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AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy (E/4776 and Corr.1, E/4833, E/4839, E/4841 and Add.1-2, E/4855, E/4856, E/4866 and Corr.1, E/4872, E/4876) (*continued*)

Second United Nations Development Decade (E/4776 and Corr.1, E/4841 and Add.1-2, E/4876, E/CN.5/445 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

1. Mr. GOAD (Secretary-General, Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that the two important areas of the continuing work of IMCO were the fight against pollution of the sea and the Organization's expanding efforts in technical co-operation. As to marine pollution, IMCO was participating in the efforts of the United Nations system as a whole to draw attention to the damage being done by pollution of various kinds to the human environment; it was particularly concerned with pollution by oil which damaged beaches and had costly and distressing effects on marine life such as fish and birds. He hoped that all the Governments interested in the resources of the sea and in tourism would encourage the work now being done by IMCO to solve that problem. At its sixth session, in 1969, the Assembly of IMCO had adopted extensive amendments to the 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil; those amendments would mark a very significant advance towards the ultimate goal of totally prohibiting the deliberate discharge of oil into the sea, for a specific and extremely strict limitation would henceforth be applied on the total quantity of oil which a tanker might discharge on any ballast voyage, there would be a prescribed rate of discharge and all discharge within a certain distance from the shore would be prohibited. The new rules would make it possible

to apply the "load-on-top" system, which consisted of retaining oily residues on board and mixing them with the next cargo taken on by the tanker instead of simply dumping them into the sea. As well as prohibition and punishment, however, economic incentives against despoliation of the environment should also be sought, since there were now commercial reasons for avoiding pollution.

2. There was also the problem of accidental pollution, caused for instance by ships colliding or tankers exploding; and the IMCO Assembly in 1969 had therefore also considerably amended the 1960 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and adopted numerous recommendations and resolutions aimed at minimizing accidents and any resulting pollution. First, a whole new concept of traffic separation schemes for ships in congested areas had been developed; and the measures taken had been effective, since an initial evaluation had revealed a considerable reduction in accidents, particularly collisions. Secondly, many shipborne aids to navigation had been made compulsory. Thirdly, new studies had been undertaken to improve methods of navigation and determination of position, including the employment of space techniques. Fourthly, agreement had been reached on a number of safety principles for the operation of drilling rigs, production platforms and similar devices operating in the marine environment. Fifthly, in collaboration with the ILO, a substantial study had been undertaken to help national administrations, especially in developing countries wishing to create a merchant navy, to establish and to improve their maritime training schemes.

3. In addition to the action taken by the sixth Assembly of IMCO, a whole new series of studies on the construction and equipment of ships had been pursued with the object of avoiding or limiting pollution resulting from accidents. They included studies on the sizes and arrangement of tanks in tankers, including investigations of the possible limiting of tank sizes, the fitting of double bottoms, the salvage of cargo, and so forth.

4. IMCO had also paid increasing attention to other harmful substances, such as pesticides and detergents, which reached the sea by ways other than that of carriage in ships. Together with UNESCO, FAO, WMO, WHO and IAEA, it had set up a Group of Experts in Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, better known as GESAMP.

5. Furthermore, the International Legal Conference on Marine Pollution Damage, held at Brussels in 1969, had adopted two international conventions which should soon be ratified and implemented by the majority of maritime coastal States. The first — the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties — empowered States to take action, even on the high seas, to protect their coastal and other

interests when threatened by serious pollution. The second — the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage — established internationally agreed procedures and processes for ensuring that compensation was available to States and individuals who suffered pollution damage from maritime casualties. The Brussels Conference had also expressed the desire that IMCO should summon in 1971 a further international conference to establish an international compensation fund from which victims would, in certain circumstances, be further compensated. That matter had first priority in the work programme of IMCO, and the preliminary discussions were promising. All those measures represented considerable progress and showed that international action could be effective if the will to agree existed.

6. Turning next to the second important area of IMCO's work, its expanding efforts in technical assistance, he said that an extensive survey by IMCO had shown that nearly all developing countries needed aid in applying the international safety régime of shipping and in training their nationals to man ships and administer their merchant navies. In co-operation with the other members of the United Nations family, notably UNCTAD and the ILO, the IMCO secretariat was now intensively consulting with UNDP and member States to see how those needs could be met, and how, through international co-operation, less experienced countries could benefit from the scientific and technological knowledge of more advanced countries.

