

America. Thus, whilst the countries with little sun developed power stations using dangerous nuclear energy, the sunny countries of ECWA could develop the healthy and inexhaustible energy of the sun. If the countries of the region continued to imitate the countries with little sun by installing nuclear power stations. They would become dependent by the end of the century on the developed countries, which would be the sole suppliers of the fuel needed to run nuclear power stations. The ECWA countries should concentrate on developing solar energy so as to dispense with oil before the year 2000, so that what was left of that precious commodity could be used by the petro-chemical industry.

77. His second point was that there was an enormous disparity in the region between different countries in

respect of the petro-chemical industry. Some were under-populated with very high *per capita* income whilst others were over-populated with very low *per capita* income. The distribution of the petro-chemical industry in the region should perhaps be planned so as to reserve the large oil-refining industry for the oil-producing countries and leave the industries utilizing by-products to the non-producing and over-populated countries.

78. In conclusion, he thanked the Executive Secretary of ECWA for his untiring efforts on behalf of the region and for placing ECWA on a footing of equality with the other regional commissions which had preceded it.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

1968th meeting

Monday, 14 July 1975, at 3.20 p.m.

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

E/SR.1968

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/L.1665)

1. Mr. LALOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that regional co-operation was growing and the role of the regional commissions was therefore becoming increasingly important. Such co-operation was part of a wider trend towards greater integration and could do much to speed up development. It was particularly gratifying that the regional commissions were taking a more active part in regional projects in such areas as transport, communications, agriculture and water resources. For example, the action taken by ESCAP toward establishing a single intergovernmental governing council for regional training institutions and arranging to act as an executing agency for them was a useful innovation. ECA had launched four projects relating to an African highway network. The growing enthusiasm for joint ventures among members of ECWA could lead in time to wide-ranging co-operation in that region. ECLA, like the other regional commissions, had done particularly good work in connexion with the regional review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

2. In the European region, the process of *détente* which was gradually taking place could only achieve lasting results if it was extended to other regions and if the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States became general rules governing the behaviour of all countries. The final phase of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe should confirm that efforts would be made to achieve those aims. The work of ECE constituted an important contribution towards the process of *détente*. Reflecting as it did the state

of political relations in Europe, ECE was primarily a forum for co-operation between countries with different social and economic systems. Such differences were not an obstacle to mutually useful co-operation for which, indeed, there was no alternative.

3. Yugoslavia noted with satisfaction that the special problems of the less developed countries in Europe had been reflected in ECE's short-term and long-term programmes of work. In particular, the Committee on Development of Trade was to undertake a study on temporary labour migration and its influence on trade, investment and industrial co-operation.

4. In its preoccupation with the problems of the European region, ECE had to some extent neglected the global activities of the United Nations. As an organ made up of some of the most highly developed countries in the world, whose economic power had a decisive influence on the whole range of international economic relations, the Commission had a duty to follow general world-wide trends and to make an adequate contribution to activities at that level. Thus, especially where co-operation in Europe had repercussions on the position of developing countries and on co-operation with them, all ECE members had an obligation to consider their problems, in accordance with the general desire for a new international economic order. There were a number of ways in which ECE could contribute to world-wide co-operation. The first step might be to encourage a greater exchange of studies and sharing of experience between regional commissions. Developing countries might be represented at various specialized ECE meetings, seminars and study tours, and the experience of European countries in the field of industrial co-operation could be made available to them. The ECE secretariat might undertake studies designed to show developed and developing countries areas in which they had a common interest in

long-term co-operation and in which their economies were increasingly interdependent. The decision that the executive secretaries would in future meet at the headquarters of the regional commissions in turn should help to create greater awareness of the problems of other regions. In an interdependent world problems could be solved only by joint efforts and through an adequate commitment by all countries.

