women of all countries to achieve total liberation and to participate in the solution of problems, the strengthening of peace and security, the freeing of all peoples and the progress of mankind in general.

56 Mr. ŽIŽKA (Czechoslovakia) said that in Czechoslovakia, as in all the socialist countries, women had the same status as men, but that was not so in the rest of the world. For that reason, Czechoslovakia supported all efforts aimed at enabling women to participate on an equal footing

with men in the government of their countries and the building of world peace. It supported the Declaration of Mexico for it was convinced that the aims of the International Women's Year – equality, development and peace – corresponded to the real aspirations of women throughout the world. The proclamation of the International Women's Year had been one more step towards the equality of women and their participation in cultural, economic and social life.

57. It was also symbolic that 1975 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, in which women had played an active part in the fight against fascism. The present international *détente*, which had been started by the socialist countries, was characterized by a strengthening of co-operation between States belonging to different social and economic systems. *Détente* could have only beneficial effects on the status of women in all spheres and throughout the world. The participation of women in the struggle for peace, international security and disarmament and against racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and *apartheid* could not but be welcomed, for that struggle was helping to strengthen *détente* and to encourage international co-operation and the economic and social development of all countries, on which, in turn, an improvement in the status of women depended.

58. Such an improvement would, however, be possible only after considerable social and economic changes and on the basis of a minimum level of development. A delegation of his Country had had the satisfaction of taking part in the Mexico Conference, which had constituted one of the essential initiatives in that direction. It welcomed the universal character and results of the Conference and would continue to support the action undertaken by women to improve their lot in all fields, which it considered to be a legitimate international obligation. It was convinced that the World Congress at Berlin and other large international meetings would proceed in the same direction.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

1975th meeting

Friday, 25 July 1975, at 3.15 p.m.

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

E/SR.1975

In the absence of the President, Mr. Longerstaey (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5

International Women's Year (*continued*) (E/5725)

1. Mr. MICHEEL (German Democratic Republic) said that the fact that 133 States, 8 liberation movements and 113 non-governmental organizations had taken part in the World Conference of the International Women's Year was evidence of the great interest which the Conference had

aroused throughout the world. His own country had made an active contribution to the preparations for the meeting.

2. From the time of its establishment, the German Democratic Republic had realized that the fundamental rights of man were also the rights of woman and that in modern society there was no question but that men and women should have equal rights. His country knew from experience, however, that the liberation of women was really possible only when all social relationships moved in the direction of social progress. That was why it greatly appreciated the energy with which the developing countries

were fighting for a worthy way of life, which, by definition, included the equality of the sexes. In that spirit, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic had taken part in drafting the decisions and instruments adopted at Mexico City, in particular, the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (E/5725, chap. I and II.A), which expressed the will of a very great majority of the Members of the United Nations.

3. In conclusion, he reminded the Committee that the World Congress of Women was to be held at Berlin in October 1975. That meeting should give a fresh impetus to the campaign for equality between the sexes.

4. Mr. BUKHARI (Pakistan) said that the Mexico Conference had made a great contribution towards stirring the conscience of mankind, which had so far paid little attention to the lot of women, although they represented half the world's population. It was obvious, however, that women, even in the developed regions, had not yet succeeded in fully assuming their due role. The Conference had produced constructive results which were encouraging, but it would not really have practical consequences unless women themselves wished it to do so and succeeded in overcoming their prejudices and inhibitions. He sincerely hoped that Governments, non-governmental organizations and the whole United Nations system would endeavour to implement the many resolutions adopted at Mexico City, for they denoted the beginning of a real re-awakening of women. He also hoped that the World Plan of Action would be implemented under the auspices of the Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly.

5. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) noted that, in many quarters, doubts were being expressed as to whether the Mexico Conference had been a success. In her country's view, it had been an undeniable success since for the first time the problems of women had been placed on the same level as all the other great economic and social problems of the day, such as food resources, population, raw materials, etc. The period when women's problems had been envisaged as competition between the sexes was over. It was now necessary to go beyond the stage of viewing women's problems as being one of equality between the sexes, since equality would necessarily be achieved through a normal process of evolution. Women's problems should be viewed as part and parcel of the over-all socio-economic development of society. That was the message of the Mexico Conference, which must be passed on to the world community. Henceforth, Governments, when preparing their short- and long-term economic and social development plans, would have to take into consideration the fact that women did indeed constitute half the population. That was the fundamental idea which the authors of the Declaration of Mexico had wished to state first and foremost.

