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President: Mr. Manuel PEREZ GUERRERO
(Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 20

Work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields (concluded) (E/4463 (Parts I and II and Part II, Amend.1) and addenda, E/4463 (Annex)/Rev.1, E/4504 and Corr.1, E/4493 and Add.1-7, E/L.1212)

1. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela) said that the feeling of frustration experienced by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with regard to some aspects of its work resulted partly from the fact that the Committee's task was a complex, long-term one, which made it hard to obtain positive results in a short space of time. However, as the USSR representative had pointed out at the 1527th meeting, the Committee had also had to contend with a number of problems that made its task even more difficult, such as its limited terms of reference, the inadequacy of the documentation submitted to it, and the fact that it was called upon to consider programmes which had already been approved by the competent legislative bodies and were thus not open to substantive change. Lastly, the Committee had discovered that many of the recommendations it had made in its reports on its first session^{1/} had not yet been implemented. He hoped that the Committee would consider all those problems at its resumed second session and reach conclusions that would enable the Council to make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning remedial action.

2. Draft resolution E/L.1212, of which his delegation was a sponsor, was procedural in nature and would not prejudice any decision the Council might take at its forty-fifth session concerning the Committee's work. It was unfortunate that the Council had been unable to examine the Committee's work in greater detail at its current session, but he hoped that it would do so at the forty-fifth session, and adopt a constructive, substantive resolution on the subject.

3. Mrs. KODIKARA (Philippines) said that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1212. At the first part of its second session, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had clarified its ideas regarding its own functions and had obtained a clearer picture of the relationship among the various United Nations activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Committee's report (E/4493 and Add.1-7) contained many interesting suggestions. However, the Committee had found itself obliged to repeat the recommendations and conclusions formulated at its first session, and had realized that it must see that its recommendations were implemented. The Secretariat should not regard those recommendations as criticism, but should accept them in a spirit of co-operation.

4. Her delegation noted that an attempt had been made to use programme and performance budgeting techniques. That should help to link programme formulation and budget preparation, which was an important factor in co-ordination and management. She hoped that the use of that technique at the legislative and executive levels would facilitate both institutional and sectoral co-ordination.

5. Mr. CAHEN (Belgium) said that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had now attained a better understanding of its task and had thus been able to perform its functions more effectively. Generally speaking the Committee's report on various sectors of the work programme (E/4493 and Add.1-7) showed a marked improvement over the corresponding documents for the previous year. Some very interesting conclusions, applicable to all the sectors covered, could be drawn from the report, which the Council would unfortunately not examine in detail at its current session. His delegation considered the comments made in the report very useful, although it did not agree with all of them.

6. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had thus made definite progress, but its work was still not entirely satisfactory and the documents it had submitted to the Council left something to be desired. There seemed to be three main reasons for that situation. First, the Committee's methods of work should be improved. The Committee had already given some thought to the matter, and some interesting suggestions had been made in that connexion. He hoped that the Committee would continue its consideration of the question and submit specific proposals to the Council at its forty-fifth session. The aim should be to enable the Committee to examine the work programmes submitted to it in greater depth. Secondly, the collaboration between the Committee, on the one hand, and the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, on the other, should be made more efficient. For example, members of the Committee had com-

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-third Session, Supplement Nos. 9 and 9A (E/4383/Rev.1, E/4395).

plained about the tardy circulation of documents, the inadequacy of the information submitted to the Committee, and the lack of co-ordination between the United Nations administrative and budgetary timetables. Lastly, the Council itself, at its forty-fifth session, should consider how it could organize its work so as to be able to use the Committee's recommendations to the best advantage.

7. Mr. MUŽÍK (Czechoslovakia), referring to operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution E/L.1212, said he did not understand why the Council should authorize the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to transmit its final report on the first part of its second session directly to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

8. Mr. LANDAU (Secretariat) said that the Committee's final report was not yet complete. The Committee still had to consider the work programmes of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which would be taken up at its resumed second session. It would subsequently continue its general discussion in the light of the relevant extracts from the budget estimates for the financial year 1969, which were now available. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would also be meeting in June to consider the 1969 estimates, and, if it were to take the comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination into account, the Committee's final report would have to be submitted directly to the Advisory Committee, since the Council would have no opportunity to consider that report in June.

