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*President:* Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

## AGENDA ITEM 7

## Regional co-operation:

- (a) Reports of the regional economic commissions and of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (E/4639 and Add.1, E/4640, E/4641, E/4651 and Add.1, E/4659, E/4726; E/L.1264, E/L.1265)
- (b) Report on the meetings of the executive secretaries (E/4709; E/L.1264, E/L.1265) (*continued*)

1. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) said that his delegation agreed in general with the remarks made in the debate regarding the importance of the work of the regional economic commissions and the need to facilitate their work and to encourage co-ordination and decentralization. At future meetings the Council should perhaps begin its discussions after hearing the statements of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and of the Director of UNESOB.

2. The Executive Secretary of ECLA had mentioned at the 1614th meeting the progress made by countries in the region; nevertheless, there were still problems to be resolved, especially in the spheres of trade and financing. Trade had become a battle in which the chief weapon was technological progress. The developing countries still had a long way to go before they could claim to take part in the battle on an equal footing, and it was therefore right to plan the establishment of a preference system and the application of equitable prices.

3. Mr. RODRIGUEZ LARRETA (Uruguay), supported the Mexican representative's suggestion regarding the po-

sition to be given in the agenda to the study of the reports of the regional economic commissions and of UNESOB.

4. He did not share the view expressed by the delegation of a European country that ECLA had lost its effectiveness in the region within its purview. The task of ECLA, which had done excellent work, was to analyse and study the problems of the region. For decisions regarding the policy it should follow, there existed at the regional level intergovernmental bodies such as OAS and the Special Committee on Latin American Co-ordination.

5. His delegation fully understood the remarks of the Executive Secretary of ECLA regarding the economic situation of the Latin American countries and the size of their balance of payments deficit, which had been partly offset by entries of capital. He wished to stress, however, that the element of assistance contained in loans granted on favourable terms represented less than half of the total aid, which was really very little. The policy of price stabilization practised by Uruguay should also be mentioned as one of the factors which had enabled certain countries in the region to check inflationary pressures.

6. Among the problems of concern in the region the Executive Secretary of ECLA had mentioned the system of tied loans whose harmful effects were particularly noticeable in the Latin American countries. As a result of that system, as was well known, those countries were compelled to buy products and articles which they did not need. It was to be hoped that that system would be abandoned.

7. After recalling the main directions of the activity of IMF in recent years, he expressed the view that the prospects for trade in commodities were not perhaps as bleak as had been implied. There were encouraging factors, among which should be included the ideas put forward at the sixth Conference of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, held at Port of Spain in June 1969, regarding the establishment of an interest equalization fund. In conclusion, he drew attention to the fact that ECLA had modified its activities in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council so as to concentrate its efforts on the most important sectors of activity, and that it had decided to continue to meet every two years and to dispense with the meetings of the Committee of the Whole which had previously been held in the intervening years.

8. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Observer for Chile), speaking under rule 75 of the rules of procedures said that Chile,

the host country for ECLA, gave constant support to the work of the Commission.

9. For twenty years the process of development of the Latin American countries had been to a large extent directed and promoted by ECLA, which had prepared an inventory of the economic and social situation of the region and had devised an appropriate development theory. Before its establishment, solutions had been sought basically through studies and contributions from Europe and the United States, but ECLA had launched a regional co-operation movement which had contributed to the creation of the Central American Common Market, LAFTA, IDB and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. After defining trade and development problems within ECLA, the Latin American countries had been able to make a notable contribution to the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

10. The reports submitted by the Executive Secretary of ECLA and by that body itself gave an account of what had happened in the economy of Latin America over the past two years. The Executive Secretary of ECLA had drawn attention to the fact that the global product of the countries of the region had increased by 5.7 per cent during the period despite the poor agricultural output in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay, but it should be noted that the situation had somewhat improved in 1968 in Chile, where agricultural production had increased by 4.7 per cent, mainly as a result of an agricultural development plan, agrarian reform and a prices policy. The Uruguayan representative had also mentioned the need for very rapid expansion of the exports of Latin American countries. The developed countries should be aware that, if they really implemented a policy which substantially increased the exports of developing countries by allowing easy access to their markets for the manufactures and semi-manufactures of those countries, they could realize a substantial profit, because the Latin American countries would be able to buy a very much larger volume of capital goods.