6. It would seem that the general public had received a somewhat confused image of the Mexico Conference, which was probably in large part the fault of the world press. The Conference had accordingly adopted several decisions on the role of the information media, which might help in

changing many attitudes and prejudices which were unjust to women.

7. For her part, she doubted the wisdom of having a meeting of non-governmental feminist organizations simultaneously with the intergovernmental Conference convened by the United Nations. It led to a dissipation of efforts which should, on the contrary, have a global character. That was why the World Plan of Action contained recommendations expressly addressed "to Governments, and to all public and private institutions, women's and youth organizations, employers, trade unions, mass communications media, non-governmental organizations, political parties and other groups".

8. It had been said that the World Plan of Action was chiefly relevant to the problems of the developing countries and was of little concern to women in the developed countries. In reality, the Plan recognized explicitly the existence of wide divergences in the situation of women in different societies, cultures and regions, characterized by differing needs and problems and that, therefore, each country should decide on its own national strategy and identify its own targets and priorities within the World Plan.

9. The Mexico Conference had also been said to have been dominated by political issues. That criticism, too, was unjustified. It must be realized that, in the present-day world, no problem could be dealt with in isolation. When studying women's problems, how could one avoid referring to the political and economic problems which, in certain regions, hampered development in all its aspects? If there was a real desire for women to play a full part in socio-economic development, how could the alarming political situation in southern Africa, in Palestine and in other parts of the world be ignored? Such an attitude would have been unthinkable and that was why, out of a total of 34 decisions, the Conference had adopted 7 resolutions of a political nature.

10. Egypt had voted in favour of the World Plan of Action and almost all the resolutions. She hoped that those resolutions would all be duly implemented, in particular resolution 4, which dealt with the role of the United Nations system in implementing the World Plan of Action, and the resolutions on the condition of women in rural areas, education and training, and the revision and expansion of the International Standard Classifications of Occupations.

11. Mr. CHENG Yu-kuei (China) said that at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the two super-Powers had made many attempts to divert the Conference from its objectives. One of them had propagated the "non-political nature" of the women's movement, while the other had endeavoured to impose its worn-out conceptions of "détente" and "disarmament". The aim of both was to prevent women the world over from participating in the great revolutionary struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemony. At Mexico City, many third world countries and some liberation movements had succeeded in thwarting such manoeuvres.

12. In all countries, the emancipation of women was an inseparable part of the fight for freedom which the whole people must wage against all forms of imperialism, colonialism and hegemony, which were still so widely practised, in particular, by the two super-Powers.

13. The Chinese delegation to the Conference had supported the Declaration of Mexico which, drafted in its essential by the Group of 77, reflected the demands and legitimate proposals of the men and women of the third world. It had, however, expressed reservations on paragraph 30 of the Declaration because the inclusion of the paragraph on "disarmament" by the authors of the Declaration played into the hands of the super-Powers to the detriment of the struggle of the peoples of the third world. It had also expressed reservations about other terms used in the Declaration, such as "interdependence".

14. The World Plan of Action contained some satisfactory elements, but the Chinese delegation had again had reservations of principle on some vital questions, such as the means of achieving the emancipation of women, the theme of the International Women's Year, and the line of action to be recommended to the women of all countries. In particular, it had been strongly opposed to the recommendations to women to participate in disarmament conferences and suchlike activities; it had declared that it did not consider itself bound by the provisions of the World Plan of Action concerning the internal affairs and sovereignty of various countries, nor by the pacts and resolutions approved and signed by the Chiang Kai-shek clique. For all those reasons, the Chinese delegation had not participated in the vote on the World Plan of Action.

15. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that, in drawing world attention to problems directly affecting more than half the world's population, the World Conference of the International Women's Year had represented an important step forward for women. The Conference had recognized that women were subject to many forms of discrimination, injustice and domination; it had also emphasized the necessity for carrying out research in such areas and for establishing support services which would help women to participate to the full in the economic, political and other decisions affecting their daily lives and in the over-all development process. The status of women admittedly varied from region to region and from country to country, but justice required that all women should be able to lead the life they had freely chosen and should be given the training they required. To that end, Member States should take urgent action to formulate national strategies for implementing the World Plan of Action and resolutions of the Conference and for giving substance to the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Mexico, bearing in mind that such strategies could be effective only if women took part in their formulation. Regional conferences should be organized to draw up or monitor the application of regional plans of action and consideration should be given to convening a second World Conference, possibly in 1980, since the first Conference would otherwise be no more than a beginning.