9. Mr. GREGH (France) said that it would be logical, in order to facilitate the Advisory Committee's work, to make available to it at its June session the eight sections of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4493 and Add.1-7) now before the Council, and also that part of the Committee's report concerning the work programmes of ECE, ECLA and UNIDO. However, the Committee's general report should not be submitted to the Advisory Committee until the Council had considered it at its forty-fifth session.

10. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) recalled that, in 1967, the Council had taken the somewhat unusual step of authorizing the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to submit its final report on the first part of its session directly to the Advisory Committee at its summer session so that it could be available when the initial budget estimates were under consideration. If the procedure suggested by the representative of France were adopted, the views on intersectoral priorities and co-ordination formulated by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would not be available to the Advisory Committee when it considered the 1969 budget estimates.

11. Mr. GONSALVES (India) suggested that, in deference to the views of the representative of France, the summary record should state that the expression "final report" in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution (E/L.1212) should be interpreted as meaning only the eight sections of the report now before the

Council (E/4493 and Add.1-7) and the three forthcoming sections on the work programmes of ECE, ECLA, and UNIDO.

It was so decided.

12. Mr. GONSALVES (India) proposed that the words "the work that it has accomplished" in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution should be replaced by "the efforts it has made to review the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields".

13. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Indian amendment was acceptable to the sponsors and that the Council adopted draft resolution E/L.1212, as amended.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session (E/4466 and Add.1 and 2, E/L.1202, E/L.1203)

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should first consider the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session in the light of the information contained in documents E/4466 and Add.1 and 2, basing its discussion on the tentative list of items set out in the summary at the end of the document (see E/4466/Add.2). In principle, the Council should also have had before it a working paper containing the relevant documentation called for in operative paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1090 E (XXXIX), but he was informed by the Secretariat that that working paper, which had to be prepared at the last moment if it was to be accurate, was to be circulated later, as the Secretariat had expected the Council to discuss the provisional agenda for the next session on 31 May. The information to be given in the working paper was not likely to affect materially any decisions which might be taken at the current meeting.

15. Mr. GREGH (France) proposed that the words "consideration of the report by the Secretary-General, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution ... (XLIV)" should be added to the title of agenda item 11. The number of the resolution would be completed by the Secretariat when the Council had considered the relevant draft resolution which had been recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee.

16. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) suggested that the reference to the Secretary-General's report should be added to the notes on item 11 in the annotated agenda, rather than to the title of the item itself.

It was so decided.

17. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) observed that the title of agenda item 13, "Oceanography", was somewhat abstract; he proposed that it should be changed to read "The sea".

It was so decided.

18. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) recalled that his delegation had requested the inclusion in the draft provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of an item

entitled "The question of convening an international conference on the problems of human environment", which appeared as item 12 in the list of items under discussion. The reasons for that request were set out in the explanatory memorandum submitted by his delegation (E/4466/Add.1), and had been amplified by the representative of Sweden in a statement at the 451st meeting of the Economic Committee. He appreciated that the inclusion of another item would add to the already heavy workload of the forty-fifth session, but his delegation was convinced that there was an urgent need to deal with the problems of environment, which concerned both developed and developing countries, in a comprehensive way.

19. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) supported the inclusion of the item proposed by Sweden.

20. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) also supported the Swedish request. It would be appropriate for the Council to consider the problems relating to the human environment, which were both social and economic in nature.

21. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela) supported the Swedish proposal. As the representative of Sweden had pointed out in his excellent statement in the Economic Committee, it was particularly important for the developing countries to take preventive measures to combat environmental problems arising from the increased use of modern technology, especially since increased efforts would be made to accelerate the transfer of such technology to them within the framework of the second development decade.

22. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while his delegation did not object to the draft provisional agenda as a whole, he wished to make a number of comments on individual items and, before doing so, to point out that the agenda in question was a very heavy one in terms both of the number of items and of their importance. Everything possible should therefore be done to lighten the burden.

23. His delegation had no objection to the inclusion of the item proposed by Sweden. The problem was very important and complex, and he hoped that the discussion at the forty-fifth session would show whether current measures were adequate or whether further efforts were needed to combat the increasing difficulties of preserving the human environment. The question was closely linked with the subjects of items 5 and 9 and it might be felt that the common aspects of the three topics were sufficient to warrant merging them into a single item, thereby saving time.