5. Mr. HERRERA (Ecuador), noting that a number of sections in the annual report of ECLA (E/5608/Rev.1) related to energy problems, stressed the need for close co-operation between ECLA and the Latin American Energy Organization, which had recently been established in Quito. The Commission was carrying out interesting work on transnational corporations, but should perhaps also consider the detrimental effects of the activities of certain other foreign companies, whose market domination caused equal or greater damage, particularly through restrictive trading practices.

6. Ecuador strongly supported the work of ECLA, which recognized the need for combined economic and social development, as stressed in the Chaguaramas Appraisal (ECLA resolution 347 (XVI)). One area causing concern, however, was the situation of the least developed countries in Latin America. Any new international economic order which did not further the harmonious development of all countries, including the least developed, would be prejudicial to integration and economic and social progress. So far, little had been done to consider the situation of the 14 least developed Latin American countries, which accounted for only 9 per cent of the region's GDP, produced only a limited range of goods, and had a very low level of exports. It was therefore to be hoped that they would be taken fully into account in all future ECLA studies.

7. Too much emphasis had, perhaps, been placed on higher oil costs as a factor in Latin America's balance-of-payments problems. ECLA should also study speculative and unjustified increases in the prices of other commodities and of agricultural and industrial inputs imported by Latin American countries from industrialized countries.

8. The programme of advisory services to Latin American countries in connexion with the multilateral trade negotiations had been unable to function properly for some time. Throughout the past year, in fact, it had failed to provide them with the support they needed. Now that certain administrative problems had been overcome, it was to be hoped that the programme could be continued, since the countries concerned in the negotiations considered it to be extremely useful. The seminars planned in that connexion should be long enough to enable the participants to derive full benefits from them.

9. With respect to trade policy, his delegation would have like to have a preliminary analysis by ECLA of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, as an instrument for the vertical integration of trade between 55 countries, which would probably not further Latin American interests.

10. With respect to the International Development Strategy, his delegation supported ECLA's attempts to revitalize

and expand producers' associations – a legitimate way of achieving the new international economic order. It supported the resolutions of the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials, held at Dakar, whose impact would certainly be studied by ECLA. In that connexion he referred to paragraph 82 of the Chaguaramas Appraisal, in which the Latin American countries had emphatically rejected any type of measures involving overt or disguised coercion in respect of the orientation of their trade policy. They accordingly objected to the United States 1974 Trade Act, which served to make the application of the GSP to countries dependent upon their non-participation in producers' associations and upon certain rules regarding the expropriation or nationalization of foreign investments. Sovereign States should be free to decide such matters for themselves.

11. Monetary instability and tariff and non-tariff barriers were among the main causes of changes in trade flows. Floating currencies and increased costs in Europe had raised the price of imports for Latin American countries without corresponding increases in their export prices. ECLA might perhaps examine that problem in order to protect the interests of those countries until such time as fixed parities and greater stability were once more achieved.

12. Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico) congratulated the regional commissions, and particularly ECLA, on the increasing effectiveness of their work over the past few years and their emphasis on action-oriented programmes. It was clear that their activities must now cover both the economic and the social aspects of development, and must be based not only on the International Development Strategy but also on other important documents such as the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In order to fulfil that new mandate, the regional commissions would need more resources, but that should be achieved through redistribution under existing budgets rather than increased assessments on member States. Consideration might also be given to changing ECLA's name to "the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America".

13. Mexico supported ECLA's efforts towards achieving a new international economic order which would contain no element of colonialism or neo-colonialism. In particular, the Commission had set up high-level committees of experts in various fields and was collecting useful information on transnational corporations. Its activities should not, however, be confined to purely regional matters. There should be co-operation with all countries which had an influence in Latin America, with a view to a frank dialogue between industrialized and developing countries.

14. Mr. MUNGAI (Kenya) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the work done by the various regional commissions and the part they had played in the preparatory and follow-up stages of such events as the World Food Conference, the World Population Conference and the Second General Conference of UNIDO.