7. He then referred to IMCO's co-operation with the rest of the United Nations family in preparing for a conference on international container traffic. IMCO had already accomplished substantial work on safety, documentation and the legal aspects of the problem. In deference to the over-all responsibilities of the United Nations itself, it had delayed summoning its own conference so that it might better contribute to the organization of the wider conference. Lastly, it was IMCO's intention to call in 1971 a short conference to improve the safety conditions of pilgrim ships, a matter of particular interest to a number of developing countries.

8. To sum up, 1969 had been a strenuous year for IMCO, but in spite of the fresh impetus in critical areas which had been mentioned and the continuing work in other fields, IMCO's total budget for the two years 1970 and 1971 was no more than \$2.5 million, including the cost of moving to a new headquarters building in London.

9. Mr. HUQ (Pakistan) said he considered the address made to the Council by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (1696th meeting) to be an excellent text on which the Council and all those concerned with the future of our world might reflect, for it contained a searching analysis of the achievements and failures of the past twenty-five years and pointed to the perils confronting mankind today.

10. The Economic and Social Council, the forty-ninth session of which happened to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, was shouldering a noble and inspiring task, that of drafting a development strategy for the Second Development Decade in order to

ensure a better life for two-thirds of humanity. It must be recognized that preparations for the Second Decade had been far more thorough than those for the First. Not only the work of the Preparatory Committee, but also the report of the Pearson Commission,¹ the *Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System*² and the activities of the Committee for Development Planning, had helped to set out clearly the problems to be solved and the goals to be reached during the Second Decade as well as create a better climate of opinion and a new feeling of responsibility where development was concerned. In his delegation's opinion, the draft international development strategy (E/4876) was the first major effort by the international community to approach the task of development in all its dimensions — economic and social, qualitative and quantitative.

11. The Preparatory Committee had reached agreement on several elements of that strategy — the preamble, goals and objectives, review and appraisal of objectives and policies, and mobilization of public opinion. It had not, however, been able to reach agreement on policy measures which would have helped towards achieving the objectives of the Decade. It had not been possible, for example, to reach agreement on a deadline for the implementation of the measures proposed for increasing the developing countries' export earnings. Similarly, although some developed countries had undertaken to accept the target figures for total aid and for the transfer of public resources, others had not yet taken any decision on the matter, and he hoped the current session of the Council would give them the opportunity to enter into positive commitments.

12. Pakistan was currently launching its fourth five-year plan, which in some ways was a considerable advance on earlier plans and which aimed at an annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent, the creation of 7.5 million new jobs and an export growth rate of 8.5 per cent. The general aims of the plan included the speeding-up of economic growth and a more equitable distribution of the profits derived therefrom. Among the most important specific aims of the plan were a better distribution of income, a more equitable sharing of resources among the different regions, and the implementation of more effective policies and programmes in the social field. Thus, the goals and objectives of the fourth plan were basically in line with those set out in the draft strategy for the Second Development Decade.

13. To meet the objectives of the fourth plan, the Pakistan Government would spare no effort to mobilize fully its domestic resources, but it would still require external assistance. It was therefore concerned about the current situation with regard to the volume and conditions of aid and about its continuously increasing debt burden. All the other developing countries were undoubtedly faced with similar problems to those of Pakistan and were ready to make the necessary sacrifices; but to achieve the aims of the Second Development Decade, a concerted effort by all nations was required, and the developing countries would

¹ *Partners in Development: Report of the Commission on International Development* (New York, Praeger, 1969).

² United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10.

intensify their own efforts yet further if they felt that they had the support of the developed countries. He had no doubt that the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, which had made a valuable contribution to the economic growth of the developing countries in the past, would play their full part in the efforts made to achieve the aims of the Second Development Decade.

14. With reference to the proposal to establish an international corps of volunteers for development (see E/4790), he recalled that the proposal had been put forward in 1968 by the Shah, and that it had been subsequently examined by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Pakistan delegation, which was one of the sponsors of the proposal, sincerely hoped that it would be adopted by the Council.

15. It also attached considerable importance to the problem of education, for it was possible that that problem had been somewhat neglected, as material development was of greater concern; but the restlessness and aspirations of modern youth showed that some action was called for. By proclaiming 1970, which was the "bridge year" between the two Development Decades, International Education Year, countries had shown themselves aware of the need, on the one hand, to mobilize energies and resources for education and, on the other, to improve and step up international co-operation in that field. In common with many other developing countries, Pakistan was trying to improve its educational system, and it had recently adopted a new education policy; but it was obvious that that task did not devolve only on Governments, and required concerted action at the international level.

16. The Economic and Social Council would also, at the current session, examine future institutional arrangements for science and technology. His delegation felt that that was an important matter, as the application of science and technology had a considerable impact on development. Efforts in that field were still, however, far from sufficient, and the international community should do all it could to ensure that the transfer of technology to the developing countries was commensurate with their needs.

