



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resumed Forty-third Session

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*President: Mr. Milan KLUSÁK*  
(Czechoslovakia).

*Present:*

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Belgium\*, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, France, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Varela (Panama), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

## AGENDA ITEM 6

*Reports of the World Bank Group of the International Monetary Fund (continued) (E/4431 and Add.1, E/4432 and Add.1, E/4433)*

1. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India) said that the stimulating statement made by the President of IBRD (1510th meeting) had demonstrated the Bank's

commitment to the cause of international development and its imaginative and flexible lending policies. The annual reports for 1966-1967 of IBRD and IDA (E/4431 and Add.1) and of IFC (E/4432 and Add.1) showed that the level of activity during the year had been higher than ever: the total commitments of IBRD and IDA had been over \$1,200 million, and their disbursements had exceeded \$1,000 million for the first time; the commitments of IFC had also reached a record level. The increasing emphasis on agricultural and educational projects in the World Bank Group's operations was most gratifying, as was the President's indication that the Bank was prepared to help to finance publicly owned fertilizer plants, provided they were soundly conceived and managed.

2. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the growing readiness of the World Bank Group to lend to publicly owned enterprises and hoped that such loans would in future be extended to training and pre-investment projects. The need to expand multilateral development financing was acute, in view of the enhanced capacity of the developing countries to absorb capital effectively and the net decline in the flow of public and private capital to those countries. Moreover, the recent trend towards a hardening of the terms on which capital was supplied was likely to reduce the net flow still further. In those circumstances, it was to be hoped that the Part I members of IDA would agree in the near future to replenish its funds at a substantially higher level.

3. The developing countries recognized that expansion of their exports was essential to a solution of their development problems; for that purpose, however, they required the support of international action to stabilize the prices of primary commodities and eliminate barriers to trade in their exports. The kind of trade and aid policies which should be adopted by all countries to promote the development of the poorer nations was a subject which might usefully be studied by the expert group suggested by the President of IBRD (1510th meeting). The conclusions of such a group would provide a comprehensive picture of the experience of the previous twenty years and an outline of the aid situation in the future, and would serve as a useful basis for planning the second development decade.

4. Mr. GREGH (France) said that the summaries of the annual reports of IBRD and IDA and of IFC (E/4431/Add.1-E/4432/Add.1) indicated that IBRD and IDA had committed over \$1,200 million for development projects in forty countries during the year under review and that IFC had increased its commitments to private enterprises by over a third during the same period. That performance was a good illustration of the assistance given by the international financial institutions to Member States, particularly those in developing regions; such a rate of achievement could not,

however, be maintained unless the World Bank Group as a whole constantly adapted its approach to changing conditions in a changing world. It was therefore important to consider how the Group met that requirement in both the financial and the economic aspects of its operations.

5. The Bank was experiencing difficulties in its financial operations because of the sharp rise in interest rates on the financial markets from which it had to borrow its funds. A point had, in fact, been reached where it was difficult to see how long the Bank could continue to lend to the developing countries on terms acceptable to them. As the Bank had resources of its own, however, it was to be hoped that it would help to stabilize existing interest rates by refusing to raise its own and so maintain its position as the principal instrument for multilateral economic aid to the developing countries.

6. The position of IDA, however, had to be assessed differently. The terms on which it supplied funds were better adapted to the needs of the developing countries and it was desirable that its operations should continue. There was justified concern, however, about the methods by which its funds were to be replenished. The percentage by which the contribution of Part I members of IDA were to be raised would force some Governments, including his own, to make changes in their policies on aid to the developing countries, particularly with regard to bilateral aid. The major obstacle in the case of other States was the unduly heavy budgetary burden the new contributions would impose on them. Another difficulty was the insistence by one member state on attaching certain conditions to its contribution which were unacceptable in view of the multilateral nature of IDA's operations.

7. The economic side of the World Bank Group's work took the form of financing specific projects in member states. The new departure of financing educational and training projects was gratifying. The geographical distribution of loans was not, however, altogether satisfactory. Both the Bank and IDA, as members of the United Nations system of organizations, had a responsibility to ensure that their assistance was distributed as equitably as possible among all the less developed countries.