24. Items 23 and 29 could also profitably be combined and item 24 might well be deleted, since it was difficult to see how a general review of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system could involve anything not covered by the debate on development and co-ordination of those activities. Items 21 and 22, while admittedly important, were less so than a number of other items, and he felt that they could without inconvenience be put off until the resumed session. Another matter which it seemed unnecessary to discuss at the forty-fifth session was that covered by item 27 concerning United Nations activities in connexion with natural disasters which

had appeared regularly on the agenda, numerous decisions on the subject had already been taken, and unless there was something new to discuss it should be dropped and taken up again only when it was strictly necessary to do so. A general policy of merging items wherever possible and deleting those which were not essential would considerably lighten the work of the forty-fifth session.

25. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that the scope and size of the draft provisional agenda were such that it might not be possible to give all the items on it the attention they deserved. He therefore agreed with the USSR representative that at least two items should be deferred until the resumed session.

26. He welcomed the initiative of the Swedish Government, whose proposal might ultimately lead to genuine international co-operation, not only between scientists but also between government officials concerned with problems of environment. While the developing countries were not confronted with problems of such urgency as those encountered by the industrialized countries, his delegation nevertheless had a keen interest in the problem, believing that prevention was better than cure. Unless the problems of human environment as defined in paragraph 2 of Sweden's explanatory memorandum (E/4466/Add.1) were dealt with, other items on the draft provisional agenda, such as the transfer of operative technology to developing countries (item 11), could not be seen in their proper perspective. However, if the proposed conference was to be a success, the arrangements for it must be made on the basis of adequate documentation. His delegation was prepared to support the Swedish proposal, on the understanding that the conference would not be merely a meeting of scientists to exchange data, but would lead to action on both the international and the national levels.

27. Mr. VIAUD (France) said his delegation agreed that the problems of human environment were of great importance and that the field was an appropriate one for study and co-ordinating activity by the Council. Before an international conference was held, however, there must be adequate discussion, in order to identify the problems to be studied and determine the scope of the conference. In paragraph 9 of its memorandum (E/4466/Add.1), the Swedish delegation expressed its hope that background material would be prepared in order to facilitate the consideration of the matter by the General Assembly; he hoped that similar material would be provided for the Council at its forty-fifth session, and that it would not simply be called upon to vote on a draft resolution for submission to the Assembly. Precise and detailed information was required for an adequate background study, and in view of the need for careful preparation it might be better for the Council to decide, at its forty-fifth session, on the basis of a preliminary document prepared by the Secretariat, how the problem should be dealt with; some time would be needed to obtain information on the activities of the specialized agencies and to allow the members of the Council to study it. He would welcome the views of the Secretariat on whether a suitable report could be prepared in time for the forty-fifth session; if not, it might be better at that session simply to report to the General Assembly

and to make preparations for a much wider study which could be discussed in 1969.

28. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's suggestion, in his note on the organization of work of the forty-fifth session (E/L.1202), that suitable items for discussion in the general debate would be items 2, 4, 5 and 23, although item 23 should perhaps be dealt with by representatives in a separate statement.

29. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that his delegation welcomed the Swedish proposal (item 12). However, in view of the heavy agenda for the forty-fifth session, it was not clear what degree of priority could be given to the discussion of the proposal; since it was possible that adequate documentation could not be prepared in time, he felt that the best course would be to hold a general exchange of views and to defer more thorough consideration until a subsequent session.

30. His delegation welcomed the deletion, in the title of item 7 (b) as given in the list under discussion (see E/4466/Add.2), of the words "and development finance" which appeared in the annotations in document E/4466; the relationship between development finance and export credit was a rather tenuous one, and the longer title made the subject very general. However, it was not clear what the precise scope of the item would be; one important subject which might be discussed was schemes for clearing and payments arrangements between developing countries, since the export of capital formed part of the general problem of exports by developing countries. He would like to know whether the Council would have available for study the report of an expert group of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) dealing with payments arrangements, the report of a recent meeting on the same subject organized by ECLA, and the report of a working group set up by the second session of UNCTAD on expansion of the trade of developing countries.

31. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported the Swedish proposal, and noted that the title of the proposed agenda item (item 12) was worded in such a way as to leave the Council free to take any decision it wished. It was essential that all questions of documentation, methodology and the conference calendar should be fully discussed before any decision was taken.

