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*President:* Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia)

## 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/CN.5/445 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

1. Mrs. ALAMI (Women's International Democratic Federation), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that progress in economic and social development throughout the world had been very uneven. One of the most obvious examples of that was the fact that in many countries women and girls were still unable to participate in the work of development on an equal footing with men, and were victims of discrimination. Many developing countries were making special efforts to give women their rightful place in society, but they were hampered by the heritage of the past. In addition, their economic, and consequently also their political independence, was undermined by such factors as unfavourable terms of trade and high rates of return exacted on foreign investment. The consequences were damaging to the population as a whole, but especially to women. In countries with racist régimes and those still under the heel of colonialism, the rights of women — as indeed of the whole population — were restricted to an absolute minimum, and social conditions were deplorable. There were many cases in point, which the Federation intended to report to the Commission on Human Rights in 1971, when it was to review the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Inter-

national Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In view of the terms of article 2, paragraph 2 of the Covenant, which provided that the rights enunciated in the Covenant were to be exercised without discrimination of any kind, including discrimination as to sex, the Federation considered that the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women should be one of the main objectives of those concerned with economic progress and the success of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

2. The Federation had been pleased to see the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 2436 (XIII), on the world social situation, which emphasized the imperative need to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all with a view to effective participation of the members of society in achieving common objectives of development, and of resolution 2263 (XXII), proclaiming the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It hoped that the Council would give serious consideration to the proposals made at the twenty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women that a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women should be drawn up,<sup>1</sup> and it felt that one of the goals which should be pursued during the Second Development Decade was the strict application of all international instruments relating to women. All sections of the population — including women and girls — should be able to participate fully, and without discrimination, in the work of economic and social development.

3. The Federation attached particular importance to the achievement of general disarmament, which would release, for the promotion of social well-being, the resources devoted to weapons of mass destruction.

4. Education was one of the main factors in women's advancement, and the Federation, since its creation twenty-five years ago, had worked for the equality of women in that regard. It had organized a number of seminars, the most recent of which, held in Khartoum in 1970, in co-operation with the Union of Sudanese Women and with UNESCO assistance, had been on the training of personnel to combat illiteracy among women. Twenty-one women's organizations from Africa and the Near East had been represented at the seminar, which had also been attended by experts in literacy-training from Cuba and the USSR.

5. The Federation considered that in the years to come all countries and peoples should concentrate their efforts on economic development and the promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms and the dignity of the individual in every sphere.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*, para. 16.

6. The Federation would continue, within the limits of its means, to lend its support to the United Nations in its efforts to ensure the rights of women and their full participation in the work for the cause of democracy, progress and peace.

7. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) paid tribute to the United Nations system of organizations for its contribution to economic and social development over the past quarter of a century. He also paid tribute to all those who had helped to make the United Nations what it was and, in particular, to the Secretary-General.

8. Despite the opportunities lost in the past twenty-five years, and whatever doubts there might be as to the real nature of some of the advances made, there had been significant progress with regard to the principle of equal opportunities for all – a principle fundamental to any just and humane social order. That made it all the more important that the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations should not be allowed to pass without effective decisions being taken for combating the offensive ideas of colonialism and *apartheid* practised in the southern part of Africa.

9. The unprecedented economic and technological expansion of the past twenty-five years had not solved all problems; even in the developed countries areas of great poverty existed. That, however, did not offer a valid excuse for neglecting to take measures to deal with the economic and social problems confronting two thirds of mankind, who had had so small a share in the general prosperity portrayed by macro-economic statistics.

