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## Agenda item 2:

General discussion of international economic and social policy (*continued*)

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*President:* Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).

1. Mr. GOAD (Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that, despite its technical character, IMCO's report (E/4502) was of some interest to all States and organizations represented at the present session of the Council. Some of its main features should therefore be mentioned.

2. Two new States, Peru and Uruguay, had become members of IMCO in the course of the year under review and others were expected to join shortly. The membership of the IMCO Council and the Maritime Safety Committee had been increased and the method of election to those bodies had been modified in order to ensure a more equitable distribution of seats among the various regions of the world.

3. One of IMCO's main activities, the fight against pollution of the sea, had been given fresh impetus by the *Torrey Canyon* disaster in March 1967. At the technical level, the IMCO Council had approved an intensified study programme, which was already under way, and the Maritime Safety Committee had recommended a series of measures, including amendments to the 1960 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, and various other steps directed towards the prevention and detection of oil spillage and the improved safety of navigation. It was also proposed to study the possibility of establishing routes for merchant shipping and instituting a number of traffic separation schemes; at an extraordinary session, the IMCO Assembly would be considering eight proposals to that effect. On the legal side, the work of the Legal Committee of IMCO and the International Maritime Committee dealing with the aspects of both public and private law connected with the *Torrey Canyon* affair were sufficiently advanced to enable the extraordinary Assembly to envisage calling, in 1969, one or more international conferences on those matters in order to draw up international conventions on, for example, the right of a coastal State to take action outside its territorial waters to protect its coastline and on questions of liability and insurance. As part of its fight against

pollution caused by accidents such as the *Torrey Canyon* disaster, IMCO was also concerned with questions of shipping design, the equipment of ships transporting oil or other hazardous or noxious goods, the training and qualifications of officers and crew and, jointly with FAO and UNESCO, the scientific aspects of marine pollution. It would be a mistake to think that the fight against pollution was being conducted in a dilatory and theoretical way. It should be borne in mind that it was never simple to conciliate the divergent viewpoints of a large number of sovereign States and that, in view of the diversity of the organizations and interests involved, it was not possible to find solutions to the delicate technical and legal problems overnight. The main point was to strike a correct balance between the satisfaction of the world's vital material requirements and the conservation of man's environment.

4. The role which fell to IMCO in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 2172 (XXI) and 2340 (XXII) concerning the exploration of the resources of the sea, might appear modest, but the tasks which it intended to undertake in connexion with the safety and safeguarding of human life would certainly prove to be of fundamental importance. With regard to the safety of life and property at sea, IMCO had developed in conjunction with FAO a number of practical safety rules for trawlers and fishermen, which, apart from their humanitarian worth, were of great importance for those countries which depended on fish for their protein supplies. IMCO was also dealing with various problems which though basically technical had economic implications, relating mainly to the unification and simplification of the rules governing the tonnage measurement of ships, the safety and related aspects of container traffic, the simplification of the administrative formalities and documents required by international shipping and the possible use of satellites for navigation and maritime communications.

5. The members of the Council would find in the IMCO report, paragraph 22, a review of the technical assistance programme which, though modest, was highly useful; it was planned, moreover, to expand it considerably.

6. It should be pointed out that, under the agreement concluded by IMCO with the United Nations, IMCO would co-operate in whatever measures might be necessary to make co-ordination of the policy and activities of the specialized agencies and those of the United Nations fully effective. The examination by the IMCO Council of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies<sup>1</sup> had, moreover, shown that IMCO's conduct was fully in conformity with the Committee's findings.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.*

It went without saying that IMCO maintained close relations with various other specialized agencies, particularly FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, ILO and ICAO, whenever required by the problems of international navigation with which it was concerned. The Council should note the practical utility of IMCO's work and its modest cost, since its annual budget was less than \$1 million.

