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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)
- (b) Report on the meetings of the executive secretaries (E/4709) (*continued*)

1. Mr. KAMINKER (United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut), speaking on behalf of Mr. Martin, Director of UNESOB, introduced the report on UNESOB's activities (E/4659). Although UNESOB was doing its utmost to comply with the many resolutions requesting it to participate in the preparation of surveys and reports to various United Nations organs, its resources were too limited to permit it to do so. It had no specialists in power, transport, water resources or public administration. In many cases it acted merely as an intermediary, apprising the United Nations Secretariat of Governments' problems and apprising Governments of the Secretariat's information requirements. In some instances, the main value of UNESOB lay in its close contact with national authorities.

2. Governments looked upon UNESOB as a source of assistance supplementing UNDP; such assistance generally took the form of advice given to a government department by one of the advisers attached to UNESOB. Since each adviser had to serve several countries and could rarely spend more than a few weeks at a time in any one country, such assistance was little more than a stop-gap where there was no resident expert or where the expert found it difficult to deal with a problem alone. However, experience had shown that visits at regular intervals, to ensure continuity, mattered more than continuous residence. UNESOB could sometimes draw on the services of the inter-regional advisers and other experts. In order to avoid superficiality and dispersion of effort, it phased its activities so as to obtain a cumulative or combined effect,

and restricted them to a few priority tasks. That was all the more necessary since UNESOB, despite its limited budget, now had to act as a Middle Eastern outpost, not only for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, but also for the UNCTAD and UNIDO secretariats. Fortunately the nature of the problems of concern to national development authorities gave a clear indication of the general direction which UNESOB activities should follow.

3. More and more projects were being launched in the developing countries of the Middle East, and the resources available for development were increasing. Choices had constantly to be made, and it was now realized that the efforts made during the Second Development Decade would have to be directed consistently towards clearly defined objectives. Proposals for projects were increasingly related to specific programmes, plans and policies. UNESOB could best contribute to those efforts by acting as a regional information and study centre. The countries would need guidance on national accounts and the preparation of medium-term and long-term projections, involving research in such matters as population structure and distribution. UNESOB had started work in that direction. Its staff and the attached advisers would henceforth collaborate in the preparation of prospective and evaluative studies for the guidance of national development authorities; an example was the *Studies on Selected Development Problems in Various Countries in the Middle East, 1969*.¹ Such studies were increasingly needed by those authorities, by UNDP resident representatives, and by the Committee for Development Planning, and UNESOB proposed to concentrate on them, thus enabling countries to benefit from the experience of their neighbours and showing what could be done through international co-operation. It would be difficult for individual countries to form teams capable of carrying out inter-disciplinary studies in sufficient depth to be useful.

4. Such an inter-disciplinary approach to development problems meant adapting institutional structures and administrative procedures; consequently studies on the lines of the UNDP capacity study carried out by Sir Robert Jackson would be of great assistance. The inter-disciplinary approach had also stimulated inter-agency collaboration in the Middle East; joint efforts were to be made, for example, to improve projections of population trends and manpower needs. FAO had decided to second an agricultural economy expert to UNESOB, which was already co-operating closely with the regional offices of the ILO and UNICEF.

5. The small size of domestic markets made a multi-national approach to development particularly necessary

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.69.II.C.5.

in the Middle East. In a region of small countries, planning, industrial development and international trade were closely linked. Those countries needed rapid industrialization, yet some large-scale industrial enterprises in their territories were working to only a fraction of their capacity. However, they were anxious to co-operate as fully as possible in the development of natural resources and the use of human resources, and UNESOB convened periodic meetings with national authorities for that purpose. Since it was often difficult to launch regional or multinational projects, UNESOB was taking a special interest in national projects which lent themselves to international co-ordination. Although the restoration of peace was the main preoccupation in the Middle East, peace would be lasting only if accompanied by international co-operation in the pursuit of economic and social progress.

6. Mr. LISSOUBA (Chairman of the Executive Committee, Economic Commission for Africa) paid a tribute to the late Mr. Tom Mboya of Kenya, who had been elected to the group formed to submit to the Council the resolutions adopted at the ninth session of ECA.