10. Although the developing world was aware of the special difficulties confronting some of the developed countries, it found it hard to understand why, in a period of general prosperity and in the face of the known consequences of the widening gap, between the developed and the developing countries, many proposals aimed at solving the unjustifiable economic imbalance had been frustrated by the unwillingness of the richer countries to accept change except when it appeared to be in their immediate interest. In Ghana, for example, national plans had been seriously hampered for more than a decade by speculation in cocoa. The manufacturers of cocoa products put pressure on their Governments not to accept any international agreement which would violate the sacred principle of supply and demand; yet they did not hesitate to take action, sometimes even jointly with competitors, to maintain certain price levels for their manufactured goods or to enlist their Governments' support of certain price structures in other fields. The economic and social problems bequeathed by the past could not possibly be solved – or any progress made – if such an attitude continued to prevail. It was to be hoped, however, that the efforts being made with such skill and patience by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and his staff to bring about the conclusion of an international cocoa agreement and to achieve stable and remunerative prices for primary commodities would meet with success.

11. The importance the developing countries attached to commodity agreements and to schemes such as buffer-stock

financing sprang from their desire to be helped to help themselves. What they wanted was equitable remuneration for their labours, so that they could undertake their own economic development, and a solution to the problem of mono-culture and over-dependence on one, or a small group, of primary commodities.

12. Efforts to diversify the economy of the then Gold Coast fifty years ago had failed; and Ghana's vigorous attempts since independence to improve the structure of its economy had not given results commensurate with the efforts made. The evidence was that a satisfactory solution would require efforts extending beyond its national boundaries.

13. It was generally agreed that self-help was crucial to the economic rehabilitation of the developing countries. Psychologically, therefore, it was important that the pivot of Africa's development strategy should be in Africa, and ECA was its natural base. Various resolutions had been adopted, in particular the Council's resolution 1442 (XLVII) and General Assembly resolution 2563 (XXIV), recommending the strengthening of the regional economic commissions, and his delegation urged that the necessary funds should be made available to implement those resolutions. If they were not, the role of ECA would be reduced to that of a factory for the production of sterile documents.

14. His delegation noted with appreciation that a number of market-economy countries had announced the date by which they would allocate 1 per cent of their GNP for aid, and trusted that others would soon do likewise. It also hoped that the developed countries would provide a substantial part of that capital flow in the form of official grants. Ghana encouraged private foreign investment, in view of the part it could play in development, and it urged, in that connexion, that the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries should be enabled to meet again to complete its work. However, Ghana had found the flow of such investment to be rather erratic, and had therefore had to rely on short and medium-term commercial credits, with the result that the country was now faced with a heavy burden of debt. Ghana was not alone in that situation, and his delegation therefore considered that an international solution should be found – as it could be, if the will existed – to the problem of the debt-service burden of the developing countries.

15. The developing countries' industrialization efforts would be defeated if the flow of their goods on to the markets of the developed world was not eased. For that reason, Ghana attached the greatest importance to the scheme of generalized non-reciprocal non-discriminatory preferences. It was to be hoped that the work going on within UNCTAD would bear fruit, and that such a scheme would be announced at the launching of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

16. An international economic policy in regard to industrialization required an imaginative approach above all. Obviously, industries should be based, so far as possible, on local raw materials, and markets must exist for the goods produced. There was no reason why the developing

countries should not take part in the growing components trade; but to do even that they would need some transfer of technology.

17. In the development process population control, though important, was but one of many factors. Ghana had, in fact, embarked upon a family planning programme itself, but such programmes were necessarily long-term in effect, and what was needed most was the industrial and economic base on which to maintain the present population.

18. Plans and strategy for economic development should be flexible and should take account of regional and local opinion. His delegation was grateful to the specialized agencies for the efforts they were making in that direction to ensure the success of the Second Development Decade.

19. Referring to education, on which Ghana spent large sums, he said that it should be designed to help the individual to realize not only his potential but also his responsibilities to the society that had nurtured him. It was fitting that International Education Year should coincide with the launching of the Second Development Decade.

20. With regard to the draft international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, set forth in paragraph 16 of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its sixth session,<sup>2</sup> his delegation suggested that the Council should concentrate on the points concerning which it had not been possible to reach agreement in the Committee. If the Second Development Decade was not to be a mere matter of fine words, then the strategy document should contain firm declarations of intent, which should lead to the adoption of appropriate economic and social policies by both the developed and the developing countries.