11. Paragraph 383 of volume I of the ECLA report (E/4639) gave some idea of the problems which the development of Latin America would encounter in future years, and a solution to those difficulties was urgently needed. It was also to be noted, as indicated in paragraphs 389 and 390 of the report, that the volume of loans, together with their terms and conditions was far from satisfactory. There had, however, been progress in structural reforms: the Latin American countries were making immense efforts to modernize their infrastructure and improve the living conditions of their peoples; the help of IDB in that connexion was invaluable, and IBRD had recently adopted a more positive policy in that sphere.

12. With regard to the regional integration movement, it was regrettable that the political situation in Central America was endangering the success of the very prom-

ising scheme for integration represented by the Central American Common Market. The regional integration movement was continuing: on 28 May 1969, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru had signed at Bogotá a sub-regional integration agreement intended to harmonize the economies of those countries and improve the standard of living of their peoples. The agreement, signed within the framework of LAFTA, proposed co-ordination in the sphere of economic policies and envisaged the establishment of a strategy for the development of the sub-region; such a strategy would enable the economic development of member countries to be accelerated, infrastructure problems to be resolved, the differences in development between various countries to be reduced, and greater benefit to be derived from the progress of science and technology. The member countries of the sub-region had undertaken to co-ordinate their development plans and to harmonize their economic and social policies with a view to achieving integrated planning. In the sphere of customs, the decision had been made to establish a common external tariff to come into force by 31 December 1980, and a minimum external tariff would be approved before 31 December 1970. The decision had also been made to grant preferential conditions to Bolivia and Ecuador with the aim of reducing economic differences in the sub-region. That scheme for integration might serve as a precedent for other areas.

13. In order to resume the position they had occupied in 1960 in comparison with developed countries, the Latin American countries should increase their income by 5 per cent a year at least, in other words, multiply by three the present rate of increase of their exports. To that end, the countries themselves must intensify their efforts: they must increase savings, reform structures, particularly in agriculture, bring about an improvement in income distribution, establish a more effective employment policy and, above all, produce a radical change in the conditions of external trade, as was recommended in the resolutions adopted by ECLA.

14. The Chilean Government attached particular importance to some of the resolutions adopted by ECLA at its thirteenth session. In the first place, it gave full support to resolution 288 (XIII) relating to the ECLA Office for the Caribbean: the countries of that sub-region should receive increased aid from United Nations agencies and from regional bodies. Resolution 286 (XIII), relating to the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, was also of the greatest interest; the Institute was making a notable contribution in the sphere of research into the problems of development and the training of experts. Under the terms of that resolution, the Secretary-General and UNDP were invited to provide the necessary support in order to convert the Institute into a permanent body and to ensure its financing over the long term; the Institute would not be able to pursue its activities if its financing continued to be as precarious as it was at the present time. In general, the regional planning institutes should enjoy the advantages that UNDP had given to applied research work in agriculture, namely, exemption from the requirement of counterpart support

from the beneficiary countries. Attention should also be drawn particularly to resolution 292 (XIII), relating to external financial co-operation, which constituted a veritable statement of principle giving the Latin American countries' viewpoint on the question. That declaration of principle was true for the whole problem of financial co-operation with the developing countries.

15. ECLA was now beginning a new stage in its existence. It should go further with the study of the problems already identified and propose fresh solutions which sovereign States might adopt more easily and without stops and starts. It should also co-operate in the process of regional integration and consequently examine the possible repercussions of measures which might be taken to that end. With regard to trade, ECLA should naturally collaborate actively with UNCTAD, but it should also co-operate directly with the other regional economic commissions which, owing to their closer contacts, could improve the trade of the developing countries as a whole. Such collaboration should also be extended to cover joint studies. It was noteworthy in that respect that ECLA had been requested to examine with FAO the effect of plans implemented in Europe for the restructuring of agriculture in order to determine the possible consequences of similar plans in other regions. An invitation should be extended to ECE to take part in the study in view of the experience it had acquired in that sphere.