7. Recalling the conditions which had prevailed in African countries at the time of ECA's establishment, he said that, despite the progress made since then, the economic gap between those countries and the industrialized world had continued to widen. That trend had been accentuated by the failure of the second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Unemployment was increasing, educational facilities were inadequate for development needs, and science and technology had failed to speed up economic development. African States remained relatively isolated from one another, malnutrition was widespread, and islands of urban development were surrounded by vast areas where the rural population eked out a precarious existence. African countries still seemed to be incapable of converting their natural resources into the finished and semi-finished products they needed.

8. Delegations had come to ECA's ninth session in a mood of frustration, impatience and disappointment, realizing that a new approach and concerted action were urgently needed. The session had revealed a general conviction that independence would have to be given a new meaning and that member States, while safeguarding their independence, must recognize that they lived in an interdependent world. Thus the concepts of independence and integration in development had to be reconciled in increasing adherence to the principles and practice of regional economic co-operation. ECA resolution 187 (IX), commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Commission, and resolutions 189 (IX), 190 (IX) and 191 (IX) gave expression to that dual need and stated the basic objectives of the African countries. Under resolution 188 (IX), decisions concerning development objectives would henceforth be taken at a higher level, so as to safeguard the interests of member States and ensure their support. Resolution 189 (IX) provided for the reorganization of

the Commission's secretariat to meet the needs of the future, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council on the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions. The resolution also took into account the comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat, especially those made in paragraphs 33 (a) and 37 of the Committee's report,² which had been confirmed by the Joint Inspection Unit after the unit had visited the Commission's secretariat. Resolution 190 (IX) provided for closer relations with OAU.

9. The member States had agreed that, if a global strategy for development was to achieve results in Africa during the next decade, it would have to be formulated, and its programming and execution in the region would have to be supervised, primarily by those most familiar with the region's development problems. Such action would need co-ordination, which could be carried out only by an organization, such as ECA, possessing a full understanding of development problems and processes. With its new structure, the Commission would have the confidence of Governments and would base its recommendations and decisions on the realities of African development. The Commission's co-ordinating activities would also help it to discharge its principal function of promoting African development. Only co-ordination could ensure that the best use was made of assistance resources, and it was the duty of the United Nations to ensure that assistance operations were efficiently carried out at the national and regional levels. Such co-ordination should be accompanied by decentralization of the administration of specialized agencies' activities in Africa, which should be delegated to ECA.

10. The Executive Committee established under ECA resolution 188 (IX) realized that the proposed restructuring of the Commission and its secretariat and the new roles assigned to them would entail the allocation of more funds by the United Nations. The secretariat should be reorganized in such a way that the activities of the sub-regional offices would supplement those of member States and would be associated with the work of experts from UNDP and other organizations in the sub-regions. Acting as co-ordinating units in their sub-regions in close association with the resident representatives, the sub-regional offices would be able to promote effective economic integration, introduce more rational methods and thus save United Nations resources. In view of the Secretary-General's reference to the financial problems involved in the proposed reorganization, the Executive Committee would submit detailed estimates of the funds needed. The Committee appreciated the need for economy, but it was essential that the funds supplied should be adequate, not

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 74, document E/7359.

only to meet African needs and aspirations, but also to recover lost ground and eliminate inequalities.

11. In the 1960s the African peoples and their leaders had concentrated on laying the foundations of their independence; only in the 1970s would the region enter a development decade. The objectives which the observer for Chile had listed (1613th meeting) for developing countries would be attained in Africa if the resolutions adopted by ECA at its ninth session were approved by the Council.

12. Mr. VRATUŠA (Yugoslavia) said that the regional economic commissions were important to the activities of the United Nations system in that they reflected the characteristics of the regions they covered, developed close co-operation with national economies and institutions, and represented a regional synthesis of the world-wide activities of the specialized agencies. Their reports and the statements by their executive secretaries demonstrated the advances which they had made, especially in connexion with the preparations for the Second Development Decade. It was clear that complex and strenuous efforts were necessary, both within the regions and on a broader international level, to enable the developing countries to make use of preferences, develop trade promotion, modernize agriculture, increase industrial productivity and assimilate science and technology.

