



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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*President: Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).*

## 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) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. BINAGHI (President of the Council, International Civil Aviation Organization), introducing the annual report of ICAO (E/4656 and Add.1), said that, despite the continued though slackening increase in air traffic, high capital costs and low profit margins were forcing many airlines into co-operative arrangements to ensure a high degree of aircraft utilization. The operation of high-capacity and supersonic aircraft would make inter-airline co-operation still more necessary. His organization was giving increasing attention to the economics of air transport. It had decided to appoint air transport officers to four of its regional offices and would make secretariat services available to the recently established African Civil Aviation Commission, a consultative body which would co-operate closely with OAU, ECA and ICAO. It was carrying out studies of the development of air passenger and freight transport and doing everything possible to speed up passenger clearance at airports. Its international standards and recommendations on facilitation were being increasingly applied throughout the world.

2. He hoped that the new body recommended by the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism held in Sofia in May 1969 (see E/4653/Add.1), would not duplicate the work of existing agencies. The present definition of "tourist", for instance, included all persons travelling for business or pleasure, and surveys or studies of travel facilities for tourists might well duplicate some of ICAO's work.

3. His organization kept its international technical specifications for all aspects of air navigation up to date and periodically reviewed its regional plans for air navigation facilities and services. Its Assembly had placed

special emphasis on the problems of the sonic boom and of aircraft noise in the vicinity of airports and on ICAO's role in the application of outer space techniques; a panel of experts had been formed to study the problem of the sonic boom, and a conference would be held by ICAO at the end of 1969 to study all aspects of aircraft noise. The organization continued to co-operate with other organizations of the United Nations system in all matters of common interest, including space technology.

4. A problem of great concern during 1968 had been the unlawful interference with international air navigation and its facilities, especially the hijacking of aircraft. His organization was drafting international legislation on the subject and was urging all States to take appropriate steps to prevent such acts. It had established a committee to deal with all non-political aspects of unlawful interference with air navigation and would recommend preventive measures to safeguard civil aviation.

5. In 1968, ICAO had had resident missions in forty-one States and had assisted many more under UNDP and Special Fund projects. It was participating in the United Nations Fund for the Development of West Irian air transport project in West Irian. Although the training of civil aviation personnel was a more fundamental part of ICAO's technical assistance activities because of the general expansion of air transport, air transport assistance projects in developing countries were also important since they could lead to economic and social improvements and more efficient administration.

6. Mr. RAHI (Director-General, Universal Postal Union) said that the UPU Executive Council and the Consultative Committee for Postal Studies had been particularly busy in 1968 preparing material for the sixteenth Universal Postal Congress to be held in Tokyo in October 1969. The studies, which were concerned mainly with postal rates, airmail, automation and mechanization, would be circulated in pamphlet form to all members of UPU. In the course of their work, those bodies and their subsidiaries took into account as far as possible the recommendations made by various United Nations organs on administrative, budgetary and planning matters.

7. His organization was playing an increasing part in United Nations efforts to promote cultural, economic and social development and was formulating an over-all development strategy for the Second Development Decade, which would begin at the same time as the five-year programme UPU would submit to the next congress. A long-term work programme, based on anticipated postal requirements in 1971-1980, which would be discussed at that congress after consultation with member States, was

the basis of a document prepared by UPU for the Second Development Decade. By 1980, postal traffic was expected to increase at an over-all rate of 10 per cent a year, which meant that it would be some 85 per cent above the level of 1971. UPU was therefore proposing the following targets for the Second Development Decade: one post office for every 20 to 40 km<sup>2</sup> or 3,000 to 6,000 inhabitants on the average (in some developing countries at present one post office served from 100,000 to 300,000 inhabitants); delivery of express mail within a radius of 500 km on the day after posting, under normal transport conditions; a progressive increase in the proportion of international parcels sent by airmail to 30 per cent (at present 6 per cent); and the introduction of financial facilities such as post office savings accounts and postal cheques. In some countries, post office savings and chequing accounts had assets almost comparable to those of banks and helped to finance national projects.