16. The PRESIDENT announced that the general discussion on agenda item 7 (a) and (b) was concluded and invited the Council to vote on the draft resolutions submitted to the Council by the regional economic commissions. Those draft resolutions were in part IV of the reports of the various commissions. Document E/4726 showed the financial implications of the recommendations of the commissions.

17. In addition, a draft resolution on the role of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB in the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/L.1264) and a draft resolution on regional co-operation (E/L.1265) had been submitted.

18. Mr. MAS (France) considered that draft resolutions E/L.1264 and E/L.1265 required detailed study, and suggested that consideration of those two texts should be postponed. If that suggestion was accepted, voting on the four draft resolutions proposed by the regional economic commissions should also be postponed, as those draft resolutions, and particularly the one submitted by ECE (E/4651, part IV), were closely related to the other two drafts.

19. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) proposed the adoption of a draft resolution on UNESOB reading as follows:<sup>1</sup>

*"The Economic and Social Council,*

*"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (E/4659);*

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document E/L.1266.

*"2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to strengthen the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut by providing it with the necessary expertise and other means which will enable it to discharge efficiently its functions in the field of social and economic development."*

20. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1264 had agreed to add a number of amendments to it. If those amendments were accepted, the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1265 would withdraw their text.

21. In the first place, two paragraphs should be added to the end of the preamble to resolution E/L.1264, to read:

*"Endorsing the proposals for re-organization in resolutions 188 (IX) and 189 (IX) of the Economic Commission for Africa, aimed particularly at strengthening the sub-regional offices,*

*"Taking note of the memorandum of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Ministers of ECA,"*

and a fourth operative paragraph should be added, to read:

*"Recommends that adequate resources be made available to enable the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthen its sub-regional offices."*

22. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) said that the draft resolution proposed by the regional economic commissions, the draft resolution on UNESOB and draft resolutions E/L.1264 and E/L.1265 were closely related and should be considered in detail. It would be desirable to refer them to the Co-ordination Committee so as to avoid any duplication or overlapping. The amendments to those various draft resolutions, including the one his delegation intended to propose, could be studied by that committee.

23. Mr. NICOL (Sierra Leone), supported by Mr. SINGH (India), said that the four draft resolutions submitted by the regional economic commissions had already been thoroughly studied by the commissions and that there was no reason to resume the discussion on the subject. The Council should adopt the four draft resolutions immediately, reserving the possibility of considering the other three texts at a later date or of referring them to the Co-ordination Committee.

24. Mr. AHMED (Sudan) was not in favour of the suggestion made by the Mexican representative. In the first place, the Council had already decided, at the beginning of the current session, how the various agenda items should be divided among the Council itself, the Co-ordination Committee and the Economic Committee. There was no reason to change that decision. Moreover, the reports and draft resolutions submitted by the regional economic commissions had already been considered

in plenary meeting. The draft resolutions had been studied in detail by the regional commissions; the Council had only to adopt them.

25. Following a procedural discussion between Mr. OLDS (United States of America), Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta), Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico), Mr. ABE (Japan) and Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom), Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) formally proposed that the discussion on the various draft resolutions submitted to the Council should be suspended, in accordance with rule 54 of the rules of procedure. That would enable delegations to hold consultations to determine the best procedure to follow.

26. The PRESIDENT put the proposal of the USSR representative to the vote.

*The proposal was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

##### Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/4609, E/4706, E/4663):

- (a) United Nations Development Programme
- (b) United Nations Capital Development Fund
- (c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General

27. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the note by the Secretary-General (E/4663), which followed General Assembly resolution 2460 (XXIII), in which the Council had been requested to study the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development and to include in its report to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, if possible, conclusions and recommendations on that subject.

28. Mr. COOMARASWAMY (Assistant Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) presenting the reports of the Governing Council of UNDP on its seventh and eighth sessions (E/4609 and E/4706), said that the conception of the first United Nations Development Decade as a failure was over-simplistic and therefore exaggerated. While there had indeed been disappointments, it was also true that never before in human history had so much been accomplished by national and international efforts in a single decade. When the first Development Decade had been promulgated, many had considered too bold the target of a 5 per cent rate of growth of aggregate national income. It was highly significant that, according to latest reports, the low-income countries as a group had already reached that target, even before the end of the decade. Admittedly, progress in the struggle against hunger, ignorance, disease and the other ills from which the developing countries suffered had not been as rapid as it might have been, and population

growth had diminished and in some cases wiped out benefits which might have been enjoyed. All things considered, however, the efforts of the low-income countries had produced heartening results.