21. The report, *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System*<sup>3</sup> which had appeared at an opportune time, contained an excellent analysis of the United Nations system. His delegation did not agree with the whole of the Capacity Study, but felt that it offered a very useful basis for discussion.

22. In the difficult task ahead, the developing countries looked to the developed for support in the common undertaking.

23. Mr. ABE (Japan) said the present general debate was particularly significant because it took place at the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the United Nations – an occasion which provided an opportunity to reflect on past achievements and shortcomings, and to seek out ways and means for making the Organization more effective in future.

24. International economic and social policy was a many-sided problem, but in view of the trend of the debate so far, he would confine his remarks to two subjects: the draft international development strategy for the Second United

Nations Development Decade, and International Education Year.

25. The Japanese delegation wished to pay tribute to the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade for its excellent work, and to express appreciation for the draft international strategy it had drawn up. There was every reason to believe that the points outstanding would be settled by the time the General Assembly adopted the strategy at its twenty-fifth session. The first of the five parts of the strategy, the preamble, gave a succinct account of development problems and was, generally speaking, satisfactory to his delegation.

26. He noted that the developing countries were to determine their own goals and objectives and do their utmost to achieve them. The policy measures to be pursued had required particularly serious consideration because, although the strategy would not be legally binding, its adoption would entail moral and political responsibility. Japan for its part was determined to make the tremendous effort that would be needed in order to set aside 1 per cent of its GNP for aid to developing countries by 1975.

27. His delegation had helped to prepare the draft international development strategy and supported it in general, but it wished to stress that there were no easy solutions to development problems. Even determination and practical action on the part of whole populations would be slow to take effect, and sustained efforts over a prolonged period might be essential. At the beginning of the Second Development Decade every country should be clearly aware of that fact. All nations, as equal partners in the strategy, must co-operate throughout the Decade to create a foundation on which the developing countries could build their own development.

28. It was no coincidence that 1970, which marked the launching of the Decade, was also International Education Year. The draft international development strategy emphasized strongly the role of education in mobilizing human resources for development, for the First United Nations Development Decade had shown that the economic and social development of any country called for skilful and effective participation by all its people. At the present time education was one of the main concerns not only of the developing but also of the developed countries. The progress of science and technology was such that society was changing at an unprecedented rate, and education, which should play a leading role in guiding social evolution, was lagging behind. Since, in addition, the numbers of students of all ages were constantly increasing, education now faced a crisis.

29. He therefore suggested two main courses of action for International Education Year. Efforts should be made, first, to adapt education to the social development programme of the nation concerned, and secondly, to promote international co-operation for the development of education. The first course of action had already produced some tangible results in Japan: the Central Council for Education had prepared a comprehensive long-term review of education at all levels. As to the second course of action, Japan was organizing training courses, seminars and workshops for

<sup>2</sup> A/7982, transmitted to the Council by a note by the Secretary-General (E/4876).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10.

experts from developing countries, and was sending a mobile team of experts in education to several countries to conduct mass training courses for teachers in agriculture. The latter project, which had been made possible by an agreement between the Japanese Government and UNESCO to establish a fund-in-trust, was to be extended in the future to cover such subjects as printing techniques and the teaching of science. It might also form part of the Japanese contribution to the International Education Fund which UNESCO was hoping to establish.

30. He wished to refer briefly to the proposal to set up a United Nations International University (see E/4878). The essential point of such a university was that it should serve the interests of the whole international community. To that end it should both be a meeting place offering opportunities to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding among nations, and serve to strengthen social, economic and cultural progress throughout the world. The people of Japan, including many influential people, had shown much interest in and support for the idea of establishing such a university, and the National Committee of UNESCO in Japan had drafted a plan covering many aspects of its possible structure and functioning. The Japanese Government was fully prepared to take an active part in efforts to put the idea into practice.