17. The Second Development Decade therefore evoked a mixture of hopes and fears. In his delegation's view, its success depended not only on the volume of the resources mobilized for development, but also on the measures taken to create a climate of mutual understanding, trust and confidence among the nations of the world. It was thus of the utmost importance that adequate programmes and institutional arrangements should be evolved to translate into action the development strategies finally adopted. The Council had there a unique opportunity of laying a firm foundation for enduring peace and a better future, and it would be unfortunate if it let that opportunity escape.

18. Dr. CANDAU (Director-General, World Health Organization), introducing the report on the work of his Organization in 1969 (E/4847), said that positive results had been achieved in the area of public health during the First United Nations Development Decade: a decline in the incidence of malaria (which had been eliminated in 35 out

of the 145 countries where it had been prevalent) and of smallpox (for which the annual average of reported cases had been reduced by half), and a fall of 25 to 50 per cent in the infant mortality rate in many developing countries. Malaria still claimed many victims, however, especially in Africa, and other scourges such as human plague and cholera seemed to be becoming more active, while millions of people living in the developing areas of the world were affected by parasitic infections linked to nutritional disorders.

19. The optimistic belief of some economists and administrators that all basic world health problems, with the exception of those resulting from population increase, were more or less solved, was therefore unfounded; moreover, it could lead to WHO's being unjustly held responsible for increases in population. That line of thinking smacked of the Malthusian concept of population growth checked not by wise family planning but by the effects of disease.

20. WHO's major objective for the Second Development Decade was to help member States to achieve a higher level of health. Within that context the Organization was broadening the assistance it gave in the preparation and execution of family planning programmes. Its mandate was not to endorse or promote any particular population policy, but to assist its members, at their request – and the requests were becoming increasingly numerous – to organize family planning activities as part of their health services. For that purpose it placed at their disposal its advisory services, education and training programmes, research promotion activities and documentation services. That expansion was made possible by the additional resources provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and by contributions donated to WHO's Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion for work in human reproduction, family planning and population dynamics. It was further facilitated by increasingly effective co-ordination and collaboration with the United Nations, with various specialized agencies and with governmental and non-governmental organizations. The first prerequisite for progress in that field was the development of basic health services, upon which any attempt to raise the standard of maternal and child care, including family planning, depended. As long as maternal and infant mortality and morbidity remained high in developing countries, it was difficult to convince couples that births should be reduced or spaced out. Priority must therefore go to the training of health personnel responsible for family planning, and to the integration of family planning into the general health services. A minimum of medical care must also be available to enable interested couples both to receive advice and to obtain speedy assistance if anything went wrong.

21. There was also an urgent need to strengthen research activities, particularly in the less developed countries, where studies in human reproduction and fertility control should be given a high priority, but where the essential money and staff were badly lacking. National research programmes would obviously have to be co-ordinated and supplemented by investigations carried out by international institutions. WHO was much concerned with research and research training, and was prepared to take a central role in a vast

co-operative programme of clinical, biological, psychological and physiological research relating to population problems, and, to ensure success, it was prepared to invite the participation of international and governmental organizations and of private bodies concerned with public welfare. One of the main purposes of such an undertaking would be to learn more about the technology of fertility-regulating agents, including the long-term consequences of various methods; no single method was likely to meet the social, cultural, aesthetic and service needs of all individuals and communities.

22. WHO recognized that the "brain-drain" might adversely affect the outcome of many assistance programmes scheduled for the Second Development Decade. A distinction must, however, be drawn between the brain-drain and the free movement of scientists. The latter had long been a reality and, far from being detrimental, had promoted a vast exchange of scientific and technological ideas from which the world as a whole had benefited. What was to be deplored was the migration of graduates and specialists of various kinds as a one-way traffic resulting in considerable advantages for the recipient countries and corresponding losses for the source countries which could least afford them. The word "brain" in that context was perhaps slightly misleading, for what the developing countries were generally being deprived of were the ordinary but essential services of physicians, nurses and other health workers whose training had cost those countries a considerable amount. The prevailing shortage of health personnel was the most serious obstacle to the creation and strengthening of the essential basic health services in the developing countries, and the proportion of doctors to the population – one to every 500 to 1,500 people in the developed countries, as compared with one to every 50,000 in certain African countries – gave a clear idea of the difficult situation confronting the emergent nations.

23. There was no short cut to the solution of that fundamental problem. More medical schools were needed, and WHO was mobilizing its resources to help in achieving that aim, particularly in Africa, where the situation was most critical. The type of undergraduate and post-graduate training usually given to the nationals of emergent nations must also be changed and geared to local conditions and requirements. The prerequisite for that was a body of nationals aware of the real needs of their country and able to teach accordingly, using the most modern methods.

