



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Monday, 20 July 1970

at 3.40 p.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

## CONTENTS

Page

## Agenda item 17:

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations  
Children's Fund ..... 143

## Agenda item 5:

Report of the Industrial Development Board (*concluded*) . . 149

*President:* Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia)

## AGENDA ITEM 17

**Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations  
Children's Fund (E/4854; E/L.1341)**

1. Mr. THEDIN (Chairman, Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund) introduced the Executive Board's report (E/4854). In the year of the United Nations' twenty-fifth anniversary, it was appropriate to look both at the help which UNICEF had provided for children in the past and at the increasing assistance which the targets set for the Second United Nations Development Decade would demand. Paragraph 67 of the draft international development strategy set forth in paragraph 16 of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade on its sixth session,<sup>1</sup> called for developing countries to adopt suitable national policies for involving children and youth in the development process and for ensuring that their needs were met in an integrated manner. That recommendation summarized the objectives of UNICEF, in the twenty-three years of its existence, although unfortunately its limited resources had enabled it to do only a small part of what was needed. The Council had already heard a statement by the Executive Director on UNICEF's policies and plans. The speaker's own duty was to report on UNICEF's progress, as reviewed at the meetings of its Executive Board from 20 April to 1 May 1970, and on the tasks which it saw ahead of it during the coming decade and beyond.

2. As the number of children under fifteen years of age in the developing countries was expected to increase by 270 million during the Second Development Decade, and as more than 1,000 million children in those countries already lacked the essential necessities for healthy growth and development, the scope of UNICEF's task was immense.

3. An important new feature of UNICEF's policies in the last decade had been the adoption of the "country approach" and an attempt to help countries to fit services for children into the larger context of each country's development efforts. The world community was becoming increasingly aware that the prospects for development depended in a fundamental way upon the quality of the next generation, for children and youth were at once the ultimate object of development and the basic instruments by which development could be achieved. Unfortunately, that realization was only beginning to be reflected in policy-making and much more would be needed to translate policies into action.

4. UNICEF had followed three main approaches in seeking to combine its humanitarian and development tasks. The one to which most of its funds were devoted was the provision of direct material support and assistance in the planning and organizing of projects. Recent developments had tended towards more comprehensive country programmes and larger projects, planned on a long-term basis. The second main approach had been aimed at the orientation of national development policies to take account of children and youth. Addressed primarily to planners and senior administrators, UNICEF's main support had been for regional and national conferences, workshops and training courses. The third approach had been to encourage the deployment of various external sources of aid towards programmes benefiting children and to arrange its own assistance in relation to broad development programmes, in active co-operation with UNDP resident representatives and the staff of other United Nations organizations and bilateral aid agencies.

5. UNICEF's own resources would, in 1970, exceed the target of \$50 million, and there was general agreement that it would be reasonable for the Fund to set its sights at an annual income of \$100 million by 1975. The Executive Director believed that such doubling of the volume of UNICEF aid was well within the current effective demand for assistance. Much of the additional aid would be devoted to enlarging the scope of existing programmes and would not place any substantial strain on the specialized agencies involved. The increased annual income goal would involve government contributions of some \$75-\$80 million, but that implied no commitment for any member. Several delegations had, however, said that they intended to increase their contribution substantially.

6. The Executive Board had approved commitments for projects totalling \$63.9 million over the next few years. Assistance for the next twelve months totalled \$50.3 million and covered over 200 projects. UNICEF was assisting basic health programmes in some ninety countries, chiefly by equipping health centres and assisting in the

<sup>1</sup> A/7982, transmitted to the Council by a note by the Secretary-General (E/4876).

training of health personnel. But as the coverage of basic health services was still quite inadequate, other means of supplementing traditional health services were being explored, such as simple training programmes in schools, which were able to reach a larger proportion of children than any other organized service. Other assistance in the health field was being provided for anti-malaria campaigns in the Americas and for mass disease campaigns in various parts of the world.

7. It was expected that in the future there would be more allocations for basic health services, resulting in part from the increasing interest in family planning. Aid for family planning had been provided since 1967 and some Governments had indicated their preference for receiving contraceptives from UNICEF as part of the over-all aid to their maternal and child health programmes. Without the assurance that children who were born would have a reasonable prospect of surviving, parents were unwilling to accept the notion of limiting births. Thus an adequate maternal and child health service was a prerequisite for successful family planning.