7. Mr. DAVIES (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization), introducing the report of WMO for 1967 (E/4506 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), stated that the main decision adopted by the Fifth World Meteorological Congress in April 1967 had been the approval of the plan for a new world weather system called "World Weather Watch". The idea stemmed directly from General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the aim was to ensure that all countries of the world benefited from scientific and technical progress in the field of meteorology. The Fifth Congress had also considered that the implementation of a plan on the scale of the World Weather Watch would call for considerable resources and had provided for three main sources of support: UNDP, bilateral agreements and a new programme designed specifically for the purpose—the Voluntary Assistance Programme. One of the main features of the Voluntary Assistance Programme was that contributions would consist basically of equipment and services. Although it had been established very recently, large contributions had already been received or pledged by numerous countries, and nearly 170 project requests, representing a total cost of \$12 million, had been received from developing countries. The first project under the new programme would shortly be implemented and several other projects were likely to be launched by the end of 1968.

8. Although it was difficult to assess the economic advantages of meteorological services in terms of civil aviation accidents avoided or human lives saved as the result of storm warning services, it was possible to evaluate the advantages afforded by knowledge of weather and climate for certain aspects of agriculture, water resources development, civil aviation, the construction industry, merchant shipping, etc. Assessment activities were therefore provided for under the World Weather Watch programme and had already yielded interesting and sometimes unexpected results. For example, several countries were now operating a system of weather-routing of merchant ships at sea, which promoted savings in shipping costs of 5 per cent – 10 per cent and led to a considerable reduction in damage of cargo during the voyage. It should be stressed that the developed countries benefited as much as the developing countries from those advantages, which in any case conveyed a better idea of the fields in which meteorological services could be useful in future.

9. Apart from the economic benefits, World Weather Watch was a large-scale scientific undertaking. WMO had signed an agreement with the International Council of Scientific Unions under which the two organizations

would pursue in common a world-wide atmospheric research programme.

10. In view of the effects of weather and climate on the agricultural production of a region, the Fifth Congress of WMO had decided to establish an agrometeorological programme to assist food production and to invite the participation of FAO, UNESCO and UNDP. Those three organizations had responded favourably to the invitation. In the field of hydrometeorology, WMO had been engaged in 1967 mainly on questions linked with the International Hydrological Decade (see E/4506/Add.1, para. 7.2.5).

11. In view of the close relationship between meteorology and physical oceanography, WMO was naturally active in the marine sciences and had co-operated fully in the deliberations of the group of experts set up under General Assembly resolution 2172 (XXI) to carry out a complete study of the activities in progress in that field and to make proposals for achieving the most effective international co-operation. In any case, WMO was co-ordinating its activities with all those of the United Nations and the other specialized agencies, as appropriate. For example, it had formally decided to give every possible support to the second United Nations Development Decade by studying the economic advantages afforded by meteorological services and by endeavouring to ensure the full implementation of the World Weather Watch programme, the first four-year period of which would end in 1971, so that substantially improved meteorological and hydrological services would be available to aid economic development by the time the second Decade started. WMO had always co-operated with the regional economic commissions and would continue to do so. As regards the co-ordination of its activities with those of the other specialized agencies, the examples were too numerous to mention, but it should be stressed that they included both substantive programmes and the use of common facilities of Geneva-based agencies. After examining the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, the WMO Executive Committee had found that nineteen of the fifty-two recommendations either were not applicable to WMO or called for no action on its part, and that the other thirty-three were being applied either fully or to the extent that they were appropriate to the structure of WMO. The Executive Committee had decided, however, that four of the recommendations should be referred to the next WMO Congress in order to improve their application. Finally, WMO supported the proposal concerning problems of the human environment which the Swedish representative had made at the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the ACC held in Bucharest in July 1968 (see E/4557, para. 45).

12. Mr. BHAGAT (India) said that his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's view (1531st meeting) that the Council should begin its work by asking whether there had not been a retreat from the high ideals of the post-war years. The last twenty years constituted an important page in the history of modern times. They had been characterized by the unparalleled growth of

the world economy as a whole, bringing unprecedented prosperity to a large number of countries and opening up immense opportunities for the well-being of all the countries of the world. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the international community, the underprivileged parts of the world had not benefited sufficiently from that general development. The gulf between the rich and poor countries continued to widen, and today, peace and progress were in even greater jeopardy than they had been twenty years earlier.