24. An interesting development to which WHO was giving all its support was the interprofessional approach to medical education, as applied in schools of the health sciences where doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other categories of health workers were trained together up to their required levels of competence. WHO was also encouraging schemes for making better use of the individual physician by relieving him of some of his duties and entrusting them to other members of the health team.

25. The year 1970 had been proclaimed International Education Year, and that provided WHO with an excellent opportunity for re-emphasizing the educational component of its programme, on which all effective health care

depended. Adequately trained personnel were also needed for preventing the malnutrition, and particularly the protein-calorie malnutrition, from which millions of infants and young children suffered in Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere. It was encouraging to note that that question was again included in the Council's agenda. Besides assisting extensive educational work and providing support to research institutes, WHO, in co-operation with FAO and UNICEF, had been continuing its search for low-cost, protein-rich weaning foods. The raising of nutritional standards, an essential factor in the improvement of health conditions throughout the world, was, however, a long-term objective which went beyond WHO's mandate in that it depended upon the availability of food supplies adequate in quantity and quality, on social, economic and technological development, on the level of education and on relative freedom from cultural restrictions regarding food.

26. Advances in science and technology must be fully utilized if the economic and social conditions of the world, and particularly of the underprivileged regions, were to be improved. It was important to bear in mind, however, that certain modern methods, if unwatched or applied by the unwary, threatened to make the human environment unfit to live in. It should also be remembered that problems raised by science and technology and the consequences of many applications of technology knew no geographical or political boundaries. Thus the hope that constructive work would be done by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to be held at Stockholm in 1972, was based on the fact that the Conference was to be multinational and multiprofessional. In preparation for that Conference, WHO was trying to find answers to a number of questions concerning, in particular, the effects of urbanization and industrialization on human health. In order to collect the necessary data for that purpose, WHO was considering the feasibility of developing an effective international detection and warning system designed to facilitate the study, at the level of cities, countries and even whole continents, of the harmful factors which modified the total human environment. The information gained from such a system could help decision-makers everywhere in the world to improve health planning and to take an enlightened attitude towards ecological crises.

27. WHO was ready to support with all the means at its disposal the achievement of the aims of the Second Development Decade. The close interdependence of health and other aspects of the development process in such sectors as education, science, technology, agriculture and industry was a fundamental principle underlying the Organization's work. It was true to say that it was man who created wealth; his good health was therefore essential to the successful completion of the challenging tasks to which the members of the United Nations system were once again to devote all their strength in the next ten years.

28. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Observer for Chile), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the presence of several ministers at the Council's current session, and the importance of the statements made, seemed to reflect a

wish to give back to the Council the guiding role which was its due in international economic and social co-operation. The neglect into which that main United Nations body had fallen in the past twenty years or so had slowed down the development of the countries of the third world, helped to accentuate political differences and led to the disorganized and random growth of an international machinery which had been designed to tackle effectively the basic problems of economic development. Consequently, progress towards the attainment of the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter was now well behind schedule, as was shown by the progressive widening of the economic and technological gap between industrialized countries and countries of the third world and the growing inequality of opportunities for nations and social groups. That situation was the more serious since in the last twenty-five years the world had undergone profound changes due to decolonization, to the technological and scientific explosion, which had entailed the demographic and urban explosions and the resulting ideological revolution; and the Council had apparently been aware of the need for action or of the opportunities for creative work provided by those transformations. In those circumstances, it was hardly surprising that interest throughout the world had turned away from United Nations bodies, and that at the World Food Congress which had just been held at The Hague a representative of youth had said that the United Nations seemed to be blind to the true nature of development, which was the liberation of man. The weakness of the Council, and the crisis in international co-operation, could be ascribed, however, only to the States that belonged to it, particularly those which had assumed specific responsibilities in accordance with the Charter and world conditions. Power politics and the drive for economic, political and ideological influence had robbed international co-operation of the ideological content given it by the Charter, and had reduced it to schemes that were limited in scope and objectives, in which the peoples of the world had lost faith.

29. Nevertheless, the effort to give new life to international co-operation which was taking shape on the threshold of the Second Development Decade reflected an awareness of the problems of under-development, largely due to the work of the United Nations, particularly so far as concerned the identification of problems and the solutions found for them. The possibilities of international co-operation were enormous, and what now needed to be done was to mobilize the necessary political will to apply those solutions in practice and to give international co-operation a new face.

