



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 15 July 1969

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

at 10 a.m.

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Election of a Vice-President .....	7
Agenda item 2:	
General discussion of international economic and social policy	
Speakers:	
Mr. Mili (ITU) .....	7
Dr. Dorolle (WHO) .....	8
Mr. Yost (United States of America) .....	10
Lord Caradon (United Kingdom) .....	12

*President: Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).*

## Election of a Vice-President

1. The PRESIDENT said that it was necessary for the Council to elect a further Vice-President to replace Mr. Kestler (Guatemala) who was unable to attend the session.

2. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico), supported by Mr. MAS (France) nominated Mr. López Herrarte (Guatemala).

*Mr. López Herrarte (Guatemala) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.*

## AGENDA ITEM 2

General discussion of international economic and social policy (E/4638, E/4674, E/4679, E/4687 and Add.1-3, E/4688, E/4695, E/4701; E/CN.11/878; E/CN.12/825 and Add.1; E/CN.14/435; E/ECE/741)

3. Mr. MILI (Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union) said that the main problems facing ITU were closely connected with the development of the world-wide telecommunication network. National authorities were increasingly realizing the impact of telecommunications on the economic and social development of their respective countries. The constantly increasing demand for telecommunications explained the hopes placed by engineers in new media, such as satellite telecommunications, which would permit intercontinental transmission of telephony, television or data between computers in the near future at low cost. Such media would also open up new possibilities in sound broadcasting.

4. Although many countries were not yet in a position to benefit from the latest techniques, most of them were becoming increasingly aware of the potentialities of present-day telecommunication media.

5. Considerable attention had been paid to the presentation of the report on ITU activities for 1968 (E/4691), which included a summary of the purposes and structure of the agency and a brief review of the functions of its permanent organs. A special section had been devoted to ITU activities in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The report was accompanied by contributions from many members of ITU on progress made by them in 1968 in space communication.

6. The International Radio Consultative Committee of ITU had continued its work, which was not only important with respect to standardization and regulations for radio but was also of great interest to science and technology. In that respect, mention should be made of the establishment of an international working party to study the technical problems raised by the use of the geostationary orbit.

7. The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee had held its fourth plenary assembly in October 1968. Among the many important matters it had considered were the conditions for introducing satellite links into the world telephone network.

8. The ITU Administrative Council had always attached great importance to the major problem of space. At its twenty-third session, in May 1968, it had decided, with the agreement of most members of ITU, that a world administrative space telecommunication conference should be held in Geneva in June-July 1971. That decision was fully justified by the great progress made in space techniques since the first space conference held under ITU auspices in Geneva in 1963. That conference had allocated frequency bands for space radiocommunications and had, for the first time, drawn up international regulations for their operation.

9. The purpose of the 1971 conference would be to allocate new frequency bands for space telecommunications and to prepare appropriate regulations for space activities. The conference would also have to take any new action required in the light of new needs which varied greatly in meteorology, aeronautics and broadcasting. The International Frequency Registration Board had already begun technical preparations for the conference.

10. ITU had continued to pay special attention to technical co-operation, the three chief aims of which were still to foster the development of telecommunication networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America; to train the staff required for telecommunications; and to strengthen the technical and administrative services for telecommunications in the developing countries.

11. Although ITU had been planning international telecommunication networks on a world-wide scale for about ten years, it had not actively assisted the countries concerned to put those plans into effect. That assistance could be intensified in future as it was supported by the United Nations and its regional economic commissions.

12. A global strategy applied by all the organizations in the United Nations family was a prerequisite for the success of the Second United Nations Development Decade. With respect to ITU, there were two basic principles to be followed. First, the selection of priorities should take account of the obvious need of all countries to have an adequate telecommunication network to enable them to embark on their economic and social development. Telecommunications had frequently been placed low on the list because the need to develop them had not been clearly realized when national priorities had been allocated. A better co-ordination of efforts and concerted action by the responsible authorities, the regional economic commissions and the UNDP and ITU resident representatives should enable that major drawback to be remedied. Secondly, the development of human resources should take priority over the development of equipment; it was useless to have the most modern equipment if local personnel was not available to operate it. Furthermore, senior technical staff was sometimes trained in a rather exclusive manner although it could do nothing without a team of competent technicians. In other words, the development of human resources should be guided by a global strategy affecting all staff, from the skilled workman to the qualified engineer.