13. One of the important advances made in the last two decades had undoubtedly been that countries had learned to subordinate their national decisions to the implications they might have for other countries and the world as a whole. That was a development of which the Council, the United Nations and the international community as a whole could legitimately be proud; however, it would seem that even that progress was threatened. The *World Economic Survey, 1967* (Part I, E/4488 and Add.1-5) made repeated reference to the introspective mood of some developed countries. That tendency retarded the achievement of the 1 per cent target for the transfer of financial resources from the developed to the developing countries, and led to further aid-tying and a host of other measures, which had resulted, *inter alia*, in the slowing down of the growth of the export earnings of the developing countries in 1967. The paralysing effects of that attitude had been apparent at the second session of UNCTAD. The Conference had not led to the expected results, because the industrial countries had been unwilling to enter into commitments in regard to trade and aid. Nevertheless, it had several achievements to its credit. A modest plan of action had been worked out, without any firm commitments, in regard to commodities, and a programme of work agreed for the formulation and implementation of a generalized scheme of preferences. A fairly broad measure of agreement had also been reached on the concerted measures to be taken for the expansion of trade among the developing countries, the promotion of East-West trade, and trade between the socialist countries and the developing countries, with a view to solving the food problem and favouring the less-developed of the developing countries, including the land-locked countries.

14. On the other hand, the achievements of the Conference in the field of development finance and aid had been very disappointing in every respect. At its forty-first session, the Council had adopted an extremely comprehensive resolution on the flow of external resources to the developing countries (resolution 1183 (XLI)); since that time, the situation regarding external aid had steadily worsened. Contribution pledges for IDA had amounted to only \$400 million, as against a target of \$1,000 million, UNDP pledges amounted so far to only \$180 million, as against a target of \$285 million, and WFP pledges amounted to \$160 million, as against a target of \$200 million. Further, according to the *World Economic Survey*, the balance-of-payments difficulties of the developed countries would continue for some time yet. His delegation did not share that view. It agreed with the eminent economists from both the developed and developing countries who were members of the Committee for Development Planning that the developed countries had

allowed themselves to be unduly influenced by their international liquidity problems and by their budgetary and balance-of-payments difficulties. It was to be hoped that the policy-makers of the developed countries would take account of the unanimous view of those economists when formulating their aid policies.

15. Some developed countries had undeniably adopted constructive measures. Not only had they announced a definite timetable for accelerating the flow of assistance, but they had also agreed to fix separate targets for official aid and make provision for the future increase of their transfers of resources to the developing countries. They had given proof of their farsightedness by refusing to allow their short-term difficulties to eclipse the long-term objectives of international economic co-operation.

16. In the view of his delegation, the Council should take stock of the whole situation and give further directives with a view, *inter alia*, to protecting the uninterrupted flow of financial assistance from the vicissitudes caused by the payments difficulties of the developed countries, ensuring that the developed countries facing payments or other difficulties did not take any measures that would jeopardize the development of the developing countries, fixing development aid targets in such a way as to give donor countries a rough idea of actual costs, generalizing the practice of increasing the rate of financial flow on a long-term basis so as to ensure the continuity of aid and impart a time dimension to the aid target, ensuring that the international agencies concerned continued and intensified their activities through the provision of appropriate resources, and lastly, taking measures for the earliest possible untying of aid.

17. With reference to aid-tying, his delegation was perturbed by the fact that some countries had gone so far as to tie practically all the aid given by them. Another reason for concern was that the practice was being extended to contributions to international agencies.

18. With regard to the question of preparations for the period following the current Development Decade, the acute problems raised by development demanded a concentrated effort to telescope several centuries into a period of one or two decades. The Development Decade which was soon to end had disappointed the hopes placed in it. Preparations were already being made for the second Development Decade, but that should not lead to a slackening of effort during the last two years of the present Decade. The Committee for Development Planning had certainly done important work at the technical level (see E/4515, paras. 100-106), but his delegation was concerned by the fact that the Committee was proceeding on the assumption that the next Development Decade would not begin until 1971, instead of 1970, so that an additional year of indecision was to be feared. Further, agreement must be reached on the measures to be adopted for achieving the goals and objectives set, and commitments must be entered into for implementing those measures. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD (1535th meeting) and the Committee for Development Planning had emphasized that the goals and objectives fixed for the next Decade would have no meaning unless parallel measures were taken to improve substantially the condi-