30. That opportunity was provided by the agenda of the Council's current session, which comprised items of crucial importance. In considering item 3, concerning the Second Development Decade, the Council must take decisions which would transform the proposed strategy, despite its considerable weaknesses and gaps, into an instrument of true political content, comprising specific commitments by the industrialized countries in such fields as trade (including invisibles), financing, shipping, transfer of technology and scientific research. Unless the developed countries changed their political outlook and entered into such commitments

before the beginning of the Second Decade, the Chilean Government would maintain its reservation regarding the section of the draft strategy concerning policy measures. The section on financial resources, and agenda item 4, could give the Council an opportunity to break the years-long deadlock on the volume, conditions and types of financial assistance. If the Second Decade was to be a success, it was essential that the transfer of resources to the developing countries should attain 1 per cent of the GNP of the developed countries, and that the Council should appeal to all those developed nations that had not already done so to undertake a specific commitment to that effect. The report of the Governing Council of UNDP (E/4782), submitted under agenda item 7, which proposed that the Council should undergo a judicious structural reform, and agenda items 26 and 28, gave the Council an opportunity to streamline, bring up to date and decentralize the entire machinery of development; for it was the Council which, in the exercise of the responsibility given it by the Charter, was the body which must decide on or recommend the necessary reforms. He hoped the Council would enable him to participate in the discussion of the items to which he had just referred. There were two other problems which seemed to him particularly important: the challenge of science and technology and the challenge of youth.

31. If technological and scientific progress was to remain in the service of man, it must be brought under some measure of control in order to ensure, in particular, that public and private investment in research was not absorbed by a race to achieve technological advances which might often be economically inapplicable, as was sometimes the case with space and strategic research. It was for the United Nations and the United Nations family of organizations to exercise that control if the benefits of science and technology were to be available to all. The United Nations system should also be responsible for ensuring an equitable and sound distribution of scientific and technological knowledge among the developing countries, in accordance with their needs and with their respective economic and social structures. Technological progress also created a problem in the agricultural sector, for it enabled certain developed countries to find substitutes for their agricultural imports from the developing countries. Although that might be commercially sound practice, it was monstrously unfair in a world which contained such huge inequalities of income. Technological progress also created demographic problems by giving rise to an inequality between life expectancy in affluent societies and in the developing countries, and creating the threat of increased unemployment due to the progress of electronics. In all those spheres, it was the duty of the United Nations to prevent man from becoming the slave of technology rather than its master. It was for the United Nations to review existing concepts and the very principle of intellectual and industrial property, for scientific and technological knowledge could not be allowed to remain the special preserve of private property when it could be made to serve the interests of the underprivileged nations.

32. Nor could the international assemblies ignore a phenomenon which had appeared in the past five years and

which might have a decisive influence on the conception of economic and social development, namely, the revolt of youth, which had emerged from its traditional passivity and wished to participate in shaping the future of the nations. That phenomenon was easily understandable in view of the age structure of the population in the peripheral countries (in Latin America, 43 per cent of the inhabitants were under the age of fifteen). The youth of those countries, in which unemployment and underemployment were reaching terrifying proportions, was rightly anxious about its future. Youth in the industrialized countries, for its part, while struggling to bring about a radical change in the society in which it was growing to maturity, was not disregarding the problems of the economic and social development of the third world; and that was something which indicated a far-reaching change in the values governing our civilization today. Nationalism was giving way to universalism and the reaffirmation of the equality of man without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, as postulated in the Charter. The United Nations must encourage that new and comforting turn of events and make the most use of the urge to come out of the classrooms and workshops and co-operate in the immense task of social and economic development. That was a new challenge which the United Nations should take up without delay, for, as the Director-General of UNESCO had pointed out, youth was fretting at the slowness of the progress achieved during the past twenty-five years.

33. Before concluding, he said he would like to touch upon the question of public information in connexion with development problems. Never had a problem of such historic and transcendental importance been so effectively hidden from world public opinion. As a result, talk of economic and social development inspired only mistrust in the vast majority of the inhabitants of the rich countries, who were ignorant of the enormous national development efforts undertaken by the peripheral countries. The blame for that situation did not lie only with the large information media, for the Office of Public Information at United Nations Headquarters had always given absolute priority to political information, so much so that it was only two years ago that a Centre for Economic and Social Information had been established by the Secretary-General, and all proposals to create new information services, in UNCTAD, for instance, had failed. If that policy was maintained, world public opinion would remain in ignorance of what was happening in the third world.

34. Lastly, he wished to reaffirm his country's unflagging interest in the work of the Economic and Social Council, and he expressed the hope that the Council would enable Chile to participate as fully as possible in its debates.