8. Moreover, the activities of the World Bank Group needed to be better co-ordinated with those of UNDP. Some thought should be given to ways of financing more regional and sub-regional projects involving countries linked geographically or by common economic interests. Similarly, the importance which developing countries attached to industrial development should encourage IFC to seek ways of co-ordinating its activities with those of UNIDO. A further way in which the Group could support the efforts of the United Nations family would be to help other organizations and Member States to control the serious fluctuations in the prices of primary commodities, the export of which was the main source of foreign exchange for the developing countries.

9. The stabilization of commodity prices at remunerative levels was, in fact, the most urgent problem facing all international organizations. If the World Bank Group could help in that effort, could plan its

operations so as to ensure that all member countries were assisted in economically justified cases and could adapt its assistance to the degree of development of the recipient countries, it would indeed become the best instrument for multilateral development assistance.

10. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela) welcomed the gratifying expansion of the Bank's activities into agriculture, industry and now into education. His country had reason to be grateful for the Bank's assistance with infra-structural projects, such as an important hydro-electric power development project. Its experiences had led it to believe that several features of the aid supplied by the Bank were not fully appreciated. The assistance which IBRD experts had given his Government, for instance, in connexion with project formulations had been of inestimable value. As a result, technical experts in his country had learned how to prepare projects better. Moreover, the experience gained, under the guidance of IBRD experts, of execution and evaluation procedures had made an extremely useful contribution to the training of Venezuelan personnel. There were increasing opportunities in the developing countries for a better utilization of financial assistance. There were three main reasons for that. The first was that projects in the national plan and programmes were better formulated, thanks largely to IBRD. The second reason was that there were now more technical cadres with sufficient experience. That was important for programme execution as well as formulation. The third reason concerned the mobilization of domestic financial resources. The developing countries could do still more to mobilize those resources.

11. Venezuela, like many other countries, was doing practically everything possible to mobilize its domestic resources for development. However, there were obvious limitations to what could be done in that respect; in periods of economic stress, it was difficult for the authorities to impose additional increases in taxation and their efforts to secure stable earnings from exports were often frustrated by trade patterns which no individual country could control. It was encouraging, therefore, that a number of the countries which were purchasers of primary commodities had indicated that they were prepared to take measures to translate their goodwill towards the developing countries into practical trade policies and it was to be hoped that their intentions would be expressed in specific commitments in the near future.

12. There was a growing awareness in the international community that bridging the gap between the rich and the poor countries would require a suitable increase in the resources of the Bank and of all aid-giving institutions. For that reason, his delegation hoped that IDA's funds would be replenished at the earliest possible date, so as to enable it to continue its assistance to those countries which were unable to take advantage of other sources of finance.

13. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) said that his delegation hoped that the World Bank Group would be helped to maintain its amazing record of achievement by being given broader international access to private capital markets and through the

replenishment of IDA's resources at a substantially higher level.

14. The annual reports of IBRD and IDA (see F/4431 and Add.1), and of IFC (see E/4432 and Add.1), and the statement made by the President of the Bank (1510th meeting), indicated that the World Bank Group had continued to demonstrate the necessary flexibility to deal with the increasingly complex task of economic development. The growing diversity of IFC's operations and the higher average size of its commitments had, for instance, induced the Bank to make its first loan to that organization. Similarly, the recognition of the importance of agriculture and education was reflected in the greater emphasis on those sectors in the Group's activities. The vital need for technical assistance had continued to receive attention through the Bank's co-operative arrangements with FAO, UNESCO and UNDP. As the President of IBRD had pointed out, co-operation between the Bank and UNDP in sector and feasibility studies had led to over \$450 million of investments by the World Bank Group, apart from its contribution to the building of institutions which would become generators of economic progress in the recipient countries. His delegation hoped that the judgement and expertise of the World Bank Group on such matters as improving the climate for and flow of private capital, advisory and training work for development planning, and mechanisms to supplement and improve development finance operations would be utilized in connexion with the forthcoming second session of UNCTAD.