16. Programmes to further the advancement of women should be based on an understanding of the impact of

economic, social and technological development on their lives. It was necessary to know not only what changes were required but also how to bring them about. It was therefore essential that the International Research and Training Institute for the Promotion of Women should be set up as quickly as possible, in accordance with Conference resolution 26. The Economic and Social Council should request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on ways and means of establishing the Institute. As an indication of its interest in the project, Iran had undertaken to contribute up to \$1 million to the Institute; it was confident that other countries in a position to do so would follow suit. Lastly, the Council should draw the attention of Member States to the Conference resolution 6 on the participation of women in the seventh special session of the General Assembly and in other meetings of the various bodies of the United Nations; the Council should call upon Member States to acknowledge the importance of that resolution and to do everything possible to see that the participation of women was increased.

17. Mrs. WIE (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the results of the World Conference of the International Women's Year gave a good basis for national and international action to remove the intolerable obstacles to equality between men and women in all spheres of political, economic and social activity. The World Plan of Action should not remain a mere document. Member States had the major responsibility for carrying out the Plan but the United Nations should also assume a considerable share of the responsibility, and its capacity for action should therefore be strengthened.

18. The Nordic countries welcomed the recognition of the promotion of the status of women as an integral part of the general development process; they considered the implementation of the World Plan of Action as an essential component in the effort to establish a new international economic order. They also considered that the highest priority should be given in aid programmes to assistance to women who were the victims of poverty and underdevelopment. The Declaration of Mexico and the World Plan of Action rightly emphasized the need for the integration of women not only in economic, social and cultural life but also in the political affairs of their countries. The discussions at the seventh special session of the General Assembly should reflect the need for greater participation of women in the development process.

19. Mr. SYMONS (United Kingdom) said that his country, which should shortly have one of the most comprehensive sets of legislation in the world against discrimination against women, had worked actively over many years, both within and outside the United Nations, to improve the status of women throughout the world. The United Kingdom's efforts in that respect formed part of its over-all action for human rights and economic and social development.

20. In his delegation's view, the most important question before the World Conference of the International Women's Year had been that of the advancement of women within economic and social development, particularly in the

developing countries. His country had been somewhat disappointed to note that, instead of concentrating on the formulation of practical and realistic measures for the advancement of women, the Conference had appeared to over-emphasize political problems which were primarily the responsibility of other United Nations organs. The reputation and effectiveness of the United Nations might suffer if technical conferences such as the World Conference of the International Women's Year failed to transcend political difficulties. Nevertheless, while it was too early to make a full assessment of its achievements, the Conference could be said to have done important and useful work.

21. The most important document drawn up by the Conference was undoubtedly the World Plan of Action, whose value time alone would prove. His Government hoped it would be effectively implemented. In many respects, however, the most important achievement of the Conference was likely to be an intangible one. In making preparations for the Conference, which was the first intergovernmental conference to have been devoted exclusively to the problems of women, Governments had been forced to pay attention to those problems; it was to be hoped that they would continue to do so.

22. During the Conference, the United Kingdom had expressed its intention of refocusing its bilateral aid programmes on the solution of problems of poverty, particularly in the rural development sector. It therefore intended to contribute an amount of \$200,000 annually for three years, beginning in 1976, to help to finance projects which would primarily benefit women in rural areas in the poorest countries. Multilateral aid could also play a fundamental part in the cause of social development. In that regard, his delegation considered that many United Nations programmes required to be redirected to take more account of the place of women's activities in the development process.

23. Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that the World Conference of the International Women's Year had highlighted the important role of women in society and in mankind's general struggle for progress and civilization, co-operation and peace. It had shown that women throughout the world were deeply interested in the establishment of a new international economic and political order. Moreover, the new order and the democratization of international relations could undoubtedly help women to participate to the full, on an equal footing, in economic, social and political life, in accordance with their aspirations. The success of the Conference had been consolidated by the Declaration of Mexico and World Plan of Action and by the 34 resolutions adopted by the Conference. The Conference had had a marked political character. On the one hand, it had shown that there was a greater awareness on the part of women and, on the other, it had shown that Governments, States, non-governmental organizations and public opinion were becoming increasingly concerned with the social integration of women. With regard to the Plan of Action, his Government considered that special priority should be given to the needs of women in the developing countries, and particularly in rural areas and low-income urban areas.