8. UNICEF had also been participating in projects for the benefit of women and girls and proposed co-operating with the United Nations Division of Social Development and FAO in further projects of the kind. It was felt that they would be more effective if they formed an integral part of larger programmes for family welfare. Plans for increasing allocations for child nutrition had been approved to the value of \$6 million, representing 14 per cent of total allocations.

9. In co-operation with the ILO and UNESCO, UNICEF was assisting in education and pre-vocational training projects, particularly teacher training and the supply of equipment for the primary level. Emergency relief for children had been increased during the past year, with assistance especially to Nigeria, but also to Algeria, Iraq, the Republic of Viet-Nam, Southern Yemen, Syria, Tunisia and Yugoslavia, and most recently to Romania, Hungary and Peru. There had been an increase in joint activities of UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, particularly in Africa. The Board had also approved the acceptance of a funds-in-trust of \$800,000 provided by the Governments of the Netherlands and the United States and a further funds-in-trust of \$200,000 provided by the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland for the welfare of children in the Republic of Viet-Nam.

10. The Board had recognized that the Jackson report, *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System*,<sup>2</sup> did not concern itself with UNICEF's capacity to carry on its work and expand its activities as such. But the Board and Executive Director were in agreement with one of the main objectives of the Capacity Study, namely, that the process of programming at the country level should be greatly strengthened.

11. In response to a request from the Executive Board in 1969, the Executive Director had proposed guidelines for the equitable allocation of assistance among countries at various stages in development. In essence, the Executive Director proposed that UNICEF's field representatives should continue to use "orders of magnitude" or "indicative planning figures" in discussing with countries the amounts of aid they could reasonably expect during a planning period. In setting those orders of magnitude, the Executive Director proposed that there should not be single figures but rather a range of, say, 25 per cent for each country, as in the past. Child population would continue to be the basic statistical criterion. However, it was proposed that a graduated scale should be employed so that countries with a lower GNP *per capita* would receive more aid than those with a higher one.

12. Having begun as a means of providing help to mothers and children in the countries devastated by the Second World War, UNICEF was now becoming one of the most potent instruments for economic and social progress in the developing countries. Its humanitarian role had thus been transformed into a wider crusade. The needs of more than 1,322 million children in the developing countries must be set against UNICEF's present resources of slightly more than \$50 million a year. He could only appeal to the members of the Council, to the Governments outside that body, to national and international organizations and to the peoples of the world who enjoyed better standards of life to come to the aid of UNICEF in its efforts at least to double its resources, so as to make an ever greater contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

13. Mr. CAPPELEN (Norway), introducing the draft resolution submitted by India, Indonesia, Ireland, Norway, Pakistan, Peru and Upper Volta (E/L.1341), said that the very purpose of UNICEF — the care of under-privileged children — spoke to the hearts of all mankind; there was nothing political in a hungry child. UNICEF's only care was to bring relief to as many children as possible and in co-operation with UNDP, WHO and other specialized agencies it had achieved substantial progress within its limited means.

14. The preamble of the draft resolution referred to the Executive Board's proposal to aim at an annual income of \$100 million by 1975. That did not imply any pressure upon Governments; in 1969, 30 per cent of total contributions had been from non-governmental sources. UNICEF's aims were ambitious but not unrealistic, especially in the light of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Executive Director had stated that UNICEF had the capacity to administer at least twice the amount it had at present with little strain on its resources.

15. He commended the draft resolution to the Council and hoped it would be adopted unanimously.

16. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that his country was not a member of UNICEF and had not participated in its meetings, but nevertheless took a great interest in its

<sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10.

work. It had itself received about \$1 million in aid since 1963. His delegation expressed its satisfaction at the prospects for UNICEF's future.

17. Turning to the Executive Board's report, he stressed a number of points. In chapter II of the report, it was stated that the Secretary-General, in an address to the Executive Board at its 406th meeting on 1 May 1970, had commented that children and youth under fifteen years of age accounted for more than 40 per cent of the total population in the less developed regions of the world (see E/4854, para. 5), and later in the same chapter it was stated that over 90 per cent of the expected increase in the world child population in the Second Development Decade would take place in the developing countries (*ibid.*, para. 10). It was gratifying to note that the least developed countries were assuming greater importance in UNICEF's work.