13. Nothing could be done, however, if the responsible authorities and the general public were not provided with complete and frank information. Hence ITU had decided to designate 17 May 1969, the anniversary of the signing in 1865 of the convention establishing it, as World Telecommunication Day. The purpose of the day had been to attract the attention of the general public and of non-technical decision-makers to the importance of telecommunications and to the need for international co-operation in that area. To ensure the success of the first World Telecommunication Day, an intensive information campaign had been launched with the assistance of most of the telecommunication administrations in member States, the United Nations information centres, the UNDP resident representatives and a large number of recognized private operating agencies. He reiterated his thanks to all who had assisted in making the occasion a success, particularly the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

14. The Administrative Council had decided that the second World Telecommunication Day, to be celebrated on 17 May 1970, should be devoted to the theme "Telecommunication and Education", in view of the fact that 1970 had been declared International Education Year.

15. The excellent relations which continued to exist between ITU and other organizations of the United Nations family had been particularly exemplified by the active part it had played in the Working Group on Broadcasting Satellites set up in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2453 (XXIII). ITU was also taking part in the studies undertaken by UNESCO on the use of satellites to combat illiteracy and continued to co-operate very closely with UPU, WMO, ICAO and IMCO in different studies concerning the World Weather Watch and navigation satellites. He expressed his gratitude to those organizations for the understanding they had always shown towards ITU.

16. Dr. DOROLLE (Deputy Director-General, World Health Organization) said that, in the absence of the Director-General, who was attending the World Health Assembly in Boston, he had the honour to present the report on the work of WHO in 1968 (E/4675 and Add.1 and 2).

17. During 1968, WHO had been associated with 1,512 projects in 154 countries and territories and 90 per cent of its ordinary budget had been spent on technical co-operation programmes. Since the range of activities was large, they could only be described in broad outline.

18. The first main feature was the control of communicable diseases. The effect of such diseases was as important in the economic field as it was on over-all morbidity, mortality and disability. It was not surprising, therefore, that communicable disease eradication or control accounted for some 35 per cent of WHO's ordinary budget.

19. The goal of eradicating malaria and smallpox had been pursued in 1968. A period of ten years had been set as ideal for eradicating smallpox, except in a few isolated and remote foci. All would depend, however, on the efforts made by all concerned.

20. World-wide eradication of malaria was less certain and more difficult. The campaign launched in 1958 had completely altered the world picture with respect to that disease but there had been some unexpected developments. The inadequacy of basic health services and of funds allocated to the surveillance of possible fresh outbreaks was a cause of many failures. The World Health Assembly was currently discussing a possible revision of the strategy of malaria eradication. The outcome would probably be a more flexible strategy, better adapted to local circumstances, and a less ambitious and more limited form of control where conditions were not suitable for a full-scale eradication programme. The development of basic health services was of fundamental importance and

Governments should pursue their efforts unflaggingly. There was also need to continue research on the increasingly complex problems of vector and parasitic biology, on the formulation of the new insecticides required owing to the development of resistance, on malaria chemotherapy and on malaria immunology.

21. Although the gamut of communicable diseases was large, modern conditions of prevention and control made it possible to avoid any serious risk of large-scale epidemics, but the increased speed of international travel had introduced further dissemination hazards. In July 1968, a new strain of influenza virus had been detected in Hong Kong akin to, but not identical with, the A2 strain which had caused the 1957 pandemic. Rapid isolation of the virus, thanks to the WHO international influenza centres, had made it possible to produce increasing supplies of vaccine within a few months. That episode was a reminder that viruses were potent agents of disease and death and that vast populations were still highly vulnerable to them. Far-reaching research was needed.