13. His delegation welcomed the fact that all the commissions had analysed the experience gained during the first Development Decade and were actively participating in the formulation of strategy for the second. They were also performing a useful service by encouraging integration and developing regional and sub-regional co-operation. The recent increase in operational activity in the commissions raised the problem of co-ordinating and integrating their work with that of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and of supplementing those activities. It was evident from the commissions' reports and the statements of the executive secretaries that efforts were already being made in that direction; those efforts should be encouraged by the Council through arrangements for continuous co-operation among the commissions, such as regular meetings of executive secretaries. The co-operation between the commissions and UNIDO, and that between ECE and UNESCO in science and technology, were particularly impressive. In matters of science and technology, the commissions should co-operate closely not only with UNESCO but also with the other organizations concerned, bearing in mind the specific priorities of their respective regions.

14. ECE was doing extremely useful work with the aid of over 1,000 experts; its annual sessions afforded an opportunity for member States to evaluate their activities and lay down guidelines for new programmes. To make full use of that opportunity, further efforts should be made to bring ECE's membership to its full complement. Its twentieth anniversary, in 1967, had marked the be-

ginning of a new era; its members had reaffirmed their intention to use it as an instrument of co-operation among all European countries, regardless of differences in social and economic systems and of association or non-alignment with regional military blocs. The Executive Secretary had undertaken the necessary measures to ensure flexibility in meeting the new requirements for co-operation created by the development of science and technology. The organizational forms conducive to the development of "horizontal" activities deserved full support; in order to obtain lasting results, time, patience and mutual confidence were needed. Equal attention should be paid to the problems of trade, long-term economic projections and the human environment.

15. Yugoslavia attached great importance to the problems of the less developed countries of southern Europe and, in particular, to the development of tourism in that area. His Government welcomed the attention paid by ECE to the special problems of those countries, and had made a number of proposals on the subject. The development of tourism was of special importance both economically and as a contribution to international co-operation.

16. Political crises in Europe had impeded ECE's work considerably, but the European countries remained aware of the need to maintain and strengthen it. Successful economic co-operation was an essential factor in improving other forms of co-operation and political relations, and the Commission's role was therefore important not only to Europe but to the world as a whole. Since the situation in Europe affected not only development but also peace throughout the world, the European countries should actively foster the expansion of ECE activities, and Yugoslavia was ready to play its part in that task.

17. Mr. ECOBESCO (Observer for Romania), speaking under rule 75 of the rules of procedure, said that the regional economic commissions were making a definite contribution to economic and social progress throughout the world and helping to expand co-operation among States. Such co-operation was rendered increasingly vital by the scientific and technological revolution, but would not develop spontaneously. It required deliberate action by Governments and equal participation by all countries in the search for mutually acceptable solutions to the problems of co-operation in a changing world. Mutual advantage was the keynote of co-operation, which must be based on the principles of sovereignty, independence, equal rights and non-intervention in domestic affairs.

18. Over the years, the regional economic commissions had helped to identify the most pressing needs of their member countries and had carried out important projects of common interest. They played a special part in co-ordinating efforts to overcome under-development on three continents, and would have a wide range of tasks to perform in the Second Development Decade. Romania, itself involved in the process of development, showed its desire to establish co-operative relations with all countries

of the world by sending observers to the annual sessions of ECA, ECAFE and ECLA.

19. In a spirit of peaceful co-existence, Romania was developing its relations with all States, without regard to their social or political systems. It attached particular importance to ECE, which was the only organization devoted to general European co-operation in accordance with the principles of the Charter. Throughout its existence, ECE had provided an adequate setting for co-operation and had proved equal to the demands of economic and scientific progress; it had concerned itself principally with matters of common interest, contributing the exchange of information and experience to the development of economic co-operation.

20. At its twenty-fourth session, ECE had discussed the reorganization of its activities and structure. The discussion had shown the desire of European countries to increase and diversify economic, technical and scientific co-operation through ECE, and had identified the main objectives for that body's future activities. ECE's activities in science and technology were to be intensified and would promote co-operation within Europe and throughout the world. ECE was already co-operating with UNESCO in that field, and the executive secretaries had rightly welcomed UNESCO's proposal for joint action with all the regional economic commissions (see E/4709, para. 28), which would do well to follow the pattern of co-operation set between UNESCO and ECE.