29. For the first time, agricultural production had begun to increase more rapidly than population growth; the expansion of the industrial sector and other areas of infrastructure building, while uneven, had been generally impressive. Untapped natural resources had been uncovered and vast strides forward had been made in education and training. Advances in science and technology had been particularly outstanding during the decade, especially with regard to agriculture, industry, the production of raw materials, health and education.

30. One of the most important of the less tangible but hardly less critical accomplishments of the first Development Decade had been that the officials and private citizens in the developing countries had been caught up in what might be called a "rising tide of realism" and that those concerned with administering development assistance programmes had acquired both greater humility and greater confidence. It could therefore be said that, regardless of all that remained to be done, the over-all results of the first Development Decade had been positive, inasmuch as the lot of millions of children had been improved and attitudes were now more favourable to development.

31. In the view of the Administrator and his colleagues, the stage was set for the United Nations to serve as a "revolutionary instrument" for economic and social change, as the Secretary-General had said in his opening address read out at the 1603rd meeting. Among the positive achievements of the past few years was the growth in multilateral capital, technical and pre-investment assistance. For example, annual commitments for projects had risen from \$50.7 million in 1958 to \$237.2 million in 1963, and to \$430.4 million in 1969. At its eighth session, the UNDP Governing Council had considered various structural and procedural innovations designed to make technical assistance from the United Nations system more productive.

32. The two programmes adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh and eighth sessions represented a substantial new commitment of resources in the matter of technical assistance. They included 156 major new pre-investment projects and supplementary financing for undertakings in the Special Fund component, estimated to cost some \$329 million on completion; \$137 million had been earmarked from the central resources of UNDP and the equivalent of \$192 million was to be contributed in cash and kind by the recipient Governments. In addition, the Governing Council had earmarked approximately \$79 million for projects under the Technical Assistance component for the year 1969 and had approved the distribution of about \$85 million for technical assistance activities for 1970. In that connexion, there was reason to welcome the increased financial sup-

port of Member States, whose contributions had reached a new high level in 1969—\$196 million—7 per cent above the figure for 1968. However, that increase must not be allowed to generate complacency, for the needs to be met far exceeded the available resources.

33. On the whole, the main emphasis on the programmes approved in 1969 remained unchanged, although greater emphasis had been given to follow-up assistance to projects requiring continued support or to those with a relatively short initial phase of exploration and preparation as well as to projects calling for more systematic forms of inter-agency collaboration, industrial projects for the establishment of manufacturing industries and national and regional projects concerning transport and communications networks.

34. At its eighth session, the Governing Council had reviewed UNDP's operations in 1968. In that connexion, it should be pointed out, having regard to the small proportion of UNDP's share in the total United Nations budget, that in 1968 UNDP had provided \$212 million, including agency overhead costs, for the implementation of technical assistance activities in over 120 developing countries. That figure represented an increase of some \$40 million, or 25 per cent, above the 1967 level. An almost equal amount of project support by Governments had made it possible to launch or carry forward 3,400 projects, including 2,814 technical assistance undertakings.

35. In the Special Fund component, 595 major projects had been under implementation during 1968. On 31 May 1969, 248 projects had been completed since 1959, 589 had been under execution and 188 were being prepared.

36. The 1968 expenditure on projects in the Special Fund and Technical Assistance components had provided 8,200 experts, including the services of 1,000 consultants. About one-fifth of the experts had been nationals of sixty-six developing countries receiving UNDP assistance. In addition, over 8,000 fellowships had been awarded during the year, mainly under the Technical Assistance component.

37. While it was not possible to assess with any precision the total impact of UNDP, he wished to cite a few statistics which would indicate some measure of the achievements thus far. Pre-investment projects supported by UNDP had directly or indirectly stimulated investment commitments exceeding \$3,000 million.