15. One of the Bank's outstanding contributions to the development effort had been to help co-ordinate the assistance programmes of donor countries and institutions. To that end, it had sponsored the establishment of eleven consultative groups, with nineteen member countries, in which the International Monetary Fund, UNDP, regional development banks and other international organizations participated. Co-ordination activities of that kind had focused attention on specific urgent problems, such as food needs and debt-servicing, and on new techniques, such as joint financing arrangements, and his delegation hoped that such activities would be intensified in the future.

16. The Bank's interest in meeting the challenge of the future was demonstrated by the suggestion made in the President's statement that a meeting of leading development experts should be convened to discuss the results and consequences of twenty years of development, and propose effective policies and procedures for the future. The Bank's readiness to help in establishing and financing such a meeting was aimed at a review to precede any attempt "...to round off our faltering 'Development Decade' with a genuine reformulation of policy". The United States delegation looked forward to further study of that interesting and imaginative proposal both within the Bank and in other United Nations bodies.

17. "Only through enlightened co-operation can we succeed in our basic goal—the improvement of the welfare of all mankind." For twenty years that goal had remained the cornerstone of the aid policies of the United States Government and had the support of its President and people.

18. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that the Bank's report was a constructive and perceptive document that looked ahead to a new and more rewarding approach to development finance. His delegation welcomed the increasing diversification of the Bank's activities. It also welcomed the emphasis on agriculture, since the modernization of agricultural systems remained the key to economic development in many developing countries, including the Philippines. Agricultural development was important not only as a means of increasing food supplies to meet the requirements of rapid population growth, but also as a means of combating the apathy and resistance to change so often encountered in rural areas.

19. The Philippine delegation was also gratified by the increasing prominence given to education in the activities of the World Bank Group. The Philippines, which had consistently devoted over 30 per cent of its national budget to education, had done much to promote the reorientation of education, but there was still a need to lay greater emphasis on science and technology in secondary and higher education.

20. The Bank's efforts to improve assistance techniques, its successful institution-building, its endeavours to achieve a multiplier effect, and its growing involvement in the stimulation of external sources of investment all gave cause for satisfaction. There had been effective co-ordination with other United Nations bodies such as FAO, UNESCO and UNDP, and it was to be hoped that similar co-operation would be established with UNIDO.

21. It was a matter for profound concern that the slow down in international assistance might jeopardize all the achievements of the Bank and its affiliates during the past twenty years, and his delegation therefore welcomed the proposal that the world's leading development experts should meet to review the problems of development assistance. It was to be hoped that such an expert review would lay the basis for a new global development strategy, would finally transform international co-operation from a client-donor relationship into a mutually beneficial economic partnership, and would lead to recognition of the connexion between more equitable trade patterns and economic development. Above all, it was to be hoped that the review would bring into being the political will for economic partnership, the absence of which was now impeding the economic development of developing countries.

22. Mr. DEWULF (Belgium) expressed his delegation's confidence in the management of the World Bank Group and its agreement with the general direction of the Group's activities.

23. Among IBRD's activities to which the Belgium delegation attached particular importance were its efforts to achieve a better co-ordination of international development aid and its co-operation with UNDP. Because of their wealth of experience, IBRD and UNDP were both particularly well qualified for realistic and effective development work, and although views on a new strategy of development assistance might differ, it must be recognized that those two organizations were the two pivots of international assistance efforts.

24. The Belgian delegation also welcomed the establishment of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, and hoped that the study on a new system of multilateral investment insurance would lead to specific agreements on that subject. He noted with interest that the Bank had also initiated a study on the stabilization of international commodity prices, and hoped that it would be completed before the second session of UNCTAD. The views expressed by the President of the Bank regarding the promotion of exports from developing countries were in accordance with those expressed by the Belgian delegation in the Governing Council of UNDP.

25. The operational procedures used by the Bank in its field projects, and especially in placing contracts, were commendable, and Belgian engineers had been happy to co-operate in many such projects.

26. The Belgian delegation hoped that the present negotiations on the replenishment of IDA's resources would lead to agreement on the size, terms and conditions of IDA's credits.