24. As the Declaration of Mexico emphasized, the desired objectives could only be achieved in a world in which relations among States were founded on the principle of sovereign equality, in which peoples had the right to self-determination, in which there was no longer resort to force and in which the principles of territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States were respected. Similarly, relations among human beings should be based on the principle of equal rights for men and women.

25. Mr. RUSSKOV (Bulgaria) said that the World Conference of the International Women's Year had brought together a large number of participants and had taken important decisions with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination and creating the necessary conditions for promoting equal rights for, and the dignity of, women throughout the world. The implementation of the decisions and principles adopted by the Conference would improve the lot of millions of women and would help them to take a more active part in development efforts, in efforts for peace and disarmament and in the achievement of social progress and justice. The equality of women was one of the preconditions for progress in all countries, and one of the greatest achievements of the socialist régimes was to have established complete equality between men and women. Bulgaria had made that one of its constitutional principles and had adopted a new programme in 1973 designed to extend the role of women. Lastly, he said that the decisions of the World Conference represented an excellent beginning, that their implementation would require efforts on the part of all countries and that his country would do everything possible to co-operate in their application.

26. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) thought that no one would under-estimate the material and moral support given to the International Women's Year and the Mexico Conference by the United States Government, which endorsed the objective of the International Women's Year, namely, to define a society in which women participated in a real and full sense in economic, social and political life, and to devise strategies whereby such societies could develop. His Government hoped that there would be a movement from the state of devising strategies to the implementation stage on both the national and the international level.

27. His Government thought that a good deal had been accomplished at the Conference and was impressed by the wide areas of common agreement. Nevertheless, it regretted that issues not germane to the purposes of the Conference had been discussed. It would carefully study the final report of the Conference and would comment on its substantive issues and recommendations in the appropriate forums. His Government would support all efforts to translate the results of the Conference into actual practical programmes.

28. Mr. OGAWA (Japan) considered that the Mexico Conference had attained its primary objective of drawing the attention of the world to the present status of women. The situation might differ from country to country but there were common problems arising from the fact that in general women had been subjected to some forms of inequality and prejudice. Criticism had been directed at the

discussions and final achievements of the Conference but his delegation was of the opinion that it was an epoch-making first step towards the realization of genuine equality between men and women. His delegation recognized that the three concepts of equality, development and peace were inseparable. It considered that in many parts of the world, under-development was one of the most serious obstacles to equality between the sexes. His Government supported the general outline of the World Plan of Action, as also the resolutions adopted at the Conference, subject to the views expressed by the Japanese delegation to the Conference. In conclusion, he pointed out that institutional changes or changes in legislation were not by themselves enough to improve the status of women and establish equality between the sexes; those efforts must be accompanied by a fundamental change of attitude with regard to the role and status of women in society.

29. Mr. MCGILCHRIST (Jamaica) said that the first success of the Mexico Conference had been to focus public opinion on women's right to be heard. In Jamaica particularly, the International Women's Year had had a considerable effect and the authorities had become even more conscious of the need to integrate women into the life of the country; from the current year, new legislation would guarantee a minimum wage for all workers, male and female alike, as well as equal pay for equal work in every category of employment. Priority was also being given to industrial training for women, to maternal and child health programmes, the establishment of day care centres and the full participation of rural women in agricultural production. A bureau had been established to co-ordinate action on behalf of women.

30. Some might question the utility of undertaking a policy of equality, progress and justice for women in the present international economic climate, in which the developing countries themselves faced an inequitable system. His Government, for its part, was willing to pay the considerable cost of such a policy and was ready to co-operate actively with international bodies and non-governmental organizations in order to improve the status of women in the light of the decisions and recommendations of the Mexico Conference.

31. Mr. OLZVOI (Mongolia) said that to mark International Women's Year and to make known its objectives of social progress and peace, a women's committee had been formed in Mongolia. The Committee enjoyed the unqualified support of the Government and the entire country. In a socialist society, women's rights were not just proclaimed but also guaranteed in practice; thus in Mongolia, over 44 per cent of the women received secondary and university education, and women accounted for over 22 per cent of the teachers at the university level, over 70 per cent of medical staff and over 30 per cent of members of parliament. Equal pay, help for large families and paid maternity leave were established facts.