tions of external trade and aid for the developing countries. Since the Committee for Development Planning would not have a great role to play in the preparation of agreements on positive measures, the Council should consider the possibility of establishing an inter-sessional machinery for studying that important aspect of the international strategy for development. If work began without delay, his delegation was convinced that a preliminary draft could be studied at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, and that a final version might be adopted, together with the document being prepared by the Committee for Development Planning, at the twenty-fourth session.

19. The Secretary-General had drawn the Council's attention to the urgent need to examine the activities and functioning of the United Nations institutional system. His delegation attached considerable importance to that question, particularly with regard to co-ordination. At the second session of UNCTAD, his delegation, in agreement with the Chilean delegation, had submitted a proposal for a review of the UNCTAD machinery and methods of work. His delegation was glad to see that that proposal had aroused interest. Some encouraging measures had already been taken within the framework of the United Nations. In particular, progress had been made in integrating the field services of the specialized and other executing agencies with the offices of the Resident Representatives of UNDP and the regional economic commissions.

20. On the subject of multilateral food aid, he was glad to see that food aid was no longer regarded as an emergency measure or as a means for the donor countries to get rid of unexpected surpluses. The Secretary-General's report on that question (E/4538) drew attention to the substantial improvement in the world food situation thanks to the good harvests obtained in 1967/68. India had arrived at a turning point in its progress towards self-sufficiency in the production of food and fibre. In 1967, the production of food grains had reached the record level of 95 million tons. That excellent result had been due not only to the favourable weather conditions, but also to the vigorous policy pursued by the Government, which had introduced new varieties of seed and made the necessary inputs available to the farmers. As a result of those measures, India hoped to achieve self-sufficiency in its agricultural production by 1970/71. Of course, as the Secretary-General had pointed out, considerable additional investment would be required for the handling, storage, transport and processing of that extra production and for its distribution to more distant markets. Considerable investment would also be required in other complementary industries, such as the fertilizer and hydro-electric industries, which had a bearing on food production.

21. The food problem, and for that matter the general problem of economic development, could not be dissociated from the population problem. Control of population and an increase in food production constituted the two prongs of an attack on the hunger problem—one from the demand side and the other from the supply side.

22. With regard to the development of human resources, his delegation considered that efforts should be concentrated in areas where quick results could be obtained, i.e. population control, education and employment, vocational training, health, and transport and communications, all of which had a great influence on the development of human resources.

23. Moreover, the aspirations of youth, which was everywhere restive and impatient, should not be ignored. The development process, with its increased facilities in respect of education and technical training for the rising generations, gave birth to new aspirations.

24. India had always maintained that each country should assume the main responsibility for its own development; ever since it had achieved independence, it had sought to diminish its dependence on other countries and to make the Indian economy increasingly self-sufficient. That had not prevented it from respecting the principle of international co-operation and India had always been ready to discharge its obligations to other countries; at the regional level it was participating in the endeavours of developing countries of the ECAFE region. Bilateral technical and economic co-operation agreements existed with several African and Asian countries. At the inter-continental level, agreements on trade expansion and economic co-operation had been signed with Yugoslavia and the United Arab Republic.

25. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that the constructive ideas put forward at the second session of UNCTAD would lead to renewed efforts in that body and other United Nations organs, with a view to the solution of outstanding problems.

26. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) observed that the Council was being asked more and more to take decisions concerning the preparation and implementation of an overall policy in the economic and social field. That was a confirmation of its original purpose and of its major role in co-ordinating the ever-increasing activity of the various specialized agencies and other international organizations. Such a tremendous task required the sincere co-operation of all members of the Council.

27. The results of the Development Decade now drawing to a close had been most disappointing. The agreements signed after the Kennedy Round had scarcely altered the precarious conditions in which the trade of the developing countries was conducted. UNDP had not fulfilled the hopes which had been placed in it. The economic conditions currently prevailing in the world were by no means encouraging. The economic difficulties which beset the developed countries and which at the same time were a threat to the poorer countries were discouraging.