38. Less readily quantifiable, but perhaps even more important, were the results being achieved by UNDP in education and training. UNDP had estimated that more than 300,000 persons in the developing countries had thus been able to upgrade their technical and professional skills. Furthermore, through laboratory work and applied research in UNDP-assisted institutes, developing countries were adapting already proven modern technology to local conditions.

39. The Administrator had been able to hold a completely frank discussion with the Governing Council on the difficulties and shortcomings that militated against even more effective operations and to explore practical remedies with it. Further attention had been given, for example, to the problem of the better co-ordination of assistance efforts within the United Nations system. The Governing Council had again placed emphasis on the need for programming to originate at the country level and for making more use of the resident representative in order to ensure the co-ordination of the advice to be given to Governments on the use of UNDP resources. Another problem considered of primary importance was that of the timely recruiting of international field personnel. In that regard, the Governing Council had endorsed the Administrator's proposals and had urged still greater use of experts from developing countries.

40. The main policy decisions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council calling for specific action by the Economic and Social Council included the draft resolution on regional and inter-regional technical assistance projects (E/4706, annex III) and the draft resolution on the 1970 regular programme of technical assistance (E/4706, para. 305 (d)).

41. The Governing Council had taken a number of other decisions. First, in regard to the UNDP Revolving Fund, it had approved the arrangements for administering the fund as an entity and not having it sub-divided into designated amounts for particular purposes; henceforth, the fund would finance contingency activities prior to approval of projects under the Special Fund component, the execution of its investment-oriented feasibility studies and projects such as those under the Special Industrial Services programme. The size of the fund would be increased from \$8.5 million to \$12 million. Secondly, in regard to the mobilization of development capital, the Governing Council had endorsed the Administrator's proposal to finance from the Revolving Fund, up to a ceiling of \$200,000 per project, the preparation of short-term investment-oriented feasibility studies. Thirdly, the Governing Council had attached great importance to the Administrator's suggestion that UNDP should support, on an experimental basis, activities in basic research, particularly in agriculture, and had authorized the Administrator to exempt any Government or Governments requesting the implementation of such projects from having to provide counterpart support. Fourthly, in regard to family planning, a comparatively new area of UNDP activity, several members of the Governing Council had welcomed the agreement reached under which UNDP would be entrusted with the administration of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Fifthly, in regard to industry and trade, the Governing Council had welcomed the increase in the volume of assistance being provided for industry and had also urged that UNDP should seek to improve trade more actively by co-operating closely with the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre. Sixthly, in regard to the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Governing Council had reaffirmed its

earlier decision to proceed as soon as possible with the fund's operations and had agreed that, as an interim measure, one way of utilizing resources would be to make available, for UNDP-assisted projects, equipment provided by contributing countries against their pledges to the fund. The Council had also requested the Administrator to explore wider possibilities for making the fund fully operational. Lastly, the Governing Council had discussed a suggestion put forward by the Administrator concerning the need for increasing UNDP's association with bilateral and other multilateral sources of technical co-operation.

42. At its eighth session, the Governing Council had heard an oral progress report by the Commissioner for the Capacity Study, Sir Robert Jackson. The first draft of the study would be ready by the end of September; it would then be circulated to the Governments and agencies concerned. The Governing Council had therefore decided to undertake a preliminary review of the report at its ninth session, in January 1970, and then to convene a special session in March 1970 for substantive consideration of the document.

43. With regard to UNDP's role in the Second Development Decade, the Administrator had already sent a number of observations to the bodies responsible for formulating an international development strategy. The members of the Governing Council generally endorsed the view that the primary role of UNDP should be that of an instrument for assisting the implementation of that strategy. The Administrator was acutely aware that whatever combination of elements might be incorporated in the global development strategy, massive injections of technical and pre-investment assistance were a prerequisite for the more rapid progress of the developing countries. Furthermore, none of the targets put forward could be met alone by transfusions of capital and more enlightened trade policies; the countries' own endeavours were the first prerequisites of progress. To organize those endeavours, most of the countries would need technical and pre-investment assistance on a much larger scale than ever before. UNDP would therefore have an increasingly important role to play in the future. Aware of the needs of the future and of the realities of the present, the Administrator had set attainable targets. While it was disappointing to note that the goal of \$350 million for 1970 suggested by the Secretary-General was not likely to be reached, the approximately \$200 million pledged for 1969 made it possible to hope that the level of \$250 million would be reached in 1970. In that connexion, the Administrator and his colleagues had been heartened by the news that the executive head of the Government of the largest contributor had recommended an increase of over 40 per cent in its contribution to UNDP.