21. There was an urgent need to organize the transfer of technology to the developing countries, but no specialized agency was responsible for all aspects of that process. ECE, some of whose members were leaders in technology, could lay the foundation for such transfer on both a regional and an international scale. Among ECE's other essential subjects of study were industrial co-operation, the application of modern mathematical methods and computer techniques to economic research, the human environment, the chemical industry and long-term programming. With regard to international trade, ECE should in future take a more active part in drafting practical recommendations for the removal of economic, administrative and commercial policy obstacles to trade between member States with different social and political systems.

22. Every session of ECE had yielded a valuable exchange of ideas, and every year its activities had been extended to cover new problems of special urgency. The increasing importance and complexity of its activities indicated the need for annual meetings, so that the work of its subsidiary organs could continue to be concentrated on the most pressing problems of economic development.

23. Consistently with its belief in the principle of universality, his delegation favoured admitting the German Democratic Republic to membership of ECE. That would end the discriminatory practice of ostracizing a sovereign State which was able and eager to contribute to European co-operation, and would increase ECE's efficacy. The

establishment of healthy relations among European States and the creation of a climate favourable to peace and security in Europe would have a beneficial effect on international relations everywhere.

24. ECE had valuable experience to share with the other regional commissions, and should therefore continue and increase its co-operation with them.

25. Mr. BENLER (Turkey) noted that the activities of ECE over the past year had culminated in a meeting at which its long-term programme had been considered and praise had been expressed for the Executive Secretary's report stressing the need to establish priorities for future action (see E/4641, paras. 405 to 414). Europe being in general an advanced continent, ECE had a basic role to play in the Second United Nations Development Decade.

26. His delegation welcomed the attention drawn by previous speakers to the problems of scientific and technical co-operation in Europe, and to the difficulties of the less developed European countries; in particular, it agreed with the representative of Yugoslavia as to the importance of tourism. ECE's experience in dealing with those two sets of problems would prove extremely valuable for other regions of the world. Closer co-operation among the regions was extremely desirable, and his delegation therefore welcomed the policy of holding regular meetings of the executive secretaries.

27. The representative of Belgium had suggested (1609th meeting) the establishment, perhaps in the regional economic commissions, of procedures for the mutual review of policies by member States, on the pattern of OECD. The Turkish Government had found that practice very useful, and believed that the suggestion should be discussed at the next meeting of executive secretaries.

28. The executive secretaries had rightly said that an element of regional or multinational approach must be gradually added to country programming to permit the emergence of a design for the United Nations effort in each region (see E/4709, para. 22 (a)); that recommendation should be considered in conjunction with the Belgian representative's comment that regional procedures would not prevent smaller groups of countries from agreeing on common policies or integrating their development plans and projects. Turkey was an associate member of EEC and hoped to become a full member, but it also retained its interest in programmes for the Middle Eastern region; for example, it was working successfully with Iran and Pakistan towards joint solutions for problems of mutual interest.

29. Mr. MAHDAVI (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that, since the Council's forty-fifth session, UNIDO had made substantial progress in its co-operation with the regional economic commissions. Extensive discussions had been held with the commissions and with UNESOB, leading to agreements on joint efforts

to harmonize programmes and to collaborate in specific projects. The agreement concluded with FAO, which generally reflected those reached with the regional bodies, provided for close consultation between FAO and UNIDO, particularly in the early phase of programme preparations, with a view to identifying projects of common interest and to full co-ordination of future programmes. The two organizations would co-operate in promoting the full utilization of their resources in Asia and the Far East, in particular through UNDP technical assistance projects. They fully recognized the importance of co-operating in the preparation and application of the strategy for the Second Development Decade.

30. Discussions on the application of the agreements reached with the regional economic commissions and UNESOB had been held during the meeting of executive secretaries. It had been decided that UNIDO industrial field advisers would be posted to the headquarters of the regional economic commissions and Beirut as liaison officers. The number of field advisers was to be increased as resources permitted, in agreement with UNDP. A particularly close relationship had developed between UNIDO and UNCTAD; the two organizations relied increasingly on the regional economic commissions to further their own programmes, and their executive heads had both participated in the meeting of executive secretaries.

31. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that his delegation, having repeatedly stressed the need to make more use of the immense capacity of the various regional organizations to tackle some of the important tasks before the United Nations, was gratified to find the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions conscious of the responsibilities which the Council would increasingly lay upon them.