15. The dominant factor in the African economic situation was the severe drought affecting much of the

continent. A number of countries had suffered extensive disruption of economic life, the death of thousands of people and the destruction of crops and livestock. It was a cruel irony that while the great majority of the peoples of the world were fighting for a change in the present international economic order, a sizeable percentage of the African population was more concerned with the struggle just to stay alive.

16. His delegation was grateful for the efforts being undertaken by ECA in the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes for the transformation of the countries afflicted by the drought in Africa. It particularly welcomed the emphasis on long-term programmes to restore the ecological balance in the affected regions and check the southward advance of the Sahara desert. His delegation commended the efforts of those members of the international community which had come to the assistance of the Sudano-Sahelian States, and at the same time lent its full support to the appeal made by the third Meeting of the Conference of ECA Ministers (twelfth session of ECA) in resolution 264 (XII) urging the international community to seek radical solutions to the problem of drought with a view to its final eradication.

17. His delegation had noted with appreciation the efforts of ECA in agriculture, education, human settlements, industrial development, population, science and technology. It was particularly impressed by the Commission's activities in communications, notably in the launching of four highway projects in Africa. In view of the pivotal role of communications in the development of intra-African trade and over-all development, the progress made was particularly encouraging.

18. His delegation urged ECA to intensify its efforts with regard to projects which would facilitate a much higher degree of economic, financial and technical co-operation among African countries. There was a particular need for measures that would enable the processing of all Africa's raw materials to be carried out within the continent itself, for that was the key to rapid development. On the average, the price obtained by African producers for unprocessed raw materials was only about 10 per cent of what the consumer in the industrialized country paid for the final processed product. As long as practically all African raw materials were processed outside Africa, efforts to improve the international economic order would remain relatively meaningless as far as the ordinary African was concerned.

19. His delegation had been encouraged by the activities already launched in that connexion, but felt that much more remained to be done. It therefore welcomed the very detailed instructions contained in ECA resolution 256 (XII) requesting the Executive Secretary to take immediate steps to institute action-oriented programmes for the realization of objectives in line with those of General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI). His delegation would be interested to see what measures were taken by the Commission in that respect, particularly with regard to industrialization and economic co-operation at sub-regional levels.

20. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the draft resolution in paragraph 513 of the annual report of ECA

(E/5657, vol. I), which called on the Council to endorse ECA's medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979. That plan had been formulated on the basis of the International Development Strategy and Africa's own strategy for the 1970s and also took into account the need to adapt ECA's work programme to the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution sought to amend the terms of reference of ECA so as to enable the representatives of national liberation movements recognized by OAU to participate in the Commission's activities. The African countries accorded high priority to the role of liberation movements not only in the political emancipation of people still suffering from colonialism and racial domination, but also in their emancipation from poverty and economic degradation. The draft resolution had been approved unanimously by the ECA Conference of Ministers, and he hoped that the Council would have no difficulty in adopting it unanimously as well.

21. Ms. TURNBULL (Australia) said that the regional commissions were playing a vital role in promoting regional co-operation and understanding, and that the steady increase in their operational activities indicated the practical value attached by members to their work. To be effective, economic and social development must be on a global scale, and the executive secretaries of the regional commissions had noted that that could not be achieved without improving the existing distribution of the world's productive capacity amongst developed and developing countries. The various commissions had therefore rightly taken account in their deliberations of the forthcoming seventh special session of the General Assembly. Her Government supported the search for a world solution to commodity problems, which involved questions of access, supply, price and stability, and considered that an interesting initiative had been taken in the UNCTAD proposal for an integrated approach to commodity problems (TD/B/530, paras. 36-52).

22. Her Government agreed with the regional commissions that the international community must work for a more unified approach to development, in which economic growth would be accompanied by social justice. It fully supported the call in the New Delhi Declaration (ESCAP resolution 154 (XXXI)) to member countries of ESCAP to intensify their efforts to step up food production so as to attain self-sufficiency. As it had shown in the follow-up to the World Food Conference, Australia was prepared to provide all possible assistance to developing countries within its region and elsewhere to achieve that objective.