18. If it could confidently be expected that UNICEF's income would be increased to \$100 million by 1975, that would be largely due to UNICEF's universal appeal (*ibid.*, para. 8). It was now being realized throughout the world that there was a need for quality in the rising generations and not just numbers (*ibid.*, para. 13).

19. The desire for reorganization as a result of the Jackson Capacity Study (*ibid.*, para. 82-95) raised anxieties which he hoped would be dispelled. Any such reorganization should not affect UNICEF's operational efficiency and must not impair its universal appeal. His delegation was, therefore, pleased to note that the Executive Board had not yet taken a decision on the question. In that connexion, the conclusion reached in paragraph 148 that it was important to retain UNICEF's reputation as an economically administered organization, particularly in view of its dependence on voluntary contributions, should be borne in mind. His delegation therefore agreed with the reservations expressed in paragraph 88, while endorsing the establishment of the joint working group mentioned in that paragraph.

20. His delegation was pleased with the reorientation of UNICEF towards the "country approach" as outlined in paragraph 12.

21. There were two points on which his delegation felt some anxiety. The first concerned the "matching principle" (*ibid.*, paras. 111-114), which he thought should be waived. It agreed with the suggestion in paragraph 105 that the less economically developed countries could make use of a larger volume of assistance. Secondly, his delegation hoped that there would be no departure from the "country approach", as paragraph 122 suggested there might be, and stressed that particular attention should be given to the problems of application of techniques suitable to the limited resources of developing countries.

22. His delegation was also satisfied with the trend in UNICEF's income. If that trend continued, it would not be unrealistic to hope that the target of \$100 million would be achieved. Noting the increased collections for Hallowe'en and the increased profits from the sales of greeting cards and calendars (*ibid.*, paras. 133 and 134), he suggested that UNICEF might encourage collections at other festivals and should sell pictures and postcards as well, for example to the many visitors to United Nations Headquarters and the

Office of the United Nations at Geneva. More publicity for UNICEF's work could also be disseminated through its national committees.

23. Concerning the family planning programme, his country considered that such policies should not conflict with the population policies of other countries not following the line defined by the Executive Director.

24. His delegation was pleased and yet, at the same time, worried by the multiplicity of UNICEF's activities in connexion with education and nutrition. It hoped that there would be no conflict with UNESCO and FAO and that UNICEF's activities would be complementary to theirs.

25. Finally, as a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1341, he appealed for its unanimous adoption.

26. Mr. MAS (France) said his delegation approved of the Executive Director's plan to increase UNICEF's budget to \$100 million by 1975. The French Government hoped to increase its contribution for 1971, if the Parliament approved. It also intended to assume 65 per cent of the costs of the International Children's Centre from 1972 and noted that the Centre's programmes would be more oriented towards the developing countries.

27. The French delegation welcomed UNICEF's decision to undertake a re-organization of its activities. It also welcomed the adoption of new assistance criteria which would take into account for each country the size of the child population and the *per capita* income. It was confident in UNICEF's ability to deal both with emergency aid and with long-term projects. It regarded the malaria eradication programme as an example of UNICEF's adaptability, but hoped that it would soon be completed, since other bodies were primarily responsible in that field.

28. In view of UNICEF's special role, which was distinct from that of the other bodies of the United Nations system, his delegation was unable to support the recommendation in the Capacity Study that UNICEF might be merged with UNDP.<sup>3</sup> It considered it essential to maintain UNICEF's independence, particularly because of its humanitarian character. Its appeals might not be so willingly heard and its action might be less effective if it were merged into a greater whole.

29. Noting UNICEF's proposals for programmes concerning the role of women, he hoped that such programmes would be approached in a realistic manner. Rather than simply trying to increase literacy, for example, it might be better to develop a form of teaching adapted to the capabilities of the individuals in question.

30. Although it was not opposed to the provision of contraception under the mother and child welfare programmes, his delegation wished to stress that such assistance must respect the freedom of the couple. It should be regarded as an exceptional activity, for the subject was really within the province of other bodies, such as WHO. In

<sup>3</sup> See *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10), vol. II, part IV, chapter seven, para. 135.

that connexion, his delegation endorsed the remarks made by the Director-General of WHO in the debate on agenda items 2 and 3 (1701st meeting).