44. Mr. HOO (Commissioner for Technical Co-operation), referring to the reports of the Governing Council of UNDP on its seventh and eighth sessions, said that the Governing Council had a twofold responsibility in reviewing the United Nations technical co-operation programme, namely, to review United Nations activities as

a participating and executing agency, and to review and approve the regular programme of technical co-operation.

45. The Economic and Social Council also had before it a note from the Secretary-General (E/4663) which was intended to assist it in its consideration of General Assembly resolution 2460 (XXIII) calling on the Council to consider the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development. The Secretary-General, believing that youth increasingly wished to become involved in the development process, considered that a volunteer service would provide a means of making a positive contribution to development programmes of the United Nations system.

46. At its seventh session, the Governing Council of UNDP had had before it a study by the Secretary-General (DP/RP/6 and Add.1) on the purposes and objectives of the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation and its relationship to the programmes of UNDP. The study illustrated the special role of the regular programme and its usefulness, indicating that its importance transcended the relatively modest sums appropriated for it. The regular programme was an important source of funds, not only for projects for technical assistance in the fields of social development and public administration, but also for such projects carried out at the interregional and sub-regional levels. Furthermore, it was the only source of financing for the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the programme of technical co-operation in the field of narcotic drugs. It was therefore one of the basic elements of United Nations efforts to promote regional co-operation and to implement the development policies established by the General Assembly and the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The Governing Council of UNDP had endorsed the recommendations concerning the future orientation and role of the regular programme of technical co-operation which the Secretary-General had submitted in paragraph 8 of his study.

47. Those recommendations had been followed as far as possible in the formulation of the 1970 regular programme, which had been approved by the Governing Council at its eighth session, when it had welcomed the emphasis placed on public administration and social development.

48. He drew the Council's attention to paragraph (d) of the decision adopted by the Governing Council (E/4609, para. 181), which contained the changes proposed by the Secretary-General in the programming and budgeting procedures for part V (Technical programmes) of the United Nations budget, and which required action by the Economic and Social Council.

49. By virtue of that decision, the current system of separate section appropriation for part V of the regular budget would be converted to a chapter approach in the form of targets to be applied to the major fields of activity, including industrial development. In its resolution



23 (III), the Industrial Development Board had recommended the retention of a separate section for industrial development in part V (see E/4708). Some members of the Governing Council of UNDP, at its eighth session, had expressed their disappointment at the Industrial Development Board's recommendation and had recognized that the question would have to be resolved by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

50. He emphasized the extent of the technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General in 1968. The appropriations for 1968 had been used to send 2,374 experts to 108 developing countries and territories and to grant 1,821 fellowships to fellows from 124 different countries for study in eighty host countries. In addition, as of 30 April 1969, the United Nations was serving as executing agency for 182 Special Fund projects with a total cost of \$367.2 million. The Secretary-General was constantly striving to improve technical assistance by a whole series of measures.

51. In 1968, 49 per cent of regular programme resources, 19 per cent of technical assistance resources and 26 per cent of expenditures on Special Fund project had been devoted to projects at interregional and regional levels.

52. It was the policy of the United Nations to involve the regional economic commissions and UNESOB more deeply, not only in its technical co-operation activities but also in the planning and programming of all technical co-operation within their respective regions. It was looking into ways of expanding their role in preparing and carrying out regional projects, appraising Special Fund projects requested by countries in their region, commenting on the reports of experts and participating in *ad hoc* country missions.

53. The Secretary-General trusted that, with increased resources, better planning and operational methods and closer collaboration between agencies of the United Nations system, and taking into account the resources available from bilateral programmes, the technical co-operation programmes of the United Nations would result in strengthening its contribution towards achieving the objectives of the Second Development Decade.