*Mr. Klusák (Czechoslovakia) took the Chair.*

27. Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) said that the reports before the Council were an excellent summary of the achievements of the World Bank Group. In particular, the references to educational systems in those reports deserved the closest consideration by educational planners in developing countries.

28. The flexibility shown by the Group in the last five years was again apparent in the latest reports. For example, the areas in which the Bank could operate were no longer rigidly defined, and he particularly welcomed its growing activities in the field of education. There was also greater flexibility regarding loans to publicly owned enterprises and, especially, regarding the qualifications necessary for IFC loans. The Bank's non-financial activities were also extremely valuable, and the comprehensive report on Libya's economic prospects that it had prepared in 1958-1959 at the request of the Libyan Government had been the corner-stone of Libya's first five-year plan.

29. It was to be hoped that the Bank would continue to show flexibility in its future policies, and would take into account a number of suggestions made in recent international discussions. For example, it had been suggested that the Bank should lay far more stress on development than on reconstruction and should give priority to certain groups of countries with the greatest need for accelerated economic growth. It had also been suggested that the Bank's interest rate should not precisely reflect the rates prevailing on world capital markets, especially since the latter rates had recently risen sharply as the result of severe competition and the protection of monetary interests in certain major financial centres. It had further been suggested that there should be a wider geographical distribution of the credits granted by IDA. Finally, it was to be hoped that the Bank would show flexibility in the administration of its Economic Development Institute, since the application of too rigid standards and entry requirements would exclude many students from the countries that could

derive the greatest benefits from the courses given by the Institute.

30. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the World Bank Group's achievements during the past year and of the realistic work of its management. Iran welcomed the expansion of the Bank's activities and, in particular, its emphasis on agricultural development. The Iranian Government realized that the mechanization of agriculture was essential in order to release manpower for industrialization, and agricultural development was therefore one of the key elements in its fourth five-year plan. Iran was grateful for the Bank-financed agricultural pilot project at Ghazrin, and the progress achieved so far was very encouraging. While the Bank's achievements in industrialization were satisfactory, still greater efforts were needed in that area, since there could be no rapid rise in living standards without industrialization. An important part could be played by regional development banks in that connexion. Efforts to stimulate investment in education had been made by UNESCO for many years, and it was therefore gratifying that the Bank was now helping to finance education. Such financing would be needed not only for the reform of existing educational systems but also for the development of primary education, since the promotion of literacy was a vital element in furthering the economic and social development of developing countries.

31. His delegation welcomed the extension of the Bank's non-financial activities, which had not always received the recognition they deserved. In particular, it hoped that the study on the stabilization of commodity prices would be available for the second session of UNCTAD. Iran also fully supported the suggestion for a review of development problems by leading experts. It was to be hoped that the resources available to the World Bank Group would continue to increase, and that there would be an improvement in the environment in which the Bank and its affiliates were operating.

32. Mr. AL-RIFAE (Kuwait) said that the reports before the Council underlined the fact that although many of the developing countries had strengthened their ability to make efficient use of development capital, as a result of the inadequate volume of foreign exchange available for development and the heavy burden of debt-servicing, the export earnings of developing countries were insufficient to finance their economic development and needed to be supplemented by substantial foreign resources. The reports also condemned tied aid and the onerous terms on which it was normally granted, and his delegation supported the call for lower interest rates and longer maturity periods until official loans were gradually transformed into official grants-in-aid.

33. It was unlikely that the recent agreements reached at the Kennedy Round of Negotiations would substantially affect the trade position of developing countries, and it was therefore to be hoped that the second session of UNCTAD would succeed in drawing up a programme of action based on constructive co-operation between the developed and the developing countries.

34. The Bank should continue its useful studies on a possible multilateral investment insurance scheme

and on supplementary financial measures. Its expert knowledge and wide experience should be used in formulating specific schemes aimed at promoting economic and social development and in assessing existing schemes before final action was taken on them.

35. His delegation noted with great satisfaction the increase in IFC commitments to extend financial assistance to private business in less developed countries. It believed that IFC was doing its best to interest foreign investors in the over-all development plans of developing countries. In that connexion, there should be a proper balance between investments in natural resources and investments intended to benefit the economy as a whole. In investing for the first time in tourism, IFC had taken a major step which should be followed by other organizations concerned with increasing the foreign exchange earning capacity of developing countries.