Mr. Driss (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

35. Mr. DAVIES (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization), introducing the analytical summary of the work of WMO (E/4851), said he would like to refer to some of the main developments in 1969. That task was greatly facilitated by the fact that all the technical and scientific activities of WMO had been grouped into four broad

programme fields: the World Weather Watch, the WMO Research Programme, the WMO Programme on the interaction of Man and his Environment, and the WMO Technical Co-operation Programme.

36. The World Weather Watch was a new global weather system using artificial satellites and high-speed computers in a fully co-ordinated and rationalized system; it distributed data to all countries in a form most suited to their individual needs and wishes. It was therefore a good example of the benefits of modern science and technology being made available to all countries, and particularly to the developing countries. It also demonstrated how action by the United Nations could stimulate the development of a major programme by a specialized agency: the initial stimulus given to WMO to embark on the project had come from two resolutions of the General Assembly (resolutions 2453 (XXIII) and 2600 (XXIV)), adopted under the title "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The programme was proceeding in a very satisfactory manner.

37. At the forty-seventh session of the Council, some representatives had asked for more information on satellites, so he would say a few words about their use. Because of the interest in satellite meteorology, a general review of that subject, up to and including the latest developments, had been presented as an annex to the analytical summary. Cloud systems were being photographed day and night on a routine basis; and, by use of the Automatic Picture Transmission system, weather information was being automatically and continuously transmitted from satellites in orbit to several hundred stations in many countries of the world. The information received was ready for immediate use. Under its technical assistance programme, WMO was helping many developing countries to install the necessary equipment, so that they could benefit immediately from the new "space age" techniques.

38. But perhaps the most encouraging development had been the success of a new device enabling the satellite to measure the vertical temperature profile through the atmosphere beneath it and thus produce information on a truly global scale which could be computerized and used for numerical weather prediction. Such developments owed much to the satellite programmes of the United States of America and the USSR. There were also encouraging signs that some other countries or groups of countries were considering the introduction of meteorological satellite programmes.

39. Turning to the WMO Research Programme, he said that its main component was the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP), undertaken jointly with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). That project, like the World Weather Watch, originated from the same two General Assembly resolutions to which he had referred earlier. The planning and design of the first GARP tropical experiment had reached an advanced stage, and the practical aspects of participation, management and financing could already be considered.

40. The analytical summary of the work of WMO (E/4851) made special mention of the Organization's

activities in such fields as agriculture, water resources, marine sciences and environmental pollution, under its Programme on the Interaction of Man and his Environment. The relevance of such activities to economic and social development was self-evident.

41. WMO assistance to developing countries through its technical co-operation programme was given under three main headings – UNDP, the WMO Voluntary Assistance Programme and bilateral assistance. Many countries sought UNDP assistance in the form of projects for which WMO was the executing agency. It was interesting to note that about one third of such assistance was devoted to activities relating to education and training, and one third was devoted to the supply of equipment and instruments.

42. Launched in 1968, the WMO Voluntary Assistance Programme had gone from strength to strength since 1969. Contributions were made on a purely voluntary basis and were invited mainly in the form of equipment and services. By the end of 1969, some 239 projects, involving about sixty recipient countries and calling for assistance equivalent in financial terms to about \$20 million, had been accepted. Some forty countries had so far contributed to the Programme, and it was gratifying to note that many of the contributions were from the developing countries themselves, which thereby showed their support for the Programme in a very welcome form.

43. In the context of the work of the Economic and Social Council, the question arose how WMO co-ordinated its programme and its work in general with that of other organizations in the United Nations system, and how it responded to initiatives from the Council or in some cases from the General Assembly. The analytical summary gave information on the decisions taken by the Executive Committee of WMO, in particular in connexion with the Second Development Decade.

44. Action was being taken to study in much greater depth than previously the economic benefits to be derived from using weather knowledge for practical purposes and climatic data for planning. It was not sufficient just to improve meteorology and the meteorological services, or to make those services available to all countries: in addition, it was necessary to study and to explain how such improvements might be applied most effectively in assisting economic development. In studying the economic benefits to be obtained in such branches as agriculture, water resources, forecasting of floods and natural disasters, transportation by sea and by air, the fishing industry, construction and even heavy industry itself, WMO believed it had an important part to play in the Second Development Decade.