22. In the case of parasitic, bacterial and virus diseases, considerable effort was called for on the part of Governments and, in many tropical countries, control of communicable diseases could absorb the greater part of the health budget.

23. The solution lay in the increasing integration of local basic health services. Concentration on the planning and strengthening of health services should not be restricted to rural areas but should take the form of a systematically organized network of services ranging from the most remote health posts to the regional or central general hospital. WHO was being pressed by many Governments for assistance of that kind and was responding actively, but, even with increased external support, the final responsibility for action rested squarely with Governments.

24. One of the functions of WHO was to advise its member States on the health aspects of human reproduction, family planning and fertility control. He would merely outline the programme, since it had been described in detail to the Council at the forty-fifth session (1538th meeting).

25. WHO did not advocate any particular population policy; it advised, guided and assisted Governments, on request. In countries that so wished, it encouraged the organization of family planning services through the most appropriate medium, namely, maternal and child health services.

26. Since 1966, over twenty requests for advisory services had been received from Governments and complied with. They had covered every aspect of the organization and administration of family planning programmes and such matters as medical aspects of fertility and sterility. Particular mention should be made of the problem of training and education. International training courses and

seminars had been organized for national health service personnel and five orientation courses had been held for WHO staff to equip them better to give Governments the aid they requested. WHO had also co-operated in a small number of multi-disciplinary evaluation studies of major national programmes. Sixteen groups of leading specialists in all the fields concerned with human reproduction had met to discuss a large range of topics and to review and evaluate recent knowledge.

27. A new feature was a direct concern with the introduction of basic courses on human reproduction and fertility control in medical training. WHO would encourage and assist medical schools to provide future doctors with training in the areas of reproduction and family planning, while research would continue and be expanded. There was a need for research not only on the scientific aspects of the chemistry and biology of reproduction, many areas of which were still obscure, but also on the human aspects. There was also a need to improve methods of health education that would increase the understanding of existing methods and promote their acceptance under varying cultural and social conditions.

28. Family planning must be a part of the health services, which should be adequately staffed with trained personnel. Without such integration and persistent education and research, false expectations would be encouraged and results would fall far short of the targets — already over-ambitious — which had been set in some countries. Family planning would make its full contribution to any specified population policy only if accompanied by other measures designed to improve the economic and social situation of the family and the community. WHO would continue to work in that field with the United Nations and the other specialized agencies.

29. In communicable disease control, maternal and child health, family planning and any other activity devolving upon the basic community health services, the chief impediment to development was the lack of trained and qualified personnel. That shortage was most serious in the developing countries owing to a number of related factors: restricted financial resources, absence of an adequate pool of young people completing secondary school, an inadequate number of training establishments and the competition of other branches of development. While some developing countries had no more than one doctor per 50,000 inhabitants, the most developed countries had one per 500 or 1,000 inhabitants. Not enough had yet been done to remedy that shocking disparity apart from sending out expatriate personnel who were still far too few in number. Very many more indigenous practical polyvalent doctors must be trained, capable not only of performing whatever might reasonably be required of a good physician with an adequate knowledge of surgery and obstetrics, but also of serving as public health doctors with experience of preventive work and as leaders of health teams. By employing the health-team system, it would be possible to expand and diversify the medical

function and to extend the services of the doctor himself to more people over a larger area.

30. The happy day was still far off when medical faculties and schools providing other kinds of health training would be able to produce the necessary quota of health personnel at all levels in Asia and Africa. Hence the idea of the multi-disciplinary training institution, which, in addition to training physicians, would be able to provide a substantial part of the training for other members of the health team. The first such institution was to be established on a bilingual basis in Cameroon. The idea had aroused interest and even enthusiasm in some of the quarters from which multilateral or bilateral aid could be obtained. The additional advantage of that approach was that it would produce physicians who, from the beginning of their training, had learned to work alongside other members of the health team. Moreover, their training would bring them into daily contact with the harsh realities of tropical diseases, malnutrition, poverty and squalor, in the midst of which they would have to work later. If successful, it would be an exceptionally valuable experiment.