8. UPU had a team of experts in postal service operation and training who were sent on short-term missions to developing countries to evaluate their needs and determine the best way of improving their postal and financial services. The International Bureau had prepared a paper on the postal requirements of developing countries for distribution to UNDP resident representatives; it would shortly issue a pamphlet containing two studies on the selection and training of postal staff. UPU hoped to collaborate with ITU in joint postal and telecommunication training projects under UNDP auspices and had invited countries to submit proposals for such projects.

9. He requested delegations to impress on their Governments the importance of adequate postal services and to inform them of UPU's intention to make a full contribution to the Second Development Decade.

10. Mr. THAJEB (Indonesia) said that the introductory statement by the Secretary-General, which had been read by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the 1603rd meeting, should serve as the basis for the Council's discussion of the major topics before it, the preparations for the Second Development Decade and the formulation of an international development strategy for the 1970s. Those topics should be analysed in the light of the experience gained during the first Development Decade, at the end of which the preconditions for accelerated progress were still absent in many countries. The average rate of increase in both total and *per capita* gross domestic product had actually declined in comparison with the rate achieved during the 1950s, and the performance of countries with low *per capita* incomes and large populations had been inadequate. The developed countries, on the other hand, had continued their rapid economic expansion, had made further progress in science and technology and had intensified mutual trade and co-operation.

11. While the first Development Decade had on the whole stimulated both thought and action, the general world economic and social situation was marked by an

ever-widening discrepancy in the progress achieved by the developing and the developed countries. The trend must be reversed by the vigorous efforts of the developing nations themselves, as well as by matching action on the part of the international community. The developing countries recognized that they bore the primary responsibility for their development, but without international action fuller mobilization and effective utilization of their domestic resources could not be achieved. In his delegation's view, increased co-operation among the developing countries and between them and the developed countries was essential. Development strategy would gain strength from universal participation under a unified policy giving greater coherence and a sense of direction to joint action and relating it more closely to real needs. Economic and social development was a long-term process, in which the successful planning and execution of agreed programmes in the coming decade would provide a solid foundation for subsequent swift advances.

12. Rapid economic progress alone did not automatically result in better living levels and the Second Development Decade should aim at balanced economic and social development oriented towards the improvement of human well-being. Part I of the *World Economic Survey, 1968* (E/4687 and Add.1-3) reviewed the two most important economic sectors: agriculture and industry. The social aspects of development, primarily with regard to population, employment and education, had also been emphasized. Like those responsible for the *Survey*, Indonesian planners had been confronted in formulating their five-year development plan, launched a few months previously, with the problem of whether to emphasize agriculture or industry in order to obtain optimum economic growth. The plan set quantitative targets and was the first of a series, each of which would stress different sectors; the current plan concentrated on the agricultural sector and food production was given top priority. Nevertheless, his Government agreed that, in an effective development strategy, agricultural and industrial development should complement each other. The plan therefore concentrated on the development of agricultural support and processing industries. Improvements in transport and communications in order to cope with the expected increase in economic activity were also contemplated.

13. Social objectives were not neglected; special emphasis was placed on programmes aimed at increasing the health and welfare of families and on reducing the birth rate, in order to prevent population growth from outstripping the increase in productive capacity. Considerable attention was also given to the development of youth, centring on the participation of students in national life.

14. Indonesia's limited domestic resources and the scarcity of foreign exchange made a selective approach necessary and priority was thus given to quick-yielding economic projects. There was a need for increased external resources from trade and international assistance, which were of crucial importance to the development efforts of the developing countries, and his delegation appreciated

the satisfactory response to Indonesia's needs given by the Intergovernmental Group for Indonesia.

15. The formulation of the five-year plan was sufficiently flexible to allow for adjustment resulting from harmonization of national development plans at the regional level. Closer regional economic co-operation was eminently desirable and a special national unit had been established in Indonesia to deal with the problems involved. There was a need for alternative solutions at the regional and sub-regional level. The best initial approach to multilateral co-ordination was joint action by a small group of countries at the same stage of economic development, with more or less identical institutional, technological and economic problems; such a nucleus could subsequently be enlarged to include more countries. Much of the infrastructure of regional co-operation had already been established through the activities of ECAFE, and the resolution on integrated strategy for Asian economic co-operation, adopted by the third ministerial conference of member countries, was a milestone in the history of regional economic co-operation. Nevertheless, it was felt that complete integration of the region was not yet feasible and that the best course to follow would be a sub-regional and sectoral approach, involving the formation of groupings such as Regional Co-operation for Development, Indonesia-Pakistan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and the Association of South-East Asian Nations. The declaration of the latter association, adopted by the five member States, proclaimed that the association's basic aims were to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development. The association enjoyed the support of ECAFE, which had offered services for a study of economic co-operation and integration among its members.