45. Mention should also be made of fruitful co-ordination with the United Nations regional economic commissions – in particular with ECLA in matters relating to water resources, ECA in hydrology and studies of economic benefits, ECAFE in a joint project aimed at improving the typhoon-warning system and reducing the damage caused by typhoons, and ECE in water resources and environmental pollution, etc. WMO also closely co-ordinated its activities with the other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

46. WMO gave great attention to education and training. He had already mentioned that about one third of WMO activities within UNDP were devoted to training projects. Furthermore, a high-level panel had for several years been advising the Executive Committee on that aspect of the WMO Programme, and various technical syllabuses, guidelines for training programmes and problem workbooks had been published. Also, a special programme of events had been arranged as WMO's contribution to International Education Year. The theme for World Meteorological Day in 1970 was "Meteorological education and training", on which a booklet had been issued and various meetings had been arranged. Thus, WMO was doing everything possible to support that international initiative which was at the very heart of economic progress and prosperity in all countries and in all fields.

47. Lastly, WMO had an interest in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be held at Stockholm in 1972, because whatever definition was given to the term "human environment" it was axiomatic that the atmosphere was an essential element. It could even be said that all WMO activities were environmental in character. It was now recognized on all sides that remedial action was urgent to halt the process of degradation and pollution of the environment which man had unfortunately hitherto permitted. WMO clearly had a role to play in such action.

48. Besides man-made pollution, natural disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons and floods were of vital concern to WMO. Under agenda item 22, the Economic and Social Council had received document E/4853/Corr.1, which gave particulars of twenty-nine UNDP projects relating to natural disasters, of which no less than sixteen were projects for which WMO was the executing agency.

49. There was another and more positive side to environmental studies, however: the need to improve man's knowledge of the natural environment and to apply that knowledge to assisting economic development. That was an aspect of the environment which was not always fully recognized, and one which was of great concern to WMO, which therefore wished to contribute in every possible way to the 1972 Conference.

50. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference had recommended that duplication of effort should be avoided and full use made of work already undertaken by the various international organizations concerned, in particular WMO. With that in mind, WMO had just published a brief survey of its activities relating to the human environment. That booklet was available in the four official working languages and would be issued to all delegations represented in the Economic and Social Council.

51. The science of meteorology was entering a new era, and WMO was doing everything possible to ensure that the benefits of future progress were made available to all countries of the world. Mindful of the importance of co-ordination and co-operation, WMO would continue to give full and thorough consideration to all requests addressed to it by the Economic and Social Council or by other appropriate bodies of the United Nations.

52. Mr. PANIKKAR (World Federation of Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that WFTU, which had more than 134 million members, represented the interests of the working people throughout the world and was always in the forefront of the fight for improved living standards, which was the major and permanent preoccupation of the trade-union movement.

53. The main criterion used by WFTU for assessing development was, therefore, how far it had enabled the working people to improve their working and living conditions. Viewed from that angle, the results of the First Development Decade had certainly been disappointing, since half of mankind was still living in unacceptable conditions and suffering from hunger and malnutrition, millions of people were still illiterate, and employment and underemployment continued to be widespread. Such was the plight, especially of the developing countries. While the economic and social development of those countries should be the concern of the entire world community, it was still national imperatives which determined the course of development. In order, however, to facilitate the achievement of national development objectives, international policies and actions should also aim at balanced economic and social development. Therein lay the great responsibility of the Economic and Social Council.

54. The Seventh World Trade Union Congress, which had met in October 1969, had emphasized the consequences of under-development on the workers' lives: increased unemployment, low wages, long working hours and practically no paid holidays, social security or security of employment, etc.; and those consequences were aggravated by illiteracy and by the fact that in many countries the right to form trade unions was still unknown or denied. The trade unions' programme of action was thus all mapped out. The struggle for profitable and effective land reform, breaking with the structures inherited from colonialism and ensuring a solid basis for economic development, was also an essential preoccupation of the trade unions. The World Federation and all its affiliated organizations were pledged to carry out all those tasks vigorously.

55. It was quite clear from the economic and social situation of the developing countries, and confirmed by the surveys of the regional economic commissions, that growth performance had not been sufficient to raise the real income of the people to any significant extent. In the context of the preparations for the Second Development Decade, it would be appropriate to recall a point which had already been made in a very important report, today almost forgotten, drawn up in 1951 by a group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and entitled "Measures for the economic development of under-developed countries".³ Emphasizing the urgency of radical structural reforms, the experts had expressed the view that, in a number of under-developed countries, the concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a small ruling class, whose main interest was the preservation of its own wealth and privileges, ruled out the

prospect of much economic progress until a social revolution had effected a shift in the distribution of income and power. Twenty years later, on the threshold of the Second Development Decade, that warning was far from irrelevant. Whatever efforts were made to set global targets, and however precise the targets were, those efforts would not be sufficient in themselves to produce results, unless vigorous and determined action was taken to transform outmoded and moribund economic and social structures. Increasing resistance on the part of the privileged classes had to be overcome by revolutionary action by the mass of people if meaningful transformations were to be effected. To make it possible for the aspirations of the Second Development Decade to be realized, the Economic and Social Council would have to take the necessary decisions to bring such transformations about. WFTU and its national affiliates had always stressed that, while every effort should be made to accelerate economic development, it was essential above all to ensure that the increasing gains derived from such development should be shared by all, for the percentage increase in a country's GNP was no indicator of the working people's level of living. It was essential, therefore, to ensure that development efforts were not used as a camouflage to hide the continued exploitation of the poor by the rich, as was the case in some countries today.

