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CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 4: Reports of the World Bank Group (<i>concluded</i>)	11
Agenda item 9: Procedure for the consideration of the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund	15
Organization of work	17

President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 4

Reports of the World Bank Group (*concluded*) (E/4746)

1. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) said that the figures quoted in the summaries of the annual reports of the World Bank Group accompanying document E/4746 illustrated the immensity of the Group's task and the scope of its action.

2. Population policy was an important and delicate economic and social matter on which his delegation had often expressed its views in various international forums. Population control was obviously a government responsibility, but it was also a strictly personal one. It was a problem for which solutions could be proposed but not imposed. The individual's right to information on the matter could not be denied, for only thus could he take well-considered, though personal, decisions.

3. Belgium had always advocated a balance between industrial and agricultural development and doubted the wisdom of regarding industrialization as a panacea for all ills. In his statement at the 1639th meeting, the President of the Bank had advocated a more realistic balance between rural and urban development and had stressed the need to moderate the steady drift of the population from the countryside to the cities.

4. His delegation endorsed the comments of previous speakers regarding the capital importance of education at all levels.

5. Belgium also endorsed the Yugoslav representative's comments on the high interest rates paid by developing countries on the loans they received. It was because of its concern on that score that Belgium had participated in the replenishment of IDA's resources.

6. Mr. McNamara's decision to organize the Bank's work on the basis of a five-year plan was a matter for satisfaction,

for in the absence of sound organization success would be hard to achieve. It was gratifying, too, that the Bank maintained close relations with the specialized agencies, for it was very necessary to co-ordinate activities in promoting development.

7. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that the World Bank had lived up to its promise not to succumb to the general paralysis which seemed to be affecting assistance efforts in so many parts of the world. Following an analysis of development trends, prospects and financing, the Bank's operations had been reoriented in order to enable it to serve better as a development institution, and far-reaching reforms affecting its financial action, the nature and scope of its interventions and its future prospects had been introduced. The fact that Africa, which had received approximately 20 per cent of the Bank's loans in 1968/1969, had been given a favoured place in the work programme augured well for the future. It was satisfactory to note, too, that as part of its activities the Bank was endeavouring to ensure that the developing countries did not suffer excessively from the balance-of-payments and monetary crises of the industrialized countries, that the volume, nature and terms of aid granted to the poorer countries were improved, that their debt burden was reduced and that commodity prices were stabilized.

8. His delegation welcomed the attention the Bank was paying to agriculture, education and public services, such as transport, energy, water supplies, telecommunications and tourism. It was gratifying to note, too, that stress was being laid on technical assistance and the co-ordination of activities with those of the specialized agencies. His delegation felt sure that the Bank would tackle the difficult question of population policy with the circumspection it deserved, and had no objection to the establishment of a Population Projects Department.

9. Despite its appreciation of the Bank's work, his delegation had misgivings about three points. The first was the rise in interest rates: if they continued to climb, the developing countries would be faced with insurmountable problems. The Bank's policy in the matter of interest rates was understandable, because, unless it maintained a sound financial position, it would have difficulty in obtaining funds from the money markets. Nevertheless, the rise in interest rates was deplorable.

10. The second point was the possibility of an interruption in IDA's activities. It was to be hoped that the third replenishment of IDA's resources would be completed successfully and that the Association would be able to continue after 30 June 1971. The countries participating in IDA's financing should take the necessary steps to enable the President of the Bank to continue his work. Any interruption in IDA's activities would have an adverse effect on the economies of many countries, particularly in Africa.

11. The third source of concern to Upper Volta was the weakening of the developed countries' political will to mobilize the financial resources necessary for vigorous action in favour of development. It was to be hoped that Mr. McNamara's qualities and reputation would encourage them to play their proper part.

12. His delegation welcomed the conclusions Mr. McNamara had drawn following his recent trips to Africa. Attention should indeed be paid to such matters as unemployment, urbanization and industrialization.

13. Mr. CUHRUK (Turkey) thanked Mr. McNamara for his informative introduction of the reports of the World Bank Group. At a time when there appeared to be a slight decrease in the flow of public funds to the developing countries, it was gratifying to note the successful efforts of the Bank to raise funds in the capital markets of the world. That had been reflected in the most welcome growth in the commitments of the Bank Group in 1969 as compared with 1968; it was also gratifying to note the increased emphasis on the vital sectors of agriculture and education.

14. It was to be hoped that, with the adoption of an international development strategy for the seventies, there would be more co-ordination between the Bank Group's activities and disbursements by other donors. Such greater co-ordination would be made easier by the report of the Pearson Commission, whose recommendations could help to establish uniform criteria for aid policies. Turkey strongly supported the recommendation by the Pearson Commission that a fund should be established to subsidize part or all of the interest on World Bank loans. That was a matter of urgency, since interest rates had reached a level where it had become very difficult for developing countries to borrow from the Bank for long-term development projects, especially when they had existing heavy debt repayment commitments. Consequently the role of IDA had become even more important. Turkey welcomed the successful completion of the second replenishment of the resources of IDA, and also the suggested transfer of \$100 million from the Bank's net income to IDA as a grant. It was to be hoped that IDA's resources could also be increased as a result of the special drawing rights scheme.