32. He agreed that the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session was very heavy and that every effort should be made to streamline the work of the Council. It appeared from document E/L.1202 that the Council, in plenary meetings, would operate in effect as an additional committee. The suggestion was a good one in principle, but he felt that time would be wasted by discussing an item in plenary meetings, referring it to a Committee and then dealing with it again in the plenary, as was suggested in the case of item 13 (b) concerning marine science and technology; it would be preferable for the Committee to deal with the item first. Care should also be taken to divide the workload equally between the two Committees; it appeared at present that the Co-ordination Committee would be overburdened in comparison with the Economic Committee. His delegation regarded the names

of the Committees as merely a matter of convenience, rather than an indication of their right to discuss any particular subjects. He believed that both parts of item 13 should be dealt with by the same Committee, since it was in order to achieve a concerted approach that it had been decided (1516th meeting, para. 18) to leave item 3 (c) concerning resources of the sea over to the forty-fifth session (item 13 (a)); the Economic Committee might be the more suitable.

33. In view of the size of the draft provisional agenda, he hoped that the necessary arrangements could be made for the Council and both Committees to meet simultaneously; under the present arrangement, the Economic Committee would have nothing to do for the first week and a half of the session.

34. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that, while he sympathized with suggestions that the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Council should be lightened, he did not believe that that could be done by amalgamating some items or putting others off until the resumed session. In the first place, the resumed session was not a real session, but merely a series of meetings held when the General Assembly was also in session during time taken from the Second Committee, with the result that items tended to be treated only superficially. Moreover, the items which had been mentioned as suitable for postponement—for example, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (item 21)—had to be submitted to the General Assembly and should therefore be dealt with at the Council's summer session if its views were to be considered by the Assembly. A similar consideration applied to the general review under item 24, which had to be considered by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and, therefore, could not be discussed during the summer. Nor did the artificial merging of items offer a solution; population and human resources, for instance, deserved separate consideration. In the view of his delegation, the solution to the problem was to study the agenda closely and try to increase the interval between reports; for example, item 2 (general discussion of international economic and social policy), which had formerly been annual, was now biennial, and the possibility of making it triennial could be considered.

35. Unlike the United Kingdom delegation, his delegation attached considerable importance to the titles of the Committees and selected its representatives specifically for one or the other; it was therefore important that each Committee should deal with its own particular range of subjects. A number of subjects which originated in the Co-ordination Committee in the form of suggestions for reports became substantive at a later stage, and should then go before either the Economic Committee or the Social Committee. Item 9 (development and utilization of human resources) was such a subject, and as there would be no Social Committee at the Council's forty-fifth session it should go before the Economic Committee. The same was true of item 10 (outflow of trained personnel from developing countries). As initiator of the proposal for an International Education Year (item 28), his delegation had wished it to be considered in the context of the second development decade. He

did not agree with the representative of the United Kingdom that item 13 should be dealt with by the Economic Committee; in view of the wide range of bodies dealing with problems of the sea, both within the United Nations system and outside it, it was inevitable that there would be something in the nature of a general debate, for which plenary meetings were the appropriate forum. As item 13 (a) was somewhat technical, it was doubtful whether any action other than noting the reports would be taken on it, but item 13 (b) related to a co-ordination report and it was therefore appropriate that it should be discussed by the Co-ordination Committee.

36. His delegation welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Swedish proposal at the forty-fifth session, but felt that it would be premature, in view of the nature of the proposed agenda item (item 12), to discuss the substance, the time-table or the documentation required at the present stage.

37. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) said that, since human resources, the outflow of trained personnel from developing countries, and education all had both economic and social aspects, he believed that items 9, 10 and 28 should be dealt with by the Co-ordination Committee; while he agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that that Committee had a heavy programme, he doubted whether it would be in the best interests of the Council's work for it not to deal with those subjects.

38. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said that, since the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session was a very heavy one, the Council should consider the possibility of combining certain items and deleting others, so that it would be able to concentrate on the most important and urgent problems.

39. The importance of item 26 could be seen from the wide support which had been given to General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII) on the same subject. It was high time that United Nations decolonization activities were harmonized with the efforts made by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Humanitarian assistance should be extended to the peoples under colonial domination, and particularly to the peoples and national liberation movements in southern Africa. The specialized agencies and international institutions should play a greater role in that regard. As could be seen from operative paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII), the Council could assist in that connexion, and at its forty-fifth session it should consider appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the agencies. It was to be hoped that the discussion at the forthcoming session would yield positive results, so that the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the Organization could make an increasing contribution to the historic process of decolonization.