31. Any encouragement the Council might give to such activities would be both inestimable and timely, since the United Nations had designated 1970 as International Education Year. In public health as in other sectors, the training of professional cadres and auxiliary personnel lay at the heart of the development process. WHO would participate actively in International Education Year in a spirit of experiment and of quest for new and effective solutions.

32. The diversity and complexity of health problems were in themselves sufficient to warrant the importance WHO attached to long-term planning. Certain simple or complex influences affecting the health of the individual and the community were due to economic and social factors and were thus a joint concern of WHO and other organizations of the United Nations system. It was increasingly important, for instance, to take precautions against the progressive and cumulative deterioration of the human environment, since it endangered man's health, happiness, work and productivity.

33. The complex interrelated phenomena of migration, urbanization and industrialization affected every aspect of man's physical, mental and social health. The dangers arising from pollution of the air, soil and water, food additives, the extensive use of pesticides and the ineffective disposal of radioactive wastes and other contaminants were resulting, or would result, in serious adverse changes in human ecology, modifications in the pattern of disease, both communicable and chronic, and deterioration in the mental health and welfare of individuals and of society as a whole. Hence there was greatly increasing pressure on public health services, necessitating changes in their structure and increasing their cost. A bold and constructive approach to the study of those problems had been made at the Intergovernmental Conference of Experts on the

Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere, convened by UNESCO in 1968 with the participation of the United Nations and other specialized agencies. WHO had been glad to associate itself with the conference. The participants had critically reviewed the whole of human ecology in relation to the changing biosphere and man's role as beneficiary, violator and manipulator of his environment.

34. The outlook for improving environmental health and controlling the ill-effects of the numerous forms of pollution, to which millions of human beings and other creatures were constantly exposed, continued to deteriorate. The international conference on problems of the human environment, which the United Nations proposed to hold in 1972, and in which WHO would co-operate fully, would consequently be an event of the first importance, since it would make the world community better aware of the danger which those problems represented, not only for the present but, even more ominously, for future generations.

35. WHO had fully co-operated in the various steps taken to trace the preliminary outline of a strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It had endeavoured tentatively, but as pragmatically as possible, to outline the global objectives it regarded as feasible between 1971 and 1980 in well-defined fields in which it had both competence and knowledge of existing needs. The Director-General of WHO had addressed the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade and had described WHO's contribution in broad terms. WHO would continue to co-operate actively with other organizations of the United Nations system and with Governments in the great work of preparing the strategy for the Second Development Decade. It was encouraging to see the growing sense of interdependence which characterized the co-operation of the other organizations of the United Nations system and the many sources of bilateral assistance and which was bound to contribute to the success of their efforts "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom", as provided in the Preamble to the Charter.

36. Mr. YOST (United States of America), emphasizing the paradox of spectacular material and scientific progress, as epitomized by the imminent landing on the moon, in a world which tolerated large armaments, social injustice, a population growing too rapidly and a decline in the quality of human life, said that the Council could play a part in helping the world's present fragmented, underdeveloped and self-destructive society to improve its capacity to govern itself and to place within the reach of all peoples the intellectual and material benefits now available to many. In the past twenty-five years an imposing system of international agencies had been created to promote progress in labour, agriculture, health, education and finance linked to the United Nations and serving its objectives. Later the technical assistance and pre-investment programmes now merged in UNDP and IDA had been created. The developing countries had

achieved an appreciable rise in their rate of economic growth during the first United Nations Development Decade. Impressive progress had been made in industrial production, international river development, education and food production; family planning programmes had been initiated to counter the disastrously rapid population growth. However, that was only a beginning, since half the world's population was still undernourished, education in most countries was inadequate in quantity and quality and vast physical and human resources remained untapped.