31. He recalled and endorsed the comments made by the Secretary-General (1696th meeting) and the Foreign Minister of Indonesia (1699th meeting) regarding the connexion between peace and development. The Cambodian crisis, in particular, could jeopardize development efforts in South-East Asia and in the world at large if it was allowed to continue unchecked. His delegation ardently hoped that the draft international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade would in due course be implemented and produce its desired effect in the conditions of peace and security which were prerequisites for economic and social development.

32. Mr. GARDINER (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa) said that in the latest survey of economic conditions in Africa it was estimated that real *per capita* production in the developing countries of Africa had increased by less than 1 per cent per annum between 1965 and 1968, compared with an average annual growth rate of slightly over 2 per cent between 1960 and 1965. That poor performance was perhaps partly attributable to factors such as shortage of trained manpower and internal disturbances and conflicts. The result had been a decline in the average growth rate of the GNP in the countries concerned, which altogether contained 40 per cent of the population of the region. In eighteen countries, however, notably those which had active mining operations, the growth rate had been satisfactory. The share of minerals and mineral products in the total value of commodity exports from the developing countries of Africa had increased from 25 per cent in 1960 to 48 per cent in 1968. The increasing economic importance of mining in the region raised urgent problems for Governments. In some cases, the exploitation of mineral deposits might begin very soon after they were discovered; and yet the long-term interest of the industry and the host

country alike lay in: (a) associating the indigenous population with the management of the industry; (b) ensuring that the venture enjoyed local autonomy; (c) encouraging local, private and public share participation; and (d) recognizing the desire of the local people to benefit from the industrial processing of ores so that some of the value added might accrue to the host country. The contribution of the manufacturing industry to the GNP had also grown significantly, from 9.9 per cent in 1960 to 11.7 per cent in 1968. Thus, the pattern for the basic sectors from 1960 to 1968 showed substantial growth in mining, higher than average growth in manufacturing, and low levels of production and slow growth in agriculture.

33. He wished to look into the future and consider briefly some of the challenges which African countries would have to take up in the 1970s. In the past, African Governments had been persuaded that their main contribution to development should be to establish an adequate infrastructure, the assumption being that on that basis indigenous and foreign enterprises could organize activities which would lead to the realization of plan targets and objectives. The validity of the prescription now seemed doubtful. In the 1970s, government departments and para-statal institutions would have to show their competence to manage and co-ordinate different areas of socio-economic change. The central issue was whether the United Nations system and bilateral donors would understand that and be ready to provide the quality and quantity of technical assistance which Governments would need in order to meet the challenge satisfactorily. ECA, like the ILO, recognized that considerable institutional reforms would be required to enable African States to deal realistically with the problems of vocational training, manpower planning, employment and productivity.

34. In industry, ECA field studies had shown that the capital-output ratio was gravely affected by high installation and transport costs, by wage levels which were excessively high in relation to skill and productivity, by the costs of imported services and by a tendency to adopt capital-intensive production processes. Moreover, a marked under-utilization of capital installations was as often due to managerial, technical and sociological problems as to inadequate markets. It was therefore clear that Governments must solve those problems or mitigate their effects if growth was to be promoted.

35. Micro-studies were also needed to ascertain more precisely the nature and impact of the constraints which inhibited the expansion of small and medium-sized industries. University departments and appropriate technological institutes should help carry them out, and should also take considerable responsibility for adapting existing technologies or developing new ones to suit the resources, skills and general economic circumstances of African countries.

36. Industrial growth was also likely to be severely hampered by the lack of standardization policies or the failure to apply them. Three factors contributed to that problem: first, the critical role played by imports of machine spare parts and components as industrialization progressed and pressure upon foreign exchange resources



grew; secondly, the technological disintegration of markets caused by importing an unnecessarily wide variety of equipment for the same purposes; and thirdly, the implications of the first two factors for the establishment of national or multinational undertakings to manufacture spare parts and components.