40. Mr. HILL (Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs) said that the Secretariat saw no need to keep item 24 on the provisional agenda. It was not envisaged under General Assembly resolution 2188

(XXI) that the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would submit a final report during the current year. If, at its session to be held in September 1968, the Committee decided that it wished to make a progress report to the Assembly through the Council, an appropriate item could be included in the agenda for the resumed forty-fifth session.

41. Item 27, concerning natural disasters, had been included in the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session for two reasons. First, because the Council had requested the Secretary-General to report as soon as possible on the implementation of its resolution 1268 (XLIII). Secondly, because the General Assembly had on its forthcoming agenda the question of the implementation of resolution 2034 (XX). Since that resolution had been prepared by the Council and was indeed the result of the Council's involvement in co-ordinating disaster assistance over a period of many years, the Secretary-General felt sure that the Council would wish to consider the matter at that stage.

42. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that, because of the short time remaining before the forty-fifth session, the Secretariat would be able to prepare only a brief preliminary document for the item, proposed by Sweden (item 12), describing the work done by the organizations in the United Nations family on the problems of human environment. It would be necessary for the Council to waive the six-week rule in that connexion.

43. With reference to the points raised by the representative of India concerning draft item 7, he said that the Secretary-General had prepared a progress report entitled "Export credits and export promotion in developing countries".^{2/} The representative of India had raised an important issue, namely, the need for an exchange of documentation between the Council and UNCTAD. He was not sure how much of the documentation from the second session of UNCTAD would be available in time for the Council's forty-fifth session, but the Secretariat would bear in mind the comments made by the representative of India.

44. The items mentioned by the representative of France as deserving special attention in the general debate were those to which the Secretary-General would refer in his opening statement to the Council at its forthcoming session. The only problem was that item 23 concerned programmes, whereas the other items mentioned concerned policy; it was not always possible to link the two.

45. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) said his delegation appreciated that there would not be time before the forty-fifth session to prepare comprehensive documentation on the item which it had proposed (item 12). It had envisaged some kind of background documentation describing the work done and planned by the organizations in the United Nations family on the problems of human environment. More comprehensive documentation would be required before the matter was considered by the General Assembly. His delegation would submit further material on the subject in order to assist the Council in its discussion of the matter at its forty-fifth session.

^{2/} Document E/4481.

46. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if the Council's resumed forty-fifth session were to be held during the early stages of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, there would still be time for the Assembly to consider decisions taken by the Council at its resumed session. It was essential to lighten the agenda of the summer session.

47. Mr. VIAUD (France) thought that items 20, 21 and 22 should be retained on the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session. The reports concerned had to be discussed by the General Assembly, and the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was at Geneva, so that it would be more convenient to consider his report at the summer session. The Council could always decide at its summer session to defer one or more of those items until the resumed session if, for example, it was considered more convenient to consider the report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in New York, where the Institute was situated.

48. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he could agree to that procedure, provided that a decision was taken at the very beginning of the summer session.

49. The PRESIDENT suggested that item 24 should be deleted from the provisional agenda, in the light of the comments made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs.

It was so decided.

50. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt as the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session the list at the end of document E/4466/Add.2, as amended by the rewording of item 13 and the deletion of item 24.

It was so decided.

51. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that his delegation would accept the inconvenience caused by the delays which would inevitably occur in the issuance and circulation of documentation for the forty-fifth session, and would not insist on the application of the six-week rule. It hoped, however, that the Secretariat would make every effort to issue documents in all the working languages in sufficient time for them to be studied by Governments before the session.

52. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat would prepare a revised note on the organization of the work of the forty-fifth session, in the light of the comments made. It should be pointed out that usually, because of the difficulty experienced by delegations in sending representatives to a number of different meetings, no meetings of the Economic Committee were scheduled while the general debate was being held in the Council.

53. Mr. VIAUD (France) thought that it might be possible to schedule meetings of the Economic Committee while the general debate was proceeding, provided that during the first week of the session the Economic Committee did not deal with items which were being covered in the general debate.

54. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) requested the Secretariat to bear in mind the difficulties facing small delegations.

55. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should give tentative approval to the proposals regarding the organization of the work of the forty-fifth session set out in the Secretary-General's note (E/L.1202).

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.