36. Mr. WOODS (President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) assured the members of the Council that their comments would be carefully considered by the Bank's Board of Governors.

37. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in accordance with its usual custom, the Council might wish to adopt a draft resolution along the following lines:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Takes note of the report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association and of the report of the International Finance Corporation."

38. Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) proposed that the words "with appreciation" should be inserted after the words "Takes note".

39. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objection, he assumed that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution which he had read out, together with the amendment proposed by the representative of Libya.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEMS 4 AND 5

General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system (E/4435)

Proposal for a review of agencies and programmes within the United Nations family (E/4435)

40. The PRESIDENT suggested that agenda items 4 and 5, which covered similar ground, should be considered together.

*It was so decided.*

41. The PRESIDENT, replying to a question put by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 1509th meeting, said that the date and place of the next session of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would be fixed by the inter-sessional working group established by that Committee, which

would meet late in 1967 or early in 1968. The date of the Committee's session would depend on the availability of the voluminous documentation requested and on the possibility of providing conference services.

42. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela), introducing the report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the first session (E/4435), paid a tribute to the chairman and Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of that body for the dexterity with which they had guided its work.

43. The Enlarged Committee's first step had been to request the documentation needed for its work, and in that connexion he wished to commend the Under-Secretary for Inter-Agency Affairs and his staff for their valuable assistance. The specialized agencies, too, had co-operated with the Committee, and he hoped that that co-operation would become even more extensive and effective in the future. The Committee's next step had been to identify the problems to be considered at future sessions, which were listed in paragraph 24 of its report. In drawing up that list, the Committee had not intended to prejudge solutions to the problems, nor did it wish to duplicate the work or challenge the competence of other organs which were dealing with some or all aspects of certain issues in the list. Consequently, it would at a later stage consider whether all those issues should be examined in detail within the Committee or in other forums.

44. The Committee realized that it was essential to establish an organizational structure ensuring that the limited resources available to the United Nations family for economic and social development were used to the best advantage. It believed that the suggestions contained in its report constituted a step towards that goal, and hoped that they would be endorsed by the Council.

45. Mr. GONSALVES (India) said that he would limit his comments to agenda item 4. In his view, the suggestions contained in the Enlarged Committee's preliminary report (E/4435) did not call for detailed comment by the Council at the present stage, but reflected the Committee's efforts to decide how it should tackle its important and difficult task during the next two years. His delegation was sure that the Committee would subsequently make useful recommendations that would lead to a clearer definition of the problems, more effective use of the limited resources available, greater co-ordination and the adoption of an integrated system of long-term planning on a programme basis. His delegation had been one of those which had proposed the establishment of the Committee's inter-sessional working group (see E/4435, para. 36), and he believed that the working group would do much to ensure the success of the Committee's future work. He shared the Venezuelan representative's hope that the Council would endorse the suggestions contained in the Committee's report.

46. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) thanked the Under-Secretary for Inter-Agency Affairs and his staff for the valuable help they had given the Enlarged Committee. The documentation submitted to the Committee had been very useful, although more data was needed on certain items. The Committee had been particularly glad to receive the outline of the handbook of pro-

cedures and criteria for requesting assistance from members of the United Nations family. The Committee had not finalized the handbook at its first session because the procedures of the Technical Assistance component of UNDP had been under review at that time, but he hoped that it would be able to do so at its next session, for the handbook would be very useful to all Governments, especially those of developing countries.

47. Comments by delegations which were not represented in the Enlarged Committee would be particularly welcome, and would be taken into account by that body. He hoped that the Council would adopt a resolution taking note of the Committee's report and transmitting it to the General Assembly.

48. With regard to agenda item 5, he considered that General Assembly resolution 2188 (XXI) of 13 December 1966 subsumed Economic and Social Council resolution 1173 (XLI) of 5 August 1966; the Enlarged Committee would, in any case, bear the provisions of the latter resolution in mind.

49. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) paid a tribute to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Enlarged Committee for their valuable contribution to its work, and associated himself with the thanks expressed by previous speakers to the Under-Secretary for Inter-Agency Affairs and his staff. A spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation had prevailed during the Committee's meetings, and the constructive programme of work set forth in its preliminary report (E/4435) showed that it had adopted an efficient approach to its important and complex task.

50. The Enlarged Committee had made a good start by defining in a list of topics the issues it would consider during the next two years (see E/4435, para. 24). The issues covered by items 13 and 20 of the list were particularly significant: if they could be satisfactorily resolved, United Nations technical assistance activities, which were the focal point of the Committee's work, would be greatly improved. His delegation was prepared to take note of the Enlarged Committee's report with satisfaction, on the understanding that it would be discussed by the General Assembly.

51. Agenda item 5 was of great importance, but in view of the limited time available in the Council's resumed session and the fact that the table in annex I of the report of the Secretary-General <sup>1/</sup>, which indicated the situation with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies was not yet complete, consideration of the item should be postponed until the Council's forty-fourth session. In that connexion, his delegation hoped that the Joint Inspection Unit, to which it attached great importance, would begin its work no later than 1 January 1968.

52. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) joined previous speakers in paying a tribute to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Enlarged Committee, and in thanking the Under-Secretary for Inter-

Agency Affairs and his staff for the assistance they had given that Committee. As regards item 5 of the Council's agenda, he agreed with the representative of Pakistan that Council resolution 1173 (XLI) had been subsumed in the activities of the Enlarged Committee.

53. The Enlarged Committee's preliminary report (E/4435) was a formidable document, calling for investigation into many points, which could not all be covered in three years. The Committee would therefore have to select a number of points of immediate relevance which could be dealt with in the time available, and in that connexion his delegation considered that priority should be given to some of the following: constitutional, legal and organizational issues, particularly those mentioned in item 1 in the list of topics (see E/4435, para. 24); certain topics under the heading of technical co-operation, excluding those already being considered by the Governing Council of UNDP; item 24, with particular reference to those agencies or organizations where the disparity between the number of staff serving at Headquarters and in the field appeared to be particularly marked; and the general issues covered by items 25 and 26, concerning common definitions and the review of research activities throughout the United Nations system, respectively.

54. The Enlarged Committee's review had been undertaken on the initiative of the developing countries, which were in the best position to comment on the shortcomings of United Nations programmes in the light of their practical experience. Both contributors and recipients, however, had a joint interest in seeing that those programmes were achieving their aims and were administered as efficiently as possible with proper co-ordination between the various international institutions involved, particularly in view of the fact that the recipients made a substantial contribution in the form of local costs.

55. His Government, as a major contributor, would give full consideration to all comments and suggestions for improving the functioning of the United Nations system, but it was not convinced that any fundamental constitutional changes were called for at the present stage; for the complex of interrelated organizations developed over the years corresponded as well as could be expected to the various fields of international activity. His Government was very conscious of the imperfections in that system, such as delays in project implementation, but believed they could be corrected by suitable adjustment. His Government would, of course, examine all constructive suggestions, particularly those designed to reduce overheads in order to increase the amount spent in the field and those intended to accelerate the whole multilateral aid process.

56. His delegation warmly welcomed the Secretariat's offer to help prepare the material for the "clear and comprehensive picture of the existing operational and research activities of the United Nations family of organizations" which the Committee was required to provide under operative paragraph 2 (a) of General Assembly resolution 2188 (XXI) and which would form the basis for the recommendations called for in operative paragraph 2 (b) of that resolution.

<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes agenda item 80, document A/6803.

57. The handbook of procedures and criteria for requesting technical assistance now being prepared by the Secretariat should be of great interest to both developed and developing countries.

58. Mr. HILL (Under-Secretary for Inter-Agency Affairs) thanked those speakers who had commended the Secretariat for its assistance. The Enlarged Committee had entrusted a number of fairly sub-

stantial tasks to the secretariats of the various organizations of the United Nations system. The work had already been organized, some of it being well in hand, and he hoped that the approach adopted by the Secretariat in that connexion would commend itself to the inter-sessional working group and later to the Enlarged Committee itself.

*The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.*