37. Performance in agriculture gave cause for serious concern. Total agricultural production had grown in the period 1960 to 1968 at a rate of about 2.5 per cent per annum, while population had grown at between 2.5 and 3 per cent per annum. However, trials in East Africa justified hopes that the "green revolution" might be repeated in Africa as a whole. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture which had been established in Nigeria under the joint auspices of the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations was to carry out research and experimental work on the production of tropical food crops. Most African countries still had to find ways of transferring resources from the production of traditional export crops, for which the market was not expanding, to food crops, and of allocating additional resources to food production. They also had to correlate the manufacture and supply of technical inputs for agriculture with the supply of agricultural products to urban populations. The purchasing power of urban populations and the marketing and pricing policies of Governments might in the long run have a decisive effect on changes in agricultural technology and in the rural way of life.

38. It was not likely that the problem of urbanization could be solved by trying to keep people away from the towns. Indeed, the slowing down of urban growth might severely hamper the transformation of rural communities, because the urban population provided a market for rural products as well as supplying the needs of the rural areas. Deliberate policies and measures to promote urban growth might therefore be needed. Then, however, major problems of adjustment to rapid change might be encountered.

39. Since the countries of the African region had hitherto been compelled to trade almost exclusively in primary commodities, great hopes were pinned on the negotiations for preferential tariffs for semi-manufactured and manufactured exports to advanced countries. If those negotiations succeeded, effective measures would have to be taken to develop manufacturing for export and to improve institutions responsible for trade promotion. He outlined the three stages of development which were recognized for intra-African trade: first, opportunities for increased exchanges of goods and services which were at present unexploited for various reasons; secondly, opportunities which would arise with the further development of transport links between States members of ECA; and thirdly, opportunities which would emerge as a result of decisions on agricultural and industrial specialization and location, and the additional trade flows associated with them.

40. In human resources some tragic ironies were apparent: thousands of jobs to be done and thousands of young people, notably primary school-leavers, ill-prepared for employment in existing enterprises; institutions of higher education which lacked critical areas of specialization, and

the prospect of adding graduate unemployment to the unemployment of school-leavers. The most far-reaching contribution of the United Nations system to African development might well be assistance in solving those problems.

41. Agreement between African countries and the United Nations system on procedures, objectives and priorities, designed to complement the efforts of official policy-makers at the national and regional levels, was a prerequisite for the implementation of the United Nations international development strategy. The activities of ECA had helped to prepare the ground for such an advance in economic co-operation. If the proposals and recommendations of the regional economic commissions were to command the confidence of the men and institutions engaged in economic development, the commissions must not only learn and understand but also be involved to some degree in practical action.

42. He cited examples of problems which could arise in economic co-operation owing to the failure of indigenous enterprises to take advantage of the opportunities which formal co-operation arrangements were designed to offer. The solution of such problems would require imaginative policies and action by Governments. Organizational difficulties must also be expected. No multinational action could be taken without understanding and support at the national level; at the same time many African countries were unlikely, because of various handicaps, to be able to develop in isolation. A practical solution might be found in the proposal warmly supported by the ECA Technical Committee of Experts in February 1970, to establish development advisory teams, which could help to identify specific areas in which African States could profitably co-operate among themselves. He mentioned a series of resolutions adopted by ECA at its ninth session and a proposal contained in the Capacity Study, all of which related to organizational and procedural problems in the United Nations system. Those problems must be solved in order to enable Africa to climb out of the trough in which it now found itself.

43. The cost of development might well be much greater during the 1970s than in the 1960s, for interest rates were likely to remain high for a good part of the decade, the grant element in aid had dwindled, the terms of loans had hardened and the use of tied aid was now widespread. Furthermore, the appropriateness and quality of aid might prove to be as decisive as its quantity. At present the poorer countries, including a large proportion of those in Africa, were not receiving their full share of aid because they lacked skill in identifying projects and preparing adequate project appraisals. Ultimately, progress for them would depend on the acquisition of that skill. It was obvious that most African countries would have difficulty in taking up the challenge of development unaided, and that ECA could not assist them effectively without the co-operation of the specialized agencies, the support of UNDP and the assistance of public and private financial institutions. ECA's calculations showed that some African countries might reach the development target for the Second Development Decade, while others would need substantial help in order

to advance at all. Those conclusions were based on the assumption that the United Nations system would be able to tailor its activities to the real needs of individual countries and regions.