28. The preparation of the second Development Decade made it necessary to evaluate what had been achieved and to study future projects in a rational manner. So far, the industrialized countries had not heeded General Assembly resolution 1522 (XV) concerning an accelerated flow of capital and technical assistance to the developing countries. Consequently, international aid had not been able to meet the needs or the absorption capacity of those countries. Were the developing countries expected to rely

solely on their own resources? A developing country could hardly rely on national savings; the standard of living of the people being barely above the subsistence level, such savings were non-existent. Export earnings were inadequate and had to be supplemented by a substantial contribution from external sources. Not only was the aid granted inadequate, but the conditions attached were on the whole very stringent. Aid should be granted without strings, interest rates should be reduced and repayment spread over a longer period. Kuwait, although not sufficiently developed to rank as an industrialized country, had nevertheless granted aid and loans without any political or other conditions to a number of neighbouring friendly countries, the sole criterion being the need of the recipient country and the potential contribution of the project in question to its economic development. On the whole the terms of loans granted by Kuwait were very flexible, with instalments spread over a long period, favourable conditions for repayment and some scope for revision of the interest rate.

29. With reference to the payments difficulties of the developed countries, Kuwait considered inflationary pressure to be disturbing, but not sufficiently serious to prevent the developed countries from continuing to assist the countries needing aid. The difficulties which the developing countries were experiencing were largely due to the cost of their ambitious armament programmes. The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons might prove a decisive turning point if it was backed up by effective steps to stop the nuclear arms race and to achieve nuclear disarmament itself and if it was followed up by a treaty for general and complete disarmament. The developed countries should seriously consider allocating a substantial proportion of the money made available by disarmament for aid to the economic and social development of the poorer countries. It must be remembered that poverty was as serious a threat to world peace and stability as the arms race itself. Only concerted action on the part of the developed and developing countries to secure better distribution of trade opportunities could provide a solution for most of the great world problems.

30. The increase in the national income of the developing countries in the first Decade had not reached the annual rate of 5 per cent which had been envisaged as the minimum target; in any case, even if that target had been reached, population growth would probably have cancelled out all efforts to raise the standard of living in the poorer countries. That was a serious danger, and birth control should be regarded as the only solution to the problem.

31. Again, nothing had been done so far to improve the terms of trade. The lack of diversification in the developing countries' exports made them dangerously sensitive to price fluctuation in commodity markets. Instability in the volume or foreign currency earnings of their exports could affect their balance of payments and jeopardize their development projects. Some developed countries had shown a tendency to protectionism and isolationism. Such policies were bound to have disastrous results.

32. The twentieth century was at grips with the problem of development and the utilization of natural and human resources. To facilitate a solution of the problem, a change of attitude in education was needed; education should no longer be designed for the élite but should endeavour to meet the urgent vital requirements of the developing countries. The need for technical training had been recognized. All the developing countries lacked experts and qualified specialists. The training of workers should be geared to the specific needs of agricultural and industrial communities. It was encouraging to see that the United Nations had reached the operational stage in that field. There were now agencies with suitable structures in the field of education, training and the rational use of human resources. Since industrial production depended greatly on the progress of science and technology, the developing countries must, on the one hand, learn to develop their own techniques and, on the other, acquire the available technical know-how and adapt it to their own requirements. UNIDO could play a decisive part there by keeping the developing countries informed about the most recent and efficient inventions and techniques. He was glad that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were sparing no effort to promote human progress, but the attitudes of Governments and public opinion must be changed. Man should not remain indifferent to the suffering of his fellows. He must acquire an awareness of collective responsibility. Ultimately the problem was a moral and human one.

33. Mr. KOHOUT (Czechoslovakia) stressed the complex nature of development, in which not only economic, but also social, humanitarian and political factors played a part, and emphasized that all regions of the world should be partners in the venture. To speak of the world as divided into two major groups, the wealthy countries in the north and the poor countries in the south was obviously to recognize a distressing reality; however, the picture should not be over-simplified. Due regard must be paid to the existence of different social systems and to the need to tackle economic and social problems in all their complexity and variety. A naïve division of the world into two groups was likely to turn development aid into a mere act of charity accompanied by vague and unrealistic declarations.