16. The formation of such sub-regional groups ought not to be regarded as proliferation, since it would strengthen economic co-operation and contribute to the development process. Such national and regional efforts must, however, be supplemented by international measures under a coherent international development strategy. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee for the Second Development Decade had agreed on a draft framework for such a strategy, accepting a figure of about 6 per cent as the annual growth rate for the decade but mentioning no specific figures with regard to the *per capita* growth rate or the quantitative targets for the sectors of agriculture, industry, exports and domestic savings (see E/4624 and Add.1). Even when such targets were set, however, the Second Development Decade would be ineffective unless the necessary policy measures were implemented. The Preparatory Committee had identified the main areas in which appropriate policy measures had still to be formulated, of which the most crucial were those of trade and aid. His delegation regretted that the Trade and Development Board had been unable to reach agreement on such measures at its resumed eighth session and urged it to intensify its efforts to do so at its next resumed session.

17. Another essential element of international development strategy was the establishment of appropriate arrangements for review and appraisal. The review and appraisal of progress during the Second Development Decade should be undertaken using an improved version of the mechanisms already in existence; his delegation had suggested at the third session of the Preparatory Committee that a general appraisal of progress achieved at the mid-point of the decade might be useful. It also hoped that, once the formulation of an international strategy was agreed upon, a special session of the General Assembly could be convened in the second half of 1970 for the purpose of launching the Second Development Decade and mobilizing world public opinion behind it. Public opinion was an essential factor in generating the necessary political will for concerted international action.

18. The major impetus for such action must come from the advanced countries. A growing number of private organizations in developed countries were already mobilizing public opinion in support of world development; for example, a number of churches proposed to set aside a percentage of their income for the development of the developing countries. Another important factor was the desire of young people to play a part in the development process and their awareness that the problems could be resolved only in the broad context of the world community. It was therefore extremely important for young people and private entities in developed and developing countries alike to be more closely involved in the activities of the Second Development Decade.

19. Unless current priorities, under which security and defence made heavy demands on the time and financial resources of the developed nations, were changed, the development strategy would be endangered. Within the next few days one of the greatest achievements in the history of mankind, the first landing on the moon, would demonstrate what could be accomplished by man's intellectual ability, if disciplined by the force of his will. Comparable feats could also be accomplished to eliminate world-wide hunger and poverty. The knowledge and means were available; all that was lacking was the political courage. The sole reason for the continuing danger of revolution and national and international tragedy was that mankind continued to ignore the magnificent tools available for promoting social progress and material well-being.

20. Mr. DAVIES (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization) introducing the WMO report for 1968 (E/4658 and Add.1), said that for several reasons 1968 had been a particularly important year in the life of WMO and in the development and clarification of its role within the United Nations system. It was the year in which the World Weather Watch had come into existence. The World Weather Watch programme had been developed in direct response to General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It was therefore an excellent example of how a United Nations decision could encourage a specialized agency to undertake a major programme in a

new field of science and technology. The programme was already bringing great practical benefits to all countries of the world. Thanks to the meteorological satellites of the Soviet Union and the United States, an operational system had been functioning for several years; a particularly important feature was the United States system whereby, at any place on the earth's surface, direct reception of satellite photographs of the world's weather could be obtained with relatively simple ground receiving equipment. Several hundred such stations were already in operation throughout the world and, where necessary, WMO gave assistance in procuring and installing such stations in the developing countries.

21. A recent development of the highest importance was the outstanding success of the NIMBUS III research and development satellite, which had been launched a few weeks previously and which was not, therefore, referred to in the WMO report. That satellite had shown the feasibility of vertical temperature recordings from satellites and hence of obtaining data which could be fed into an electronic computer and used for numerical weather prediction, i.e. the production of prognostic weather maps by the computer itself and not by subjective methods.