32. The documents adopted by the Mexico Conference showed that women were well aware of the roots of the social evils which particularly affected them; it would be clear that the objectives of equality, development and peace had not been selected at random, if thought was given to

the unhappy lot of women in many countries where they were inadequately educated, badly paid and subject to discrimination with regard to social welfare and family and political rights. In addition, women and children were the first victims of wars, and it was not, as had been said, because the Conference had been too political that it had called for peace, disarmament and the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Women had thus reminded the world of their role in the struggle for national liberation and proclaimed their eagerness for peace and their desire for the establishment of a new international economic order founded on equality, sovereignty and co-operation. For that reason Mongolia fully supported the Declaration of Mexico, in particular paragraph 30, and the Conference's resolutions on aid to the Viet-Nameese people, the situation of women in Chile and Palestinian and Arab women.

33. It was now for the United Nations organs to make every effort to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the Mexico Conference. It was not the time to embark upon fresh theoretical studies but to move on to action on the truly important issues. The Council could pay particular attention to the implementation of the decisions of the Conference. Nevertheless, it should be well understood that improvement in the status of women depended first and foremost on action at the national level and that equality could be attained only under the conditions of peace and social and economic progress which would be made possible by the establishment of a new international economic order.

34. Mr. OKELO (Kenya) said that the Declaration of Mexico, the World Plan of Action and the resolutions adopted by the Conference were a significant contribution towards establishing a juster society and achieving the objectives of International Women's Year. Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations would find the work of the Conference a useful basis for defining strategies which would guarantee the protection of every fundamental right and freedom of the individual as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various international instruments.

35. Kenya fervently hoped that the decisions and recommendations of the Mexico Conference would not remain a dead letter. In Kenya, the pivotal role of women in nation-building had long been recognized, as had been proved by the number and calibre of Kenya's delegation to the Mexico Conference. It was true that improvement was still needed in certain areas owing to the prejudices and fallacious beliefs which had been rooted for generations in all societies.

36. In conclusion, he said that, since the report of the Conference in provisional form had only recently been published, his delegation reserved the right to comment on it in more detail at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

37. Miss KABANGI (Zaire) said that the Mexico Conference was an important step in the process of integrating women into all spheres of human activity. Zaire, which had taken part in drawing up the Declaration of Mexico, thought that if it was right to recognize the place of women

in society it was also necessary to bring about the progress of society. The present system of international economic relations was an obstacle to the improvement of living standards in the developing countries and it was a matter of urgency to establish a new international economic order founded on equity, interdependence, co-operation and permanent sovereignty over natural resources. In the same way, colonialism, *apartheid* and the occupation of territories by force was not only a danger for world peace, it also prevented social development and hence the emancipation of women.

38. The World Plan of Action adopted by the Conference defined the objectives which would really serve to improve the status of women, while leaving States enough liberty of action, an attitude which appeared to be justified since the position of women was not the same in all countries. The Plan also pointed out the specific areas for national action; her delegation noticed with satisfaction that it included a call to encourage efforts by women themselves at the individual, national and international level. Legally, equality of rights for women was recognized by most countries, but in practice, traditional attitudes proved a serious handicap to equality of opportunity. In the exercise of political rights, women were rarely in evidence although they generally had the right to vote and hold public office; it was necessary to put an end to discrimination in those fields and to make women aware of their responsibilities as citizens.

39. The World Plan of Action referred to the problem of education, which was a key factor in social progress. It was true that women were at a disadvantage in that respect and discrimination made their role in society and their contribution to development less effective.

40. The World Plan of Action also stressed the important part women should play in rural areas and emphasized the efforts required in different fields such as health, nutrition, the family, etc. Finally, research on the status of women should also be given priority both at the national level and at the regional and international level and the information media should be widely used to remove certain prejudices which hampered the emancipation of women.

41. The World Plan of Action reviewed the measures to be taken at the global, regional and national level: at the global level, the Council had been entrusted with an important co-ordinating role which Zaire hoped it would make every effort to fulfil. At the regional level, the regional commissions should provide governmental and non-governmental organizations with the means to identify the problems and work out methods to implement the Plan of Action at the national level.