34. Czechoslovakia had in the past frequently stressed the importance of the social aspect of development; it had done so in various United Nations bodies, particularly the Commission for Social Development. Consequently, his delegation welcomed the favourable trend which had been evident in social affairs in recent years, in particular the progress achieved in drafting the declaration on social development, which was to be considered at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

35. The Council should continue to stress the human factor in the process of economic and social development; efforts should be made to get rid of old social and economic structures when they hindered development, while avoiding too sudden a disruption of traditional ways of life, thought and behaviour.

36. As President of the Trade and Development Board, he could not agree with some commentators who argued that the second session of UNCTAD at New Delhi had been a failure. The formulation of new principles to govern international trade and the translation of such principles into reality was a long-term operation. Czechoslovakia was optimistic in that respect; experience had taught it that in some fields economic and trade co-operation with the developing countries was perfectly compatible with its own interests. It was not enough to eliminate the barriers to the developing countries' exports, which was the purpose of most of the measures so far proposed by UNCTAD; positive action for economic co-operation must also be taken.

37. Like the New Delhi Conference, the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran, had also been the subject of pessimistic commentary. It had been pointed out that despite statements by Governments very few countries had ratified the two Covenants and the other international conventions on human rights. The Teheran Conference had also shown up the sad reality of the human rights position in a number of countries, where gross violations of human rights due to national hatred, racial discrimination, colonialism, aggression and armed conflict were occurring. Apart from those flagrant infringements of fundamental rights, a number of crucial problems in modern society itself remained unsolved. The Director-General of UNESCO in his statement at the 1534th meeting had focused attention on those problems.

38. Czechoslovakia, for its part, had just introduced a number of laws and measures designed to protect the fundamental liberties and rights of its citizens. Its aim was to marry scientific and technical progress to democracy and humanism within the framework of a socialist society. In its foreign policy it was guided by the parallel principles of international co-operation and non-intervention.

39. Czechoslovakia was endeavouring to achieve greater participation by its economy in the international division of labour so as to be able to meet the needs of developing countries. However, it was only a country of 14 million people, and it could not increase its aid to the developing countries in the near future; he would point out that the volume of such aid was already very considerable in relation to that supplied by countries of comparable size, as was shown by the information in document E/4495 (Secretary-General's report on the international flow of capital and assistance).

40. Czechoslovakia considered that in the continent of Europe there were good prospects for co-operation between nations in the economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields. ECE had an important part to play in making the most of such opportunities; in that connexion he regretted that the German Democratic Republic was unable to participate with full rights in the Commission's work.

41. With reference to the relations between Czechoslovakia and the developing countries, he noted a dynamic development in trade. In 1966 finished and

semi-finished products had accounted for 14 per cent of the total volume of Czechoslovakia's imports from developing countries, as compared with only 1 per cent in 1963. Furthermore, more than 50 per cent of Czechoslovak exports to those countries consisted of machinery and equipment, showing that its trade policy sought to encourage the developing countries' drive for industrialization; Czechoslovakia had granted those countries long-term credits totalling \$400 million between 1964 and 1967. In addition, it had so far granted other socialist countries long-term credits totalling \$1,500 million. The structural changes which Czechoslovakia was now making in its economy so as to integrate it more fully into the international division of labour could only strengthen that position. Already its participation in multilateral programmes of United Nations bodies had increased; in particular, its contributions to UNDP and UNIDO had increased substantially.

42. In conclusion, he hoped that the positive prospects for development afforded by international co-operation based on equality and mutual respect would not be jeopardized by acts of aggression such as were being perpetrated in Viet-Nam and by the use of force in international relations.

43. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) said that his statement would relate solely to the second United Nations Development Decade.

44. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General, echoing the conclusions of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, had said that the outcome of the New Delhi Conference augured ill for the success of the second Decade. Appealing for more effective concerted action, the Secretary-General had expressed the fear that failure to act would cause violence. He himself shared that view and that apprehension. It was clear that the poor nations were too weak to threaten the prosperous countries directly, but a climate of indifference between nations could destroy human dignity and compassion, which were the very bases of civilization. Poverty and misery posed a serious threat to prosperity everywhere.

45. To avoid that danger, the developing countries themselves should first of all face up to their responsibilities. Four-fifths of the development cost should be borne by domestic financing. The developing countries should mobilize their own resources. The target of an annual growth rate of 5 per cent in the gross national product set in the first Decade was insufficient; his delegation agreed with the view of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs that the figure should be raised to at least 6 per cent or 7 per cent during the second Decade. It might be better, moreover, to have a growth rate target which was not uniform and which reflected the different resources, stages of development, and conditions obtaining in the various countries and regions.

46. Agriculture should have the highest priority in the next Decade. In that connexion, he welcomed the spectacular progress made possible by the introduction of new varieties of rice, wheat and maize. Owing to the introduction of a high-yield variety of rice, the Philippines, a

traditionally importing country for the past half-century, already expected to export about 50,000 tons of rice in 1968, rising perhaps to 300,000 tons in 1970.

47. However, that did not mean that industry should be neglected. A special effort, moreover, would have to be made in education; it was regrettable that the developing countries themselves had in the course of the last decade over-emphasized economic development at the expense of the development of human resources and social progress. Furthermore, far-reaching changes would have to be made in political and administrative structures.

48. The developing countries therefore had a hard task ahead of them. However, the objectives of the second Decade could not be achieved without adequate aid from the developed countries, which would have to do more than in the past. It was estimated that they spent \$175,000 million on arms every year. Could they not allocate a tenth of that sum to foreign aid? At New Delhi, they had agreed, after arduous negotiations, to step up their aid to 1 per cent of their gross national product. It was vital that that figure should be reached as soon as possible, and at the latest by 1972. Moreover, the developed countries should lighten the debt-servicing burden on the developing countries and abandon the practice of tied aid, the effect of which at present was to reduce by 15 per cent–20 per cent the amount of foreign aid which the developing countries could actually use. The socialist countries, for their part, should not argue, as they had done at New Delhi, that they were not bound to increase their aid because they had no colonial history. That argument had little or no relevance in today's framework of international co-operation for economic development.

49. From the standpoint of multilateral arrangements, international bodies such as IBRD, UNDP and the various specialized agencies concerned should be used to a greater extent as sources of funds and loans. Regional activity should also be intensified, for which purpose the developed countries should lend all possible assistance to the regional development banks and other credit institu-

tions. In that respect, he welcomed the proposal of the Director-General of FAO (1532nd meeting) to harmonize the regional activities of FAO with those of the regional economic commissions; UNIDO and UNCTAD in particular could follow that example. Finally, international co-operation in trade called for the establishment of a general system of tariff preferences and the stabilization of commodity prices.

50. Turning to the crucial question of population growth, he pointed out that, according to the figures quoted by the Secretary-General, the world population was increasing by 54 million each year, which would mean a total of 1,000 million people over the next fifteen years. The Philippines, which was one of the thirty signatories of the Declaration on Population by World Leaders (see E/4551, annex I), hoped that the family planning drive launched by WHO, UNICEF, the ILO, FAO and UNESCO would be intensified. The important thing was to inform the public, without encroaching upon individual liberty of conscience.

51. Generally speaking, public opinion should be mobilized to support the objectives of the second Decade. Fortunately, a certain measure of agreement appeared to have been reached on the priorities and policies of the second Decade. At its third session recently held in Addis Ababa, the Committee for Development Planning had drawn up certain tentative guidelines and proposals, and his delegation eagerly awaited the report of its working group, which would map out a preliminary sketch of the international development strategy for the 1970s. Furthermore, the joint meetings of the ACC and the Committee for Programme and Co-operation had resulted in a fruitful dialogue. It seemed clear that, in the years to come, such joint meetings would make it possible to simplify co-ordination within the United Nations family by eliminating unnecessary committees and organs, thus restoring to the Council the essential supervisory role entrusted to it under the Charter.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.