15. Turkey hoped that means would be found to raise IDA's resources to \$1,500 million by 1975, as recommended by the Pearson Commission. In allocating its resources, IDA should take full account of the debt servicing burden of the developing countries. Loans should be granted for long-term development projects, and for projects in those areas of the developing countries with low *per capita* income, even where it was relatively higher for the country as a whole.

16. Turkey welcomed the administrative reorganization of the Bank and the establishment of new departments dealing with tourism and population projects. That broadening of the Bank's activities showed its flexibility in meeting new requirements. In particular, Turkey welcomed the Bank's increased interest in the population explosion as it affected the development process.

17. He wished to place on record his Government's satisfaction with the close co-operation that was developing between it and the Bank.

18. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that the figures quoted in the annual reports testified to the Bank Group's accomplishments on behalf of the developing world.

19. His delegation had always stressed the importance of agricultural development. It was gratifying to note, therefore, that the Bank Group's financing for agricultural development in 1969 had been double that for 1968. Agricultural aid should be concentrated on fundamental and basic research into developments that would increase productivity. As a result of the development of so-called "miracle" rice, for instance, the Philippines had been able to curtail its food imports and divert the savings to other sectors of development. Improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides would enhance the possibility of agricultural expansion, therefore it was to be hoped that the Bank Group would continue to meet the need for agricultural research. In view of the importance of irrigation in agricultural expansion, it was satisfying to note that the Bank Group had provided finance for the installation or rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage systems for more than 29 million acres of land.

20. Japan welcomed the fact that the Bank Group had increased its lending for education projects and that it intended to provide educational assistance only where it would contribute significantly to economic development and to pay greater attention to adult literacy, long-range educational planning and new instruction techniques.

21. It was interesting to note that the Bank's newly established Population Projects Department had found that the developing countries' need in coping with the population problem was less for financial assistance than for technical advice. He hoped that the Bank would continue to help the developing countries to solve that problem.

22. The fact that the Bank Group would pay greater attention than in the past to unemployment, urbanization and industrialization was a source of satisfaction to his delegation.

23. It was apparent from the reports under consideration that the Bank Group was giving more consideration than hitherto to Africa and Latin America. Japan hoped that the Group would not overlook many countries of South-East Asia which received less aid *per capita* than those of Africa or Latin America. A welcome development was the fact that the Bank Group had extended its financing to Indonesia for the first time.

24. The second replenishment of IDA's resources had been completed in August 1969. In May 1969, Japan had notified its intention of participating in the second replenishment to the amount of \$66,480,000 and had made its first instalment of \$22,160,000 available for immediate commitment without waiting for the payment date set for the second replenishment. He was pleased that the Executive Directors of the Bank had recommended that \$100 million of the Bank's net income for 1969 should be transferred to IDA as a grant. His delegation hoped that, with the increase in its resources, IDA would be able to expand its "soft loan" assistance to developing countries.

25. In conclusion, he said that his delegation appreciated the work of the Pearson Commission and would study its report carefully.

26. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) welcomed the successful efforts made to strengthen the components of the Bank Group. The World Bank did extremely useful work in guiding human aspirations and frustrations and natural resources into productive channels, in ensuring that the resources available were not wasted, in providing the development effort with a firm basis and support reflecting human needs, and in enhancing the prospects of future development through long-term planning.

27. The problem of population and family planning, although extremely delicate and difficult, was none the less a decisive one; he welcomed the Bank's awareness of the complexity and delicacy of the issue, and stressed the importance of viewing it in the wider context of the development of human resources. In agriculture, stress should be placed on those types of research which would lead to increased productivity; in education, the accent should be placed on extending human capabilities. The problems of employment and urbanization were related, in that both derived from efforts to accelerate economic development; both also clearly demonstrated that the social consequences of efforts to increase the gross national product could not be neglected. It was obvious that science and technology, although undoubtedly beneficial, could not be applied indiscriminately; they must be adapted to the capacity for industrialization, balance and diversification in the productivity of a country and its people.

28. He shared the concern expressed at rising interest rates and cumulative debt services. All available avenues should be explored in order to deal with the problem. Balanced geographical emphasis was also important and he did not believe that the increased stress placed in the Bank's programmes on Africa and Latin America necessarily deflected attention from other areas. He welcomed the emphasis given by the Bank Group to the integrated approach to development, embracing qualitative and quantitative aspects, human and social as well as economic practice, agriculture and industry, and employment. Five aspects of crucial importance were the innovations made possible by venture capital, the importance of mobilizing resources in the private sector, the endeavour to relate human and technical resources to capital and labour, the objective global analysis which would result from more frequent country economic reports in greater depth, and the model of co-ordination and co-operation which the Bank Group offered to the United Nations system as a whole in its efforts to relate bilateral and multilateral activities.

29. His Government was currently studying the report of the Pearson Commission, which he believed would in due course play an important part in the international development effort. He appreciated the report's realism, sensitivity and moral nerve and verve, and hoped that it would quicken the will of Governments to take appropriate political action. The enhancement of the human personality through proper attention to economic and social welfare was the best defence against those human frustrations which, if left unchecked, might destroy the modern world.

30. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that the hope that action would result from the appointment of Mr. McNamara as President of the Bank Group had not

been disappointed. In his statement to the Council at its resumed forty-fifth session in 1968 (1571st meeting), the President had identified three sectors - population, education and agriculture - as requiring increased activity and