42. At the national level, as far as Zaire was concerned, International Women's Year had been marked by a number of events. The President of the Republic had toured the entire country to talk to women of all regions and walks of life; he had taken a number of measures to benefit them and had pardoned all female prisoners in Zaire.

43. As early as 1965, President Mobutu had interested himself in upgrading the role of women in Zaire; in the legal

field, the equality of men and women was recognized by the Constitution and women also had the right to vote and to hold every kind of official position. They served on the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, the Judicial Council, in the army and in other sectors of public and private life. Finally, women in rural areas, who were the majority in Zaire, had an education and training programme designed to improve their productivity and living conditions.

44. In conclusion, she thought that no criticisms should be levelled at the Mexico Conference for having discussed political questions such as racism, occupation of territories by force, etc. The problem of the status of women was rooted in the political and social situation. The Mexico Conference had had the very great merit of arousing general awareness of the problem and providing an opportunity to draw up a plan of action which would make it possible to build a harmonious society in which men and women realized their complementary roles.

45. Mr. CHICHIZOLA (Peru) said that he wished to re-state some of the basic ideas put forward by the Peruvian delegation at the Mexico Conference. Firstly, equality between men and women would have to be conquered not just by feminist movements alone with their limited demands but in the framework of the total struggle against an unjust and oppressive system as a whole. Secondly, revolutionary liberation struggles against domination and an unjust international order were the consequence of a new awareness on the part of men and women throughout the world.

46. Peru was endeavouring to transform its political, economic and social system so as to liberate the country from capitalist imperialism and to construct a social democracy in which all, without discrimination of sex, could freely achieve self fulfilment. Under that policy, Peruvian women would henceforth be able to participate in the life of the country in accordance with the Government's economic plans. The State was, in particular, endeavouring to achieve equality of pay for men and women, and that effort would shortly be enforced by law.

47. The "crisis", so frequently mentioned in the Council, was mainly due to a lack of balance in the modern world, which was more advanced technically than morally. The recognition of women's rights would in fact contribute to the moral progress of mankind. The Peruvian Government would spare no effort to achieve that result.

48. Miss GINSBERG (International Alliance of Women), speaking at the invitation of the President, pointed out that it had been a non-governmental organization, the Women's International Democratic Federation, that had proposed to the Commission on the Status of Women that International Women's Year should be celebrated.

49. The close collaboration between non-governmental organizations and their national associations mainly took the form of organizing seminars throughout the world. The seminars held by women's organizations dealt mainly with the education, training and vocational advancement of women and their role in the Second United Nations

Development Decade. The situation of rural women was a matter of particular concern. As FAO reports emphasized, women employed in agriculture were particularly disadvantaged and progress in mechanization, from which women in towns were benefiting, was not yet accessible to them; in the country, the mechanization of agricultural work was not always to women's advantage.

50. Non-governmental organizations would continue their struggle on behalf of women by collaborating in the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at Mexico. At the national level, they would do so by mobilizing public opinion, while, at the international level, they would intensify their co-operation with one another – in which they hoped that they would be assisted by Governments. Non-governmental organizations would make every endeavour to participate in the implementation of the resolutions adopted at Mexico, in particular resolutions 4 (Role of the United Nations system in implementing the World Plan of Action), 10 (Access of women to financial assistance) and 14 (Research for the formulation of policies concerning the integration of women in the development process).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Industrial development co-operation

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5724)

51. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of the Economic Committee's report on agenda item 13 (E/5724), entitled "Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation", which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council. It had been adopted in the Committee by consensus, and he proposed that the Council should also adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

It was so decided.

52. Mrs. ILYUSHINA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at the time that the resolution just adopted had been approved in the Economic Committee, her delegation, out of consideration for the wishes of the developing countries, had not opposed the consensus decision – one which had also been achieved previously at UNIDO. She wished, however, to reaffirm the stand on it taken by the Soviet delegation at the Second General Conference of UNIDO at Lima and at the UNIDO headquarters in Vienna.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Natural resources

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5731)

53. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Economic Committee's report on agenda item 11 (E/5731). He drew attention to two corrections: in paragraph 8 the word "advisability" should be replaced by "opportunity"; in paragraph 9, the United States of America should be

added to the list of delegations that had formulated reservations.