22. The preparation of a realistic and truly global plan had not been easy and many new and unusual features had had to be developed and incorporated in it. It had been recognized from the outset that to make a plan was one thing, but to implement it was another. Consequently, an implementation programme had been developed simultaneously with the plan. The programme established, as a basic principle, that each country would be responsible for implementing that part of the global plan falling within its own territory, but that assistance would be given to the developing countries which required it. It had been foreseen that such assistance would be given in three ways: first, where appropriate, by UNDP; secondly, by means of bilateral arrangements; and thirdly, to fill in any remaining gaps by a new WMO Voluntary Assistance Programme. Under that programme, member States able and willing to do so were invited to make voluntary contributions; it had, however, been visualized in the approved procedures that most such contributions would be in the form of equipment and instruments produced by the country in question, although financial contributions were also welcomed. Excellent progress was being made by the Voluntary Assistance Programme. In some ways it combined the advantages of both the multilateral and the bilateral types of assistance and was therefore of particular interest to the Council.

23. Closely related to the World Weather Watch was the associated scientific research programme. Encouraging progress had been made. In conjunction with the International Council of Scientific Unions, WMO was developing a global atmospheric research programme which would ensure that all modern developments in the atmospheric sciences were applied to a massive and unprecedented scientific research programme.

24. The purpose of the World Weather Watch, and of WMO's activities as a whole, was not, of course, simply research; those activities had many practical aspects. Such, indeed, was the ubiquitous nature of the weather and climate and their influence on human affairs, that the practical applications were almost limitless. While many of those applications were already well known (especially in such fields as aviation, shipping and water resources), WMO was developing a much more systematic and comprehensive approach to the economic benefits obtainable by applying knowledge of the weather and climate. One important development, referred to in the analytical summary (E/4658/Add.1), was the seminar on the role of meteorological services in economic development in Africa. That seminar, organized by ECA, had been co-sponsored by WMO and attended not only by meteorologists but also by persons holding senior government positions in economic affairs and planning departments in many African countries. Quite apart from its direct benefits to the African countries represented, the seminar had also demonstrated the value of meetings in which meteorological and climatological experts could meet persons concerned with the formulation of national economic development policies.

25. In recent years, WMO had developed many important joint projects in conjunction with ECA and other regional economic commissions. The establishment of the Intergovernmental Typhoon Committee in the ECAFE region was one outstanding example. WMO, as an organization without any permanent regional representation, warmly welcomed the assistance of the regional commissions in enabling it to apply its specialized knowledge to assist the economic development of the countries in the various regions.

26. Reference was made in the analytical summary to other important practical aspects of WMO's activities, including ocean affairs, water resources, agrometeorology, atmospheric pollution and so on. The WMO Executive Committee had recently approved the grouping of its activities in those and related fields into the WMO programme on the interaction of man and his environment. In so doing, the Committee had wished to reveal the important work WMO was carrying out in environmental studies and to make known its wishes to co-operate as fully as possible with the United Nations in that field. His organization would give every possible assistance in the preparations for the 1972 United Nations conference on the human environment. It was naturally interested in environmental questions, since the study of the atmosphere surrounding the earth was, by definition, meteorology.

27. Two other points of great concern to the Council were the Joint Inspection Unit and the general matter of co-ordination. The unit was referred to in the analytical summary, which stated that the reports of the inspectors addressed to WMO would be submitted to its Executive Committee. That had already been done and the Committee had adopted various decisions on which the necess-

ary follow-up action would be taken. In his remarks to the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and ACC a few days previously, the French representative had stressed that it was not sufficient to follow the required procedure to the letter but that it was also necessary to do so in a spirit of willing co-operation. That was precisely the spirit in which WMO had approached its relationship with the inspectors.

28. His organization was mindful of the need for co-ordination and was doing everything in its power to that end. The very nature of its speciality made that necessary,

because weather and climate touched upon almost all human activities, especially those of significance in economic development. The Director-General of IAEA had referred at the 1605th meeting to the increasing role which science and technology were playing in world affairs and hence in the affairs of the Council and the specialized agencies and had expressed the hope that the Council and ACC, as appropriate, would take that fact into account in planning any new arrangements. He fully supported that view.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.