37. The problem of development was much more complex than had been supposed: it was not merely a matter of pouring in capital and technical assistance, setting up industries and multiplying bureaucracies and laws, but of organizing those and other essential processes in a dynamic and balanced pattern of modernization. Those processes, most of which were essential to all healthy societies, needed to be assisted and co-ordinated internationally; there was still a pressing need for the transfer of large amounts of capital from developed to developing countries. The United States Government, while trying to combat poverty and under-development in its own economy, proposed to continue to provide foreign aid, with emphasis on technical assistance, assistance in food production and family planning assistance through multilateral channels and private enterprise. The President of the United States had proposed a contribution of \$100 million to UNDP on a matching basis, an increase of 43 per cent. Significant contributions were proposed to be made to IDA and to the regional development banks. The United States whole-heartedly supported the new programme of IBRD.

38. It was necessary to find ways of promoting development while avoiding the evils of unplanned industrialism, increasing the flow of material goods and, at the same time, fostering stable political systems and a healthy cultural environment. The chief vice of modern industrial society seemed to be not the exploitation of man by man but a disoriented, blind, technological momentum, which needed to be guided and controlled. Since all development depended to a large extent on training and education, the most appropriate way of observing International Education Year would be to ensure that United Nations education programmes were wisely directed and well balanced. Their objectives should be universal elementary education and literacy, and higher education for as many as possible, but the developing world's most acute need was for able managers, experts and technicians.

39. A new major element in the present-day concept of development was growing concern for the quality of the human environment. Pollution was becoming a world problem requiring solutions on a world scale. Much of modern life was now city life; although the nerve centres of economic and cultural life, cities were also dangerous breeding grounds of human wretchedness, rootlessness,

unemployment and violence. One of the objectives of development strategy must therefore be to make the modern city a place in which people could live and work in dignity. Since the misery of urban slums was compounded by the flight from rural misery, agriculture and industry must be treated as part of an integrated development scheme and their problems resolved together. Technical advances, coupled with land reform, were already bringing about a revolution in agriculture, and the United States intended to give added impetus to the World Food Programme and other international activities in that field.

40. The population problem constituted a threat to human survival comparable to that of nuclear weapons. It was imperative to find an early solution, as the world's population was expected to double within the next twenty-five years. Some ecologists believed that the optimum population level had already been passed and that, unless growth rates were substantially reduced by the end of the next decade, all efforts to promote development, increase food supplies and improve the quality of life would be in vain. Fortunately, effective means were available if the political will was forthcoming. Concerted action was needed. His Government was prepared to support the United Nations Fund for Population Activities on an increasing scale and endorsed the proposal that UNDP should assume full responsibility for the fund's administration. Population measures could then be planned and executed as part of over-all plans for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

41. Since man was the sole aim as well as the principal agent of all development, the progress achieved by the Council in its various fields of competence should be measured, not merely in terms of gross national product, but also in terms of net human benefits. The guiding principle of all development effort must therefore be more than the alleviation of material poverty and physical hunger; it must be the raising of the quality of human life. The task of the United Nations was to foster the physical and institutional conditions in which each nation and each community, drawing on the best in its own traditions and the experience of others, could freely create a better and more human way of life for its people.

42. Emphasizing the importance of co-ordination for the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade, he said that full use would have to be made of all the United Nations bodies responsible for co-ordination. He paid a special tribute to UNDP, whose method of programming and funding had made the efforts of co-operating Governments and agencies most effective. In promoting co-ordination, the Council should make a special effort to combat two undesirable tendencies: one was the force of mutual exclusion among technical specialities, which too often led to the isolation of disciplines and hindered the attainment of common objectives; the other was the division of developed and less developed countries into two mutually exclusive and mutually suspicious camps. Any real differ-

ences of perspective and interest between developed and developing countries would yield not to coercion by wealth or voting majorities but only to rational discussion and, where necessary, compromise in the light of overriding common interests. Development programmes could be fruitful only if they enjoyed the support of both developing and developed countries and any United Nations undertakings which lacked that support would merely dissipate resources and, in the long run, bring the Organization into discredit. In taking up the challenge to raise the quality of human life, the United Nations had a chance to make headway, not only against poverty, but also against political instability, social injustice, defilement of the environment, the degradation of human life, enmity and war. Those, then, were the noble aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