54. Paragraph 11 contained four draft resolutions and a draft decision which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council. Draft resolutions I (Problems of availability and supply of natural resources) and II (International river basin development) had been adopted by the Committee without a vote.

55. He proposed that the Council should also adopt draft resolutions I and II without a vote.

It was so decided.

56. Mr. OGAWA (Japan) wished it to be stated in paragraph 9 of the report that his delegation had formulated reservations on one of the draft resolutions before the Economic Committee, and requested that Japan should be added to the list of countries which had entered reservations.

57. Mr. SOARES (Brazil) said that, when the Economic Committee had considered the four draft resolutions contained in chapter I of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session (E/5663), his delegation had made a statement on parts A (Preparatory work for the United Nations Water Conference) and B (International river basin development) of draft resolution II. The statement was reproduced in the summary record of the Economic Committee's (744th meeting) and in paragraph 8 of its report.

58. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution III (Permanent sovereignty over natural resources) had been adopted in the Economic Committee by a vote. At the request of the United States representative, he put draft resolution III to the vote.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 26 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.

59. Mr. SCHWARTZ-GIRÓN (Spain) said that his delegation had abstained because it had difficulty in accepting operative paragraph 2 of the draft concerning nationalization. At the fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council in the Economic Committee (701st meeting) and the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly (2316th plenary meeting), the Spanish delegation had pointed out that there was no universally recognized international legislation on nationalization, and that it was a matter of urgency to begin preparing such legislation. With that exception, his delegation fully supported the other paragraphs of the draft resolution.

60. Mr. HARTNACK (Denmark) said that his delegation had abstained because the draft resolution, particularly in operative paragraph 2, was incompatible in several respects with his Government's position. If operative paragraph 2 had been voted on separately, his delegation would have had to vote against it.

61. Mr. WATANAKUN (Thailand) said that he had voted for the draft resolution, but that his delegation's support

should be seen in the context of the explanation of vote given by the Thai delegation at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly (2315th plenary meeting) in connexion with article 2, paragraph 2 (c) of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

62. Mr. HUTAGALUNG (Indonesia) said that he had voted for the draft resolution but that his support should be viewed in the context of the statement made by his delegation in the Economic Committee (743rd meeting) on operative paragraph 2; his delegation had made it clear that the paragraph in no way changed the commitments assumed by Indonesia under bilateral and multilateral agreements.

63. Mr. KACIMAIWAI (Fiji) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution in the Economic Committee because his Government supported the general principle of sovereignty over natural resources. However, he had expressed reservations on operative paragraph 2 during the discussions in the Economic Committee (744th meeting).

64. Mr. OGAWA (Japan) said that his delegation had expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution during the discussions in the Economic Committee (743rd meeting). Nevertheless, as the text had been adopted by consensus at the fourth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, his delegation had merely abstained in the vote just taken.

65. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution IV (Comprehensive plan of action for and co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources development) had been adopted by the Economic Committee without a vote. He proposed that the Council should also adopt it without a vote.

It was so decided.

66. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the draft decision on action to be taken by the Council on the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session (E/5663) had been adopted by the Economic Committee without a vote. He proposed that the Council should also adopt the draft decision without a vote.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12

International environment co-operation

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5732 AND ADD.1)

67. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 12 (E/5732 and Add.1). Paragraph 9 contained a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its third session", which had been adopted by the Economic Committee by a roll-call vote. He proposed that the Council should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

It was so decided.

68. Mr. SOARES (Brazil) wished to reaffirm his delegation's position on the resolution, as clearly stated in the appropriate bodies and as recorded in the Economic Committee's report.

69. Mr. CHENG Yu-kuei (China) said that his delegation had always supported the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; accordingly, if the part of operative paragraph 2 of the resolution relating to the Charter had been put to the vote separately, his delegation would have voted in favour. As for the question of shared natural resources as referred to in article 3 of the Charter, the position taken by the Chinese delegation in the past remained unchanged.

70. Mrs. ILYUSHINA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, during the discussion of the resolution just adopted in the Economic Committee, her delegation had reserved its position on the twenty-seven decisions adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its third session (E/5710, second part).

71. Mr. YILDIRIM (Turkey) said that his delegation accepted the consensus which had been reached on the resolution, but maintained the reservations it had expressed on the question of shared natural resources at the time of the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had been adopted by the General Assembly (2316th meeting), and at the second and third sessions of the Governing Council of UNEP.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.