23. Her Government recognized that the benefits of development could be undermined by the absence of a population policy and had therefore increased its financial contribution to UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. It had also contributed to various population research projects and at the request of a State in the Asian and Pacific region had given \$2 million to a bilateral population project.

24. Turning to the annual report of ESCAP (E/5656), she said that her Government welcomed the rationalization of the Commission's conference schedule and believed that the

new system was working well. It also welcomed the Commission's concentration on priority areas, and the greater attention paid to the South Pacific region in its programme of work. It considered that the establishment of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives had been of great help to the Commission.

25. Her Government believed that regional commissions could play a useful part in promoting co-operation amongst countries in their regions, and wished to express its sincere thanks to ECWA and ECA for having granted Australia observer status at their 1975 meetings in Beirut and Nairobi respectively.

26. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan) said that as the United Nations became more universal, more attention was being given to general policies, so that the practical problems of a particular region or group of countries tended to be forgotten. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP had rightly pointed out that the region had witnessed a modest economic expansion in the traditionally slow-growing economies and a slowing-down of economic growth in the traditionally fast-growing export-based economies. The problems of poverty, unemployment and under-employment had also remained acute in several countries of the region. His delegation believed that such problems could be solved by taking into account the characteristics of the region and the changes taking place in it.

27. The regional commissions should concentrate more on practical issues. Even in matters such as population, energy, food, housing and water, which needed to be handled on a global scale, they should address themselves to those aspects which were relevant to the region, and not duplicate the efforts of world conferences. They would then in fact have more to contribute to activities at the global level. ESCAP had already made welcome progress in that direction.

28. Thus, his delegation recommended that the regional commissions should be given an increased role to play in implementing policies and executing projects, and also that there should be more regional inputs in the planning and decision-making of central bodies. In short, it believed that

regional decentralization of the activities of the United Nations system was important.

29. Mr. DURÁN (Observer for Chile), speaking at the invitation of the President said that at its sixteenth session ECLA had adopted some important resolutions and made a significant contribution to the appraisal of the International Development Strategy. Although there had been progress in the economic and trading situation of the area, it had been limited and there was still a disparity of growth between Latin American countries, unsatisfactory distribution of income and excessive dependence on international markets. Latin America still needed international co-operation in all fields. All the important provisions adopted by the international community, including the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, should be fully applied to Latin America. A swift reform of the international monetary system was also essential, with SDRs being used for additional development assistance and priority being given to problems of excessive indebtedness.

30. His delegation had been pleased to note the reorganization of the ECLA secretariat so as to make it more capable of carrying out its new tasks, and the new arrangements for meetings of the executive secretaries.

31. Mr. QUÉGUINER (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that IMCO took great interest in the work of the regional commissions. With the help of UNDP, it had undertaken the appointment of regional advisers in the various regions. That would strengthen the existing links between IMCO and the regional commissions and help it to tackle the regions' shipping problems in a more co-ordinated way. A joint ECA/ILO/IMCO/UNCTAD mission had just visited some African countries to identify their problems and to find integrated solutions. It was proposed that once the IMCO regional advisers for Latin America, Western Asia, and Asia and the Pacific had taken up their duties further arrangements should be made for co-operation with the regional commissions concerned.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

1969th meeting

Tuesday, 15 July 1975, at 10.45 a.m.

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

E/SR.1969

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Cordier, former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The PRESIDENT expressed the Council's deep sympathy with the United States delegation on Mr. Cordier's death in New York two days earlier and requested that

delegation to convey the Council's condolences to the United States Government and Mr. Cordier's family.

2. Mr. FERGUSON (United States of America) thanked the President and members of the Council for the tribute just paid to the memory of Mr. Cordier, whose death was mourned throughout the world.