43. Lord CARADON (United Kingdom) said that the statement of the Secretary-General, which had been read by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the previous meeting, had been necessarily disturbing in its definition of dangers, but encouraging in its confidence that those dangers could be overcome by international effort. Having spent a large part of his life on development planning and action in developing countries, which from the practical viewpoint was the most important aspect of the development process, he wished to examine activities at the centre of the United Nations system in the light of his experience.

44. A central question was whether the Second United Nations Development Decade could be made a practical success rather than an exercise in theoretical economic speculation. The creation in recent years of means of providing international assistance for development was of much greater significance than was generally realized and constituted in fact an extremely important advance. Only recently had it been acknowledged that the world could not remain one-third affluent and two-thirds impoverished and that poverty could not be eradicated by the poor alone; as a result, effective machinery for multilateral development aid had been created. Over the past decade, UNDP had been built up to the point where, in 1969, over 100 Governments had contributed to it a total of nearly \$200 million. Although such a level of aid would be inadequate for the future, the machinery and the means of increasing it were established. In that context, those responsible for UNDP activities had shown themselves to be among the most practical internationalists of the twentieth century. It was to be expected that IBRD would provide a new lead in the coming United Nations Development Decade and that, with increasing co-operation among UNDP, IBRD and the full range of United Nations agencies and organizations, the United Nations would play a far more important part in international development in the new decade than in the one which had preceded it.

45. The prospect of increased efficiency offered by the timely studies currently being undertaken by UNDP and IBRD encouraged that hope. When the results of those

studies were known, quick and confident decisions would be necessary so that a period of vigorous new action could begin. Until that happened, encouragement could be derived from the increasing realization that development was a fully concerted effort. It was increasingly recognized that development in any country must be the result of consultation between the representatives of national and international sources of development aid and government planning authorities, involving examination of needs and priorities and the identification of each donor's most effective contribution to a balanced programme. Apart from such concerted country programmes, regional development projects were also essential. The influence of international organizations would play an increasing part in encouraging such regional development.

46. However, the concept of the new Development Decade involved more than international machinery and the concentration of development in national and regional programmes. While it might be doubted whether much of what took place was practical planning rather than mere wishful talking, and while suspicion of theoretical economic dissertations might be justified, he believed that the wide-ranging discussion which had developed in recent years in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council would be of great consequence for the future. The debate between developed and developing nations in UNCTAD and elsewhere had raised questions of trade barriers and trade preferences and had shown that, without improvement in the conditions and flow of trade, all the efforts of the developing countries and all attempts to help them would be ineffective. The United Kingdom, as a country which had long depended on trade for its economic survival, was convinced of the importance of that aspect. The dialogue between developed and developing countries was becoming increasingly important each year, since the rapidly growing gulf between rich and poor, coupled with the problems of race and population, was widely regarded as the most dangerous development in the modern world. The opportunity for mutual understanding offered by the Council and by UNCTAD was therefore of vital importance, and it would be a mistake to imagine that, because progress had initially been slow, the hope of economic co-operation thus afforded was not among the most important aspects of international endeavour.

47. He then referred to the part which the United Kingdom could play in the all-important effort of multilateral development. Like other major contributors to the United Nations, his Government favoured caution in accepting new commitments and due economy in expenditure, but was not prepared to adopt a reactionary policy and was opposed to arbitrary ceilings designed to block new initiatives. Despite temporary financial difficulties, the United Kingdom was the second largest contributor to the United Nations system as a whole. When it had been decided, in 1965, that the financial situation of the United Nations should be restored by voluntary contributions, his Government had made the first and largest response to that appeal; *inter alia*, it had also



contributed to nearly every voluntary fund established by the United Nations, had increased its contribution to UNDP and, in ratifying the second replenishment agreement, had pledged more than \$155 million to IDA.