31. Concerning UNICEF headquarters, in the postal vote recently taken by the Executive Director (see E/4854, para. 160) his Government had felt obliged to oppose UNICEF's participation in the financing of the new building in New York. The granting of a loan to the United Nations should not prejudge the issue. Further action should await the Secretary-General's study of the question.

32. In conclusion, he stressed his delegation's appreciation of UNICEF's achievements, which were due in great part to its Executive Director.

33. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that he was glad to note from the report that UNICEF's activities had been expanded in the past year, that the number of its projects was increasing and that its resources had risen to \$50 million a year. On the threshold of the Second United Nations Development Decade it was important to consider what UNICEF's role should be in the coming years. His delegation felt that UNICEF should alter the orientation of its activities in the 1970s only so far as changes in development strategy might require. The needs of children would certainly be greater than before, particularly as the number of children in the developing countries was expected to increase by 270 million in the next decade. His delegation therefore fully supported the aim of increasing UNICEF's annual income to \$100 million by 1975. Only if that goal was reached would UNICEF be able to continue to play an effective role in the development of young human resources.

34. He wished to mention a project recently undertaken in Yugoslavia. On the initiative of the local authorities of the coastal town of Šibenik, a nearby island was being converted into a children's community, to be known as the "Seventh Continent". The children, who would be of all races, religions and nationalities, would run their own institutions and services and learn to live together as members of the same family in accordance with rules established by themselves. He hoped that that undertaking would stimulate co-operation among children throughout the world and hence facilitate UNICEF's task. He was sure that it would be supported by UNICEF and other humanitarian organizations. Finally, his delegation would wholeheartedly support draft resolution E/L.1341.

35. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that it was clear from the report that the UNICEF Executive Board at its last session had been much concerned with the role of the Fund in the Second United Nations Development Decade. That was not surprising, in view of the fact that over 90 per cent of the increase in the world child population in the coming decade was expected to take place in the developing countries, and that the total by 1980 would be 1,322 million. The education and welfare of children growing up in the 1970s would therefore require more strenuous efforts than ever before, and his delegation wished UNICEF continued success in its work.

36. He wished to refer to certain aspects of UNICEF's work which had become prominent in recent years. First, there was a growing awareness of the importance of mobilizing young people to assist in economic and social development, especially within the context of the Second Development Decade. His delegation welcomed that trend. Secondly, UNICEF was becoming increasingly involved in the promotion of family planning, and quite rightly; it was important, however, that it should co-operate fully with other United Nations organizations which were active in the same field. Thirdly, although emergency relief now accounted for only about 7 per cent of UNICEF's total budget, the wide experience of the Fund and the unique assistance it could offer in relieving the sufferings of mothers and children in emergencies were still extremely valuable.

37. It was gratifying to note that UNICEF's resources were expected to exceed the \$50 million income target established for 1970. In view of UNICEF's growing role and the support it received from the international community, his delegation approved of the income target of \$100 million which had been set for 1975. It would support draft resolution E/L.1341.

38. Mr. MOHSIN (Pakistan) said that he wished to make only a few general comments. UNICEF, the only organization devoted exclusively to the welfare of mothers and children, had long been giving the developing countries much valuable assistance in the formulation of plans and policies for the benefit of the younger generation. Since efforts to help children were more effective when several problems were tackled simultaneously, he was glad to note that UNICEF was involved in various multi-purpose projects. It had done much pioneer work in many developing countries in encouraging inter-sectoral activities for the benefit of children — an extremely important aspect of its work which was best appreciated in the developing countries. He wished to express his Government's gratitude for the funds which had been allocated to it for various welfare and educational programmes. His delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1341 and hoped that it would receive the full support of the Council.