44. Mr. EKLUND (Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency) said that the coming into force on 5 March 1970 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had been a major event which had had an important effect on the work of IAEA. Although primarily an arms limitation measure, the Treaty had economic implications, since, in addition to halting the spread of nuclear weapons, it aimed at increasing international exchanges of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was no accident that IAEA had been chosen as the control organ for the Treaty, since it had acquired considerable experience in exercising safeguards with a view to preventing the diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Since such safeguards would now be applied to all nuclear materials in the territories of States parties to the Treaty, IAEA had to give extra assurances that the development of peaceful nuclear activities would not be hindered and commercial secrets would not be divulged as a result of its inspections. Full use must be made of already existing national and regional control systems. States parties to the Treaty which exported nuclear materials must ensure that such materials would be subject to IAEA safeguards; trade in the nuclear field would, of course, be facilitated when a uniform safeguards system had become widely accepted. Means of financing such safeguards were now under discussion.

45. The Non-Proliferation Treaty had resulted in increased interest in the contribution of nuclear energy to economic and social progress. By the end of 1970, there would be about 24,000 megawatts of nuclear electric capacity installed throughout the world, of which about 2 per cent would be in developing countries and that figure was expected to rise by 1980, to almost 330,000 megawatts or about 15 per cent of all electric power generated. The share of the developing countries, however, was expected to rise from 2 per cent to only about 7 per cent of the total nuclear capacity. The main obstacle to the spread of nuclear power in developing countries was financial. even the modest target to which he had referred would not be achieved unless the developing countries could obtain foreign exchange resources of \$3-4,000 million between 1970 and 1980. A second obstacle was the technical one that nuclear power plants currently being manufactured were too large for the power grids of most developing countries. IAEA had been trying to promote interest in the manufacture of smaller plants, but the prospects in that respect were not encouraging. Even in the developed countries, the growth of nuclear power was an uneven process: expectations were sometimes negated by rising costs or unexpected technical difficulties, and high interest rates also affected investment in a capital-intensive technology.

46. The first nuclear plant in the developing countries in Asia had begun producing electricity in October 1969, and the second might do so in 1970. Two further developing countries in that area had ordered their first plants in 1969. In Latin America, one nuclear power plant was under construction and tenders had been invited for a second. Although about 95 per cent of uranium reserves now being exploited were in the technically advanced countries, it was assumed that large undiscovered reserves existed in the developing countries. While there was still over-production of uranium at present, about 1 million tons of new low-cost uranium would be needed in the next ten to fifteen years to meet nuclear power needs, and the discovery of economically workable deposits could therefore prove an important source of export earnings for developing countries.

47. The Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States held in 1968, and the United Nations General Assembly, had called for more UNDP/Special Fund projects in atomic energy. Two such projects in nuclear raw materials development had recently been approved by the Governing Council of UNDP, with IAEA as executing agency. The IAEA was assisting developing countries by promoting nuclear science techniques in agriculture, industry, hydrology and medicine, with the close co-operation of the specialized agencies. It also had its own programme of technical assistance financed by voluntary contributions. Until 1969, contributions had averaged about 70 per cent of the \$2 million target set in 1962, but they were expected to reach almost 85 per cent in 1970. The Board of Governors had therefore recommended that the target should be raised to \$2.5 million.

48. The growth of nuclear power in the industrial countries had led to concern about its environmental effect. IAEA was to hold a symposium on environmental aspects of nuclear power stations in New York in August 1970, and was preparing to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. In addition to the purely economic considerations, it should be borne in mind that nuclear power offered a far cleaner alternative to oil or coal burning plants and a means of reducing rather than increasing air pollution.

49. Among other main developments in IAEA's work in the past year had been the entry into operation of the computerized International Nuclear Information System, the first international meeting on the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives, and the formulation of proposals for the amendment of the IAEA's Statute with a view to enlarging the Board of Governors.