48. Any criticisms which his delegation made would therefore be constructive. The United Kingdom was seriously concerned with the matter of controlling expenditure in the United Nations system. Whereas Governments had appropriate organs responsible for ensuring that expenditure did not exceed resources, in the United Nations system any delegation could propose a new conference or visiting mission, or new documentation sometimes involving heavy expense, without needing to indicate the source of the funds to be used. The system did not make it necessary to be selective or to set priorities, with the result that too much was attempted simultaneously, there was diffusion and duplication of effort, and documentation took the place of policies and discussion of action. In spite of its concern at that situation, his Government did not wish to stifle initiative or to impose rigid restrictions, but believed simply that the criterion applied should be that of benefit to ordinary people and the improvement of backward economies. The United Kingdom's purpose was to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to improve management methods and the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations.

49. The problem of population was one of deep concern to the international community and to every nation in the world. While primarily a human problem and a matter for the individual and the family, it was also social, affecting not only the family, but also individual countries and the world as a whole, in that overpopulation meant disease and poverty and constituted a brake on progress. The extent of the danger was dramatized by the fact that the world's population was currently increasing by 1 million a week and that the rate of growth was rising still higher. However, an awareness of the danger had been generated when, on Human Rights Day in 1966, the Secretary-General had announced and endorsed the Declaration on Population by World Leaders, then signed by twelve heads of State. The signal for the move from discussion to action had been followed up at the International Conference on Human Rights held in Teheran in 1968, and the effort to make up for lost time was gaining momentum with the active and practical support of IBRD. The United Nations and many of the specialized agencies were playing a part, and the subject of population figured prominently on the agenda of the current World Health Assembly. The valuable contribution of voluntary organizations was exemplified by the proposals recently put forward by the National Policy Panel of the United Nations Association of the United States. The United Nations, therefore, had a heavy responsibility and a special opportunity for a new endeavour in international co-operation, in which all members of the United Nations family could play a part, and he hoped that the Econ-

omic and Social Council would whole-heartedly endorse the enterprise.

50. A further question of great importance was what could be done to enlist the energies of youth in international development. The United Nations should be the symbol of hope for the youth of all nations, especially at a time when the young opposed the nationalism, power politics and racialism of the older generation and placed their trust in international co-operation and the power of international agreement. It must not be forgotten that it was primarily the new generation which would suffer or benefit from decisions taken at the present time with regard to poverty, population and race.

51. In that context it might be asked whether the participation of youth in United Nations plans for economic development and social progress had been adequately sought. While in his view the answer to that question must be negative, he also believed that the young people of the world were ready for a challenge which would enable them to show their hatred of poverty and privation and their contempt for racial discrimination and domination. At its current session, the Council would have to consider the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development, under General Assembly resolution 2460 (XXIII), initiated by Iran, and adopted unanimously. In the past three years, the number of volunteers from developed countries had doubled to a total of 20,000 and a number of developing countries had now mobilized over 60,000 trained and skilled volunteers to work on development projects. There was a growing feeling that such efforts were essentially international in nature. The spirit of voluntary service was strong, and one of the Council's tasks was to consider the preparation of a practical plan which, without setting up expensive or elaborate new machinery, would give the whole voluntary movement a new international impetus and a closer association with international development projects.

52. It had also been recently proposed by youth organizations, which had a vital interest in the question as to how the United Nations could be made more effective in future, that the new generation should play a part in the preparations for the Organization's twenty-fifth anniversary. In the context of the problems of the Second United Nations Development Decade, of the contribution each country could make to it and the dangers of poverty, population and race, means should be sought to enlist the interest and enthusiasm of young people, not only on a volunteer basis but also in order to ensure that the world-wide needs of development were increasingly dealt with by an international effort in which both old and new nations and generations could co-operate.

The meeting rose at 12.5 p.m.