56. It was worth mentioning, in that connexion, one of the measures proposed in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Decade on its sixth session.⁴ In paragraph 39 of the draft international development strategy, which comprised chapter II of that document, reference was made to fiscal policies to augment investment resources. It should be noted that, in many countries, the application of those policies had resulted in increasing indirect and/or personal taxes affecting the majority of the population, while giving major concessions to monopolies and other vested interests, which amounted to accentuating inequalities of income in the name of economic development. Of course, those policies were not applied in certain developing countries alone, but also, against the will of the people, in developed capitalist countries.

57. It could not be said that, in the past, the role of private foreign capital had been particularly favourable in accelerating the independent economic and social development of the developing countries. Investors were primarily interested in securing maximum profits within the shortest possible time. As had been said in the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1969*, private investment was highly selective and was more readily directed towards sectors such as petroleum, other minerals and timber, where the rates of return were high. The flow of foreign capital controlled by large monopolies was difficult to reconcile with the national interests and the effective use of the natural resources of the countries in which such investments took place. The resulting frictions and conflicts could hardly be conducive to improving the climate of international economic co-operation. It was, therefore,

³ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1951.II.B.2.

⁴ A/7982, transmitted to the Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/4876).

essential for the Economic and Social Council to elaborate firm guidelines for a code of behaviour for suppliers¹ of foreign private capital so that they could really contribute, during the Second Decade, to the rapid economic and social development of the countries concerned.

58. In the developed capitalist countries themselves, the trade unions were becoming increasingly aware of the adverse economic and social consequences of the policies applied by the large international monopolies. The tightening hold of the monopolies over production, marketing, finance, etc., facilitated their inflationary tactics and encouraged economic instability, which for them was a source of profit and a drain on the already meagre earnings of the working people. At the present time, deliberate attempts were being made to attack the trade unions, which were accused of being responsible for that instability. It was not by favouring the already excessive power of the monopolies that the authorities would solve the real problem, which was to enable all the workers to share in the benefits afforded by technological progress in modern society. The consequences of the policy followed by the large monopolies, which were often linked with the Governments, had been to create or maintain so-called recession areas — in other words, under-developed areas — inside countries otherwise highly industrialized. The problem thus assumed world-wide importance with far-reaching economic and social consequences for the developed as well as for the developing countries. That was why the Economic and Social Council should perhaps undertake a study on the impact of the operations of multinational undertakings on economic and social development.

59. The importance of effective participation of the broad masses of people in economic and social development had been constantly stressed by the Council. Since in most countries the trade unions represented the most important organized force of the people and the one most directly concerned in the struggle for development, their role in economic and social development assumed unusual importance. WFTU would therefore like the question of the role

of the trade unions in economic and social development to be placed on the agenda of the next session of the Council.

60. The Federation wished, moreover, to recall that at the present time effective enforcement of broad civil liberties and full trade union rights was a *sine qua non* of rapid economic development accompanied by social benefits.

61. Mention should also be made of the important problems, which had in fact been recognized by the Council, arising from the discontent of youth, faced by the inability of institutions and political, economic and social structures to satisfy present needs in many parts of the world. In that connexion, the seventh World Trade Union Congress had approved a decision of its leading bodies to convene in 1970, the twenty-fifth anniversary year of its foundation, the second World Trade Union Conference on the Problems of Young Workers, to be held at the end of September in Varna (Bulgaria). The Conference would undoubtedly have an opportunity to review some of the conclusions of the World Youth Assembly now taking place under the auspices of the United Nations.

62. As the Secretary-General had said at the 1696th meeting, it was more urgent than ever to be aware of the need to divert some of the enormous sums now spent on armaments to improving the working and living conditions of peoples, instead of encouraging short-sighted aggressive policies which, in the Far East, for example, jeopardized not only the economic and social development of man but also his very existence.

63. In conclusion, he wished to stress once again that the United Nations' lack of universality could only harm its work, and that the discriminatory attitude adopted towards the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam was helping to prevent real international co-operation, which was an essential condition for rapid and sustained economic and social development of the world community as a whole.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.