54. Mr. CAPPELEN (Norway) said that, with the support of the developing and the developed countries, UNDP had become the largest international pre-investment and technical assistance agency in existence: in 1969, more than 100 Governments were expected to contribute about \$200 million. His Government attached the greatest importance to UNDP, which clearly enjoyed the full confidence of the developing countries, and it channelled through that body a considerable part of its appropriations for development assistance.

55. The increase in voluntary contributions to UNDP was encouraging, even though the rate had slackened in 1969. That tendency should not be allowed to continue

and thus result in stagnation in the growth of contributions to UNDP. Norway intended to continue to increase its contributions. In that connexion, it should be remembered that six relatively small countries were at present supplying more than 30 per cent of the voluntary contributions to UNDP, a proportion approximately four times higher than their regular share of the United Nations budget. It was therefore heartening to note that the President of the United States had recently announced his intention to maintain and increase his country's contribution to UNDP; he hoped that that announcement would be taken as a challenge by other countries.

56. His country was also concerned with finding ways of increasing the efficiency of UNDP. When the results of the important Capacity Study being carried out by Sir Robert Jackson were known, radical changes might be found necessary. A number of changes had already been made as a result of the preparatory consultations, but the publication of the final report would provide a unique opportunity to undertake basic reforms, thus preparing the ground for improved operational efficiency during the Second Development Decade. It was essential that no momentum should be lost after the publication of the final report; his delegation therefore fully supported the decision to hold a special meeting of the Governing Council of UNDP in March 1970 to discuss the study. It would then be for the Council to ensure that the recommendations of the Governing Council were carried out.

57. UNDP was at the very heart of the development assistance activities being carried out by the United Nations family; it was in a position to ensure effective co-ordination at the field level and to integrate all the efforts being made towards development. Since the Administrator was responsible for all UNDP operations and was alone competent to recommend to the Governing Council the projects submitted by Governments, he had to follow closely the work of the executing agencies. The strengthening of the role of the UNDP resident representatives was, in the view of his delegation, the best means of enabling the Administrator to fulfil that responsibility.

58. Two of the decisions taken by the Governing Council of UNDP at its eighth session, namely, that relating to investment-oriented feasibility studies and that concerning a new type of support for agricultural research, warranted particular comment. With regard to the feasibility studies, it might be said that the record of UNDP so far—\$2,800 million in investment attracted by sixty-nine UNDP projects—was quite impressive. However, his delegation thought that there was still room for pre-investment work designed to attract from all sources capital for investment in the developing countries. His delegation wholly approved the decision to carry out new feasibility studies much less costly than the traditional type, aimed at directly securing financing for projects, whether prepared by UNDP or not. With regard to agricultural research, it seemed that one of UNDP's main tasks should be to spread knowledge of the revolutionary

results of basic agricultural research, particularly in connexion with the development of high-yield varieties of wheat and rice.

59. Like a number of other members of the Governing Council, his delegation believed that UNDP should support applied research rather than pure research; in other words, it should concern itself with the direct application of research in the developing countries by means of projects prepared on a national or regional basis.

60. The Governing Council's decision concerning the Revolving Fund had the full support of his delegation, since it introduced an element of flexibility which would enable the Administrator to respond to needs of the developing countries which required rapid action. Norway was also pleased that agreement had been reached concerning the activities of the Special Industrial Services.

61. With regard to the draft resolution submitted by UNDP to the Economic and Social Council concerning the regular programme of technical assistance for 1970

(E/4706, para. 305), and more particularly the third preambular paragraph, which mentioned a recommendation made by the Industrial Development Board at its third session, his delegation wished to draw attention to the decision taken by the Governing Council of UNDP at its seventh session (E/4609, para. 181). Under the terms of its decision, the Governing Council was to recommend that the Economic and Social Council should propose to the General Assembly the abolition of the system whereby appropriations under part V of the budget were required under separate sections. Without in any way wishing to reduce the funds available for industrial development, the importance of which was undeniable, his delegation still thought that the solution originally proposed by the Governing Council of UNDP would best meet the need for flexibility in the programme. Subject to that reservation, his delegation found the draft resolution acceptable. It also supported the draft resolution on the new procedures for regional and interregional technical assistance projects (E/4706, annex III).

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.