50. It was generally agreed that there should be an advisory organ in the United Nations for matters of science and technology. He believed that such an organ should consist of outstanding scientists, technologists and industrialists meeting twice a year to finalize recommendations put forward by sub-committees covering various fields of science and technology. It was to be hoped that any such sub-committees would be established after consultation with the United Nations bodies concerned, so that full use could be made of existing expertise.

51. As to the question how recommendations made by a high-level committee on science and technology should be implemented, he would prefer such an organ to be a committee of the General Assembly, to help achieve a co-ordinated position in Member States in the many different areas.

52. IAEA would again collaborate with the United Nations in holding the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in September 1971. The Conference would be designed, for the first time, to give government planners and economists, as well as scientists and technicians, the opportunity of making a comprehensive review of the present state of progress of all important research on and applications of atomic energy, and of prospects for the future. It was to be hoped that the Conference would transfer the focus of attention away from negative problems, such as the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons, to the great positive contribution that atomic energy could make to the economic and social progress of all nations.

53. Mr. ALZAMORA TRAVERSO (Peru) said that Peru had come to the present session of the Council shaken by a severe blow which had struck it just when it was making substantial progress towards overcoming under-development and achieving social and economic justice. For his country, therefore, the session meant an opportunity to seek the support and encouragement of the Council in the immense task of restoring the vast zone devastated by the recent disaster and at the same time continuing to seek a new political, economic and social order which would form a basis for true development. Reconstruction and development must be regarded as inseparable component parts of a process of revolutionary change, which must not just restore the people to their former wretched condition but should offer them a decent standard of living. In a deeply nationalistic spirit many far-reaching changes had already been brought about without violence, including the recovery of control over the country's natural resources, land reforms with a view to industrialization and a better standard of living for the rural population, and various economic, financial and structural reforms designed to encourage investment and ensure economic independence. Since it sought the necessary complement to its own resources and efforts in international co-operation, Peru attached much importance to the draft international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade now before the Council.

54. The present session was an historic event: the future offered an unparalleled potential for economic, scientific and technical progress, but the outlook was restricted by the absence of the political will to devote that potential to the solution of the problems which still held two thirds of humanity in a state of under-development. He recalled Mr. Lester Pearson's warning that the United Nations would not celebrate its second twenty-five years of existence unless there was a radical change in the attitude of the industrialized countries to the developing countries.

55. His country had, however, noted and appreciated the efforts of many developed countries to achieve the goals set

in plans for international co-operation, and it recognized that the establishment of a draft international development strategy in itself showed an awareness of collective responsibility and involved a commitment to achieve a joint solution. Nevertheless, statistics showed that intentions were not yet matched by results and that the gap between the industrialized and the developing countries had actually widened during the First United Nations Development Decade. Peru's GNP had increased by 4.6 per cent, but the *per capita* product had gone up by only 2.1 per cent. The country's share in world exports had decreased considerably between 1950 and 1968. Meanwhile the developed countries, despite their spectacular economic growth, had reduced the proportion of their GNP set aside for aid to the developing countries from 0.79 per cent to 0.70 per cent. It was essential that the strategy for the Second Development Decade should correspond to the real needs of the peoples of the developing countries, who were confronted with problems of enormous magnitude and urgency.

56. Although they accounted for two thirds of the world in population and land area, the developing countries produced only one sixth of the world's goods and services. Their shrinking share of world trade and their inability to catch up with the developed countries was gradually exposing them to the threat of what was really technological colonialism. In the face of that situation they had made tremendous, often concerted efforts in the past decade and had shown their capacity for achievement and sacrifice in many ways. Their determined spirit was reflected in the draft international development strategy, in which all the targets they had to reach were clearly set out. Although all their commitments were stated in precise terms, however, the same was not true of the commitments made by the developed countries, which in many cases were vague. He emphasized again that, particularly in view of the negative results of the First United Nations Development Decade, there must be a firm and clear political commitment to ensure that 1970 to 1980 was the decade in which results were at last achieved. The strategy must be set out in a clear and precise document which would tell the peoples of the developing countries how much international co-operation they could expect and what the Second Development Decade was going to mean in relation to their aspirations. In short, it must specify not only the goals but also the means of achieving them. The time left in which to solve the problems of poverty and inequality before they became an irreversible and imminent threat to peace and security was growing ever shorter.