32. Each of the regional economic commissions had its special characteristics: ECE consisted mainly of the more advanced countries, while the other regional commissions were almost exclusively composed of less developed countries, although some major countries with global responsibilities were members of several commissions. The executive secretaries were the persons best placed to ensure inter-regional co-operation and contacts between them had become more systematic, as the report on their meetings (E/4709) showed. There was nevertheless still room for further efforts.

33. The Second Development Decade would, of course, involve all the regional economic commissions. It was vital that targets should be reviewed and adjusted in the light of the experience gained in the course of the decade, and the commissions were particularly well qualified to play a major part in that task.

34. Under the dynamic leadership of its present Executive Secretary, the activities of ECE had undergone a major re-orientation and re-organization. The main emphasis was now being laid on the development of trade, industrial, scientific and technological co-operation,

and the problems of the human environment. The decisions taken at its twenty-fourth session would channel ECE's activities in the direction of practical measures to facilitate trade and industrial co-operation between Eastern and Western Europe, thus tapping resources as yet underemployed.

35. ECE had long been engaged in the simplification and standardization of external trade documents. In 1963 it had reached an agreement on a model form of document known as the "ECE layout key", which had proved to be of great practical value in the European region. ECE recommended, in its resolution 4 (XXIV), that consideration should be given to the layout key whenever documents used in connexion with international trade were being designed. It would be advisable to make arrangements for world-wide work in that field; the best course would be for UNDP to appoint an inter-regional adviser on the simplification and standardization of documents and procedures for international trade, to be attached to UNCTAD. His delegation hoped that that work would be vigorously pursued as part of the effort to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade. It therefore invited the Council to consider and act upon the proposal made by ECE, which was endorsed by the executive secretaries of all the regional economic commissions (see E/4709, para. 59).

36. Mr. DARON (Belgium) said that the regional economic commissions were playing an important part in the work of the United Nations system. It was clear, however, that they would be required to develop even further in the future, particularly in connexion with the Second Development Decade. It was satisfactory, therefore, to find in the report of the executive secretaries' meetings two ideas which his delegation had frequently raised in connexion with the Second Development Decade. The first was that global targets would be more meaningful to individual countries in relation to the potentialities existing in the regions to which they belonged; the second, that regional economic commissions had an important role to play in assessing the economic and social progress achieved in the framework of the Second Development Decade. The regional economic commissions were particularly well placed to carry out such an assessment in their respective regions.

37. The report also stated that the regional economic commissions and UNESOB had become increasingly operational, and that that trend would apparently continue in the future. His delegation considered that the commissions should direct their especial attention to practical problems and should, for that purpose, maintain even closer relations with all organizations of the United Nations family which were active in their regions, particularly UNIDO. The regional economic commissions were faced with situations which were evolving very rapidly, and they had to adapt themselves accordingly. Their reports and resolutions showed that they were well aware of that need and were preparing themselves for the new duties to come.

38. ECE had made great efforts to re-orientate its activities in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the 1967 ministerial meeting. Some appreciable results had been achieved through the efforts of certain delegations which were anxious to make better use of ECE for economic and technological co-operation in the region, particularly between countries with different economic and social systems. His Government fully supported those developments.

39. In the general discussion of international economic and social policy, several delegations had suggested that ECE's activities should be expanded in the light of the efforts made on a broader scale to ensure European security. His delegation believed that ECE would succeed only in undertakings in which political aspects were minimal. The events which had occurred in Europe during the past year had of course had their effect on ECE's work, particularly on the decisions taken at its last session. There had been a halt, or at least a slow-down, in several fields of activity, such as scientific and technological co-operation: the establishment of a permanent organ of ECE to deal with science and technology had been postponed. Despite the unfavourable political setting, however, ECE's twenty-fourth session had produced satisfactory results, largely because, in general, delegations had concentrated on the economic and technological questions which were within ECE's terms of reference. The main result of that session had been the adoption of the measures proposed by the Executive Secretary for the reorganization of the Commission's structures and methods of work.

40. The most important question for ECE was that of trade, and the Executive Secretary had made some fairly optimistic remarks on that subject at the previous meeting. The Norwegian delegation had referred to ECE resolution 4 (XXIV), which had received the full support of the Belgian delegation.