39. Mr. BULEN (United States of America) said that experts concerned with development were becoming aware that not only were children and youth the ultimate goal of development, but that young people themselves must provide the impetus for development. The report of the UNICEF Executive Board put the role of children in the Second United Nations Development Decade into perspective. Planning for them was urgently necessary and must be effective, particularly in view of the anticipated increase in their numbers. He noted with reservation that UNICEF hoped to increase its annual income to \$100 million, a target which, in view of UNICEF's proved fund-raising ability, should not be beyond its reach. He agreed with the French representative that UNICEF must not lose its identity as an organization for children, which might happen if it was merged with UNDP, as suggested in the Capacity Study. His delegation welcomed the progress



made in the introduction of high-protein food, and felt that UNICEF should intensify its efforts to ensure that measures to improve nutrition were included in national development plans. In education, UNICEF should continue to concentrate on relating the curriculum to the real-life needs of the child. The Fund was still commendably involved in its original task of providing emergency relief, notably in Nigeria, where rehabilitation in parts of the country affected by the recent war was still in progress. The United States Government had just contributed another \$2 million to that work; and reminded the Council of the need for additional contributions. His delegation agreed that UNICEF must take into account the greater needs of the least developed countries, while still ensuring that the more developed among the developing countries received the kind of assistance they needed. The "matching principle" in regard to national programming (see E/4854, paras. 111-117) should be interpreted liberally so that the system was practicable for all concerned. His delegation would gladly support draft resolution E/L.1341.

40. Miss MUTER (Indonesia) said that her delegation, which was an active member of the UNICEF Executive Board, endorsed the contents of the Board's report. Her delegation approved of UNICEF's country approach to programming, and also its participation in family planning programmes, for Indonesia badly needed assistance in solving its population problems. It had always co-operated closely with the Fund and fully supported its policy of protecting the younger generation and preparing it for future responsibilities. If more funds were available, UNICEF would intensify its efforts to promote the well-being of children. She hoped that the Council would give unanimous support to draft resolution E/L.1341, of which her delegation was a sponsor.

41. Mr. NOLAN (Ireland) said that it was clear from the report that UNICEF was one of the most effective of the humanitarian organizations in the United Nations family. Its activities, especially in providing emergency relief in many areas of the world in the past year, deserved the warmest appreciation. Such work helped to promote the image of the United Nations as an organization concerned not only with politics but also with the problems of the weakest sectors of the world community. The Secretary-General had observed that the work of the Council should be less technical and closer to the understanding of the people; the work of UNICEF gave no cause for concern in that connexion. His Government gave the greatest possible support to UNICEF, and hoped to contribute to its resources even more generously in the future. The size of Ireland's contributions from non-governmental sources, recorded in annex IV to the report, showed how wholeheartedly the Irish people supported the work of the Fund.

42. During 1969 UNICEF had maintained a small but effective liaison office in Geneva for the purposes of its operations in Nigeria. That office had since been closed, but he hoped that UNICEF would consider re-opening it, for Geneva was an important liaison centre for many humanitarian organizations.

43. He was sure that draft resolution E/L.1341, of which his delegation was a sponsor, would be adopted unanimously. The proposed income target of \$100 million a year was realistic and in keeping with the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade. UNICEF was undoubtedly equipped to handle such an income, if only because a great part of its work was concerned with supplies, which could easily be expanded.

44. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was gratifying that UNICEF was taking positive action to assist needy children, including victims of natural disasters and armed hostilities. Her delegation was glad to note that there was no longer any discrimination in the assistance afforded to Viet-Nameese children. It was, however, concerned over the increasing trend towards excessive dispersion of activities and overlapping with the work of other agencies; indeed, in the case of family planning, UNICEF's activities went beyond its terms of reference and were completely unjustified, since that was a matter within the competence of WHO.

45. The country approach was useful, but care should be taken to take full account of the economic and social realities in each country and to make assistance available for specific projects; otherwise, there was a danger that UNICEF would merely be providing resources for general development assistance. In that connexion, she wondered how the new target sum of \$100 million would be spent; it would be quite wrong, for example, to use it for the extension of UNICEF's family planning activities or other activities overlapping with the work of such agencies as the ILO and WHO.

46. Mr. de HERACLITO LIMA (Brazil) said that his country fully supported the integrated country approach. In establishing indicative planning figures, the *per capita* GNP should not be the only factor taken into account since it could be very misleading, particularly in non-monetary developing economies. Other indicators that should be used were the capacity of the country concerned to absorb assistance and the level of health of its children. The Brazilian delegation believed that the health programme of UNICEF should gradually be transferred to WHO.

47. Mr. PIACITELLI (Italy) expressed satisfaction at the development by UNICEF of an integrated country approach and at the assistance given to children in Nigeria and Peru. It was to be hoped that UNICEF's ability to extend such emergency assistance in the future would be strengthened. His delegation supported the draft resolution.

48. Mr. BARMA (Chad) said that the resources available to UNICEF were clearly insufficient for its valuable work. UNICEF's health activities were particularly important, especially in countries where public health facilities were inadequate, and his delegation fully supported the Fund's increasing assistance in the field of health. It was to be hoped that adequate resources would be forthcoming from all countries to the extent of their means.

49. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the gradual change in UNICEF's approach from *ad hoc* material support for isolated projects to greater selectivity, the country approach and long-term planning in accordance with national development plans. UNICEF's recognition that its educational activities should focus above all on primary education was also gratifying.

50. His delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1341, but had some reservations regarding the practicability of attaining and usefully spending the sum of \$100 million aimed for by 1975.

51. Mr. THEDIN (Chairman, Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund), commenting on points that had been raised during the discussion, said that in considering the recommendations in the Capacity Study, the Executive Board's main concern had been that any changes should be such as to increase the efficiency of the whole United Nations system and take full account of the needs of the large and increasing child population of the world. The question of increasing sales of greeting cards was under study, and it was hoped that further progress could be made.

52. Some delegations had expressed concern that UNICEF might be undertaking activities falling within the sphere of competence of other agencies. In fact, it maintained close and fruitful co-operation with all agencies, and always sought the advice and approval of the agency concerned when entering a special field. He wished to reassure the representative of France that a profound concern of the Executive Board in the question of family planning had been that the freedom of the couple to decide on the size and spacing of its family should be fully respected. He was grateful to the representative of Yugoslavia for his reference to an interesting example of international co-operation among children that was fully in keeping with the spirit of UNICEF. He had been gratified to learn that the United States – a country in which there was a tremendous amount of voluntary work in support of UNICEF – had made a second contribution of \$2 million to the Nigerian relief programme.

53. Replying to the observations of the Soviet representative, he emphasized that UNICEF was now endeavouring to concentrate on a smaller number of large programmes. An increase in the resources available would enable it to continue in that direction and did not mean that there would be excessive dispersion of activity. With regard to family planning, an increasing number of delegations on the Executive Board had come to the conclusion that it was a necessary and important part of UNICEF's work, because it related to the health of mothers and children. The question of how a sum of \$100 million would be spent was, in the final analysis, a matter for the Governments of recipient countries; but since mother-and-child health centres reached only 5 per cent of the children in developing countries there would appear to be little difficulty in using the money productively.

54. In arriving at the indicative planning figures to which the representative of Brazil had referred, the Executive Board favoured a flexible approach, basing its decision on

the greatest possible amount of data and aiming at a fairly wide margin rather than a single figure. The representative of Italy could rest assured that UNICEF would continue to provide emergency assistance, but it was to be hoped that only a small part of its resources would be required for such assistance, since the lives of millions of children in developing countries were daily beset by emergencies which the Executive Director (1703rd meeting) had described as "less-publicized disasters".

55. Mr. LABOUISSSE (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that, prior to the establishment of the Geneva liaison office in connexion with the Nigerian crisis, co-ordination with organizations at Geneva had been carried out from UNICEF's Paris office. Some misgivings had been expressed over the closing of the Geneva office, and the question of its re-opening was now under review.

56. There need be no concern regarding overlapping with the work of other agencies, since the respective areas of activity were clearly defined and separated in all matters in which UNICEF co-operated with other agencies. In addition, all projects were discussed with representatives of WHO, UNESCO and FAO, who had permanent offices at UNICEF headquarters, and UNICEF also had more informal relations with the ILO, and other agencies, and with UNDP.

57. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that his delegation had some misgivings about UNICEF's activities in the sphere of family planning. It seemed paradoxical that an organization concerned with the welfare of children should undertake activities aimed at limiting the number of children in the world. His delegation also wondered why objections had been raised to the recommendation that UNICEF should merge with UNDP, when mergers had proved very profitable in industry.

58. While the sale of greeting cards had been very successful, it was to be hoped that UNICEF would not extend its activities to other commercial fields.

59. In the draft resolution before the Council, the terms "youth", "adolescents" and "the younger generation" had all been used where one expression would have been clearer. It was to be hoped that the target of \$100 million by 1975 would be achieved, but if it attempted too much, UNICEF might not be able to accomplish everything it set out to do.

60. Mr. THEDIN (Chairman, Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund) said that the age range with which UNICEF was concerned was dealt with in paragraphs 72 to 74 of the report. As to family planning, the concern of UNICEF was not that the number of children in the world should be limited, but that every child born should be a welcome child.

61. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no objections, he would assume that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/L.1341 unanimously.

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

## AGENDA ITEM 5

**Report of the Industrial Development Board (E/4874)**  
*(concluded)*

62. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that he wished to reply in general terms to the many questions and comments made by members of the Economic and Social Council. He thanked all those who had expressed appreciation for the work of UNIDO, which was an international endeavour of great importance.

63. The first subject he wished to mention was the Special International Conference of UNIDO. Preparations for it had already begun, and there was every indication that, although short, it would be important in the history of UNIDO. Many of the points which had been raised by Council members at the 1710th meeting could appropriately be included in the agenda for the Conference.

64. He wished to put forward four general considerations, which were relevant to many of those points. First, there was the idea that UNIDO, in assisting industry in developing countries, should use the business methods which were used in industries. That was correct in principle, but UNIDO was a member of an international bureaucracy as well as an organization concerned with industry, and its structure and procedures inevitably reflected the fact.

65. Secondly, UNIDO's role was largely advisory. Advice should really be technical or economic, but most of the problems with which UNIDO was concerned had important political connotations, for industry could not be divorced from politics. UNIDO tried to solve the difficulty by distinguishing two types of activity: technical assistance at the country level, which involved giving advice in the light of all relevant factors, and general pronouncements, in which UNIDO tried to take into account theories favouring different forms of ownership and different degrees and types of industrial development, and offer impartial advice accordingly. Only by remaining uncommitted to any particular set of ideas could UNIDO act as adviser to countries in different political and economic circumstances. The representative of the Soviet Union had stressed the need for strategic and technical planning; the importance of such planning was recognized, but UNIDO could not afford to be dogmatic about it. Similarly, the heavy industrialization to which the Brazilian representative had referred and the training emphasized by the representative of Upper Volta might be of prime importance in some cases but not in all.

66. Thirdly, in industry generalizations were worthless. Countries must be advised and assisted according to their needs, generally through operational programmes. Each programme had an international background, however, for even the establishment of a small factory required knowledge of the necessary technology and of the world market for the product. UNIDO recognized that it could not compete with bilateral programmes for industrial development, but in the past few years its work had gained

increasing acceptance in both developed and developing countries and in privately and publicly owned industries.

67. Within the United Nations system UNIDO had two functions: the execution of its own programmes and co-ordination. To succeed in the latter it must be without bias in favour of its own activities and must be prepared to co-operate with the regional economic commissions, bilateral and multilateral programmes, and even organizations outside the United Nations system. In all its work, therefore, UNIDO above all had to maintain a balance. So far it had generally succeeded in doing so.

68. He stressed that the traditional instruments of UNDP were of very limited effectiveness in dealing with industrial problems. UNIDO, in co-operation with UNDP, was using voluntary contributions to try to develop new instruments: a difficult but ultimately worthwhile task. It was gratifying to note that the Industrial Development Board was considering with favour certain ideas put forward by UNIDO, and he hoped that UNDP would also support them in due course.

69. Co-operation between UNIDO and the regional economic commissions was a reality and was making good progress. He had recently discussed with the Executive Secretary of ECLA ways of expanding the role of UNIDO in Latin America, and hoped that UNIDO would shortly co-operate with ECAFE in evaluating industrial progress in the ECAFE countries in the Second United Nations Development Decade. He assured the representative of Japan that UNIDO was seriously interested in working with ECAFE and regarded it as a duty.

70. The representative of Ghana had implied that the efforts of the Industrial Development Board were misdirected. The same assertion had been made by others, and perhaps not without reason; at any rate the question would have to be carefully studied at the Special International Conference. Several speakers had referred to the financial position of UNIDO. He hoped that by various means UNIDO would succeed in gaining greater recognition and support for its activities, and that its financial problems would thus be solved.

71. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

"1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fourth session (E/4874) and transmits it to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

"2. *Welcomes* resolution 29 (IV) of the Industrial Development Board relating to the proposal to hold a Special International Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in 1971;

"3. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance of the agenda items proposed for discussion at the Conference."

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.