57. In the modern world people everywhere were becoming more interdependent, not only economically but also socially and politically. Even in the most highly developed countries there was a growing awareness of international injustice. A sense of solidarity in the face of suffering and poverty was increasingly permeating the younger generations in their quest for a more just and secure society. It was his delegation's hope that the same kind of awareness and spirit would inspire the political decisions that must be taken to make the Second Development Decade a great undertaking which would ensure for all peoples stability, well-being, progress and coexistence in peace and justice.

58. Mr. RAHI (Director-General, Universal Postal Union) observed that under the constitution of UPU, the member countries formed a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence. UPU therefore operated in a world without frontiers, and mail in transit through a country was accorded exactly the same facilities as that country's domestic mail. UPU's large membership was due to the fact that membership was open to any country. Through the work of UPU the postal service had become an international public service: a single set of postal regulations and a single postal tariff existed throughout the world, greatly facilitating contacts with land, sea and air carriers as well as inter-administration accounting. For more than fifty years, UPU had also participated in international technical co-operation.

59. It was on the basis of those principles and that experience that UPU had prepared its programme of action for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It had set specific targets constituting firm commitments backed by the authority not only of UPU as such but also of its member countries. The implementation of the programme would necessitate constant evaluation, permitting changes to be made where they were needed. While the International Bureau of UPU was not a large enough administrative unit to handle the new tasks, it was to be hoped that the Union would receive substantial support from the United Nations system as a whole and from UNDP in particular.

60. UPU's relations with other specialized agencies, particularly ITU and ICAO, were being strengthened. In order to ensure the best possible co-ordination, consultations were held during the preparation of projects rather than after their conclusion. Although UPU had no regional offices, regional groupings known as limited postal unions, which had separate legal status and operated under special arrangements, made an effective contribution to its work. With their co-operation, UPU had established and strengthened education and training centres for medium-level personnel in Africa, Latin America and Asia. They had also given valuable assistance in the organization of seminars and symposia. In addition, contacts with the regional economic commissions were being strengthened: regional expert missions had been established at ECA, and similar missions were to be set up in Asia and Latin America. Thus, UPU was increasing its co-ordination efforts at the world and regional levels within established structures. It was hoped

that any changes made in those structures would take account of specific conditions resulting from international conventions.

61. Postal services were not confined to the transmission of correspondence, but also included financial services such as postal cheques and savings banks. Such services had repercussions on the economy of every country: the assets held by a country operating a postal cheque service might well be of the same order of magnitude as the funds needed to finance national development. The report of the Commission on International Development (Pearson Commission) had stated that in the developing countries 85 per cent of project financing came from national domestic savings.<sup>4</sup> It was regrettable, therefore that those important financial services were not better known in many developing countries because of their lack of the necessary technology and of skilled personnel. That situation could be eliminated at little cost through proper training in existing establishments.

62. For that reason, UPU had set itself as one of its principal tasks the aim of establishing those financial services in the postal systems of as many countries as possible. In that connexion, it was gratifying that some postal administrations had made specific requests for such services, within the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade, through UNDP and even bilateral aid. UPU would continue to provide full co-operation in seeking solutions to the many problems before the Council.

### Organization of work

63. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that a draft resolution (E/L.1333) on agenda item 32 (Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Peru) had now been prepared and was being submitted by Argentina, Brazil, France, Jamaica, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. In view of the urgency of the matter, he suggested that item 32 should be taken up at the 1703rd plenary meeting.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

<sup>4</sup> See *Partners in Development: Report of the Commission on International Development* (New York, Praeger, 1969), p. 30.