41. Another important problem was that of the human environment. The meeting of governmental experts to be held in Prague in 1971 would serve as a precursor for the United Nations conference on the subject, to be discussed under agenda item 10 of the current session. It was to be hoped that both meetings would prove successful and that, despite the short period which would elapse between them, the United Nations conference would be able to make good use of the results obtained in Prague.

42. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Committee on Development Planning to hold a meeting at the headquarters of ECE on planning problems in the developed countries at a time when the senior economic advisers were considering the preparation of long-term projections in accordance with ECE resolution 7 (XXII). The advisers' efforts were closely related to the preparations for the Second Development Decade.

43. With regard to the principle of universality adduced by certain delegations in connexion with the participation

of Eastern Germany in the work of ECE, his delegation's position was well known and had not changed.

44. A regional economic commission, whether it existed to serve developed or developing countries, was an instrument of decentralization whose merits were increasingly recognized and which promised well for the future.

45. Mr. NOLAN (Ireland) said that the annual progress reports of the regional economic commissions and UNESOB revealed the progressive outlook of all those bodies and the attention they were paying to the utilization of advanced techniques for the exploitation of natural resources, to modern methods of economic research, and to the employment of advanced surveying techniques for their regional work. Such advances would all be needed in promoting the rapid economic growth required to attain the goals of the Second Development Decade. All the commissions were displaying a keen awareness of the part which the economic development of their regions would have to play in the over-all development strategy.

46. The Executive Secretary of ECE had rightly pointed out that the developed world must of necessity be as closely involved as the developing countries in the strategy for the Second Development Decade. Growth in the developed areas of the world would be reflected in the transfer of funds to the developing regions. Regional interdependence in that regard, as in many others, was becoming more clearly recognized and accepted. The Executive Secretary of ECE had taken valuable measures to rationalize and re-organize the structure of the Commission and to subject its methods of work to continuing scrutiny. The results of his endeavours to date had been unanimously endorsed by the members of ECE and were currently being put into effect by the secretariat and subsidiary organs of that body. Other organs of the Council would do well to follow that example and take practical measures to exercise firmer policy control, with a view to strengthening their work programmes during the period of change and redirection of priorities that must precede the Second Development Decade.

47. Like the other economic commissions, ECE provided a unique and important setting for the review of economic relationships within its region as a whole. Nowhere was that potential more evident than in matters of East-West trade. His country was keenly interested in the promotion of such trade, since its balance of trade with the countries of Eastern Europe favoured the latter by a ratio close to 10:1.

48. The regular, although informal, consultations initiated by the Executive Secretary with members of the permanent missions in Geneva kept the ECE member countries regularly informed of the Commission's activities and brought it into a closer relationship with them. Experience had shown that such consultations facilitated policy decisions and the exercise of control over ECE's work.

49. He welcomed the fact that three of the regional organs did not require any increased financial commitments for their forthcoming programmes. The proposals of ECAFE and ECA had significant financial implications which would be examined by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in due course.

50. Mr. de SILVA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the UNESCO General Conference had stressed the importance of regional co-operation in developing science in member States and had issued two specific directives concerning Latin America and Africa. It had authorized the Director-General to study the possibility of establishing a programme for regional integration in education, science, culture and information as part of the movement for the integration of Latin America. It had also invited the Director-General, when preparing his future programme for the African region, to grant high priority to the recommendations and resolutions of the Nairobi Conference on Education and Scientific and Technical Training in relation to Africa, held in 1968.

51. In consequence, understandings had been reached between UNESCO and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of UNESOB concerning the application of science and technology to development. Immediately after the current

session of the Economic and Social Council, a series of consultations would be held between UNESCO and the regional economic commissions to lay down guidelines for their co-operation. A further reason for UNESCO's interest in such co-operation was its desire for closer relations with inter-governmental bodies established on a regional basis, such as OAS and OAU, which did not belong to the United Nations system. The intention was to reach practical working agreements in order to avoid duplication of work and to launch mutually complementary or joint activities. The executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions had invited UNESCO to identify projects suitable for joint action in science and technology.

52. The Director-General of UNESCO, in his annual report to member States, had stated that the problem of co-operation between UNESCO and the regional economic commissions arose in every region in which such a commission existed, particularly in the sphere of science and its application to development. He was prepared to study practical methods for such co-operation and to apply them to the attainment of common targets. UNESCO must not, however, be expected to renounce its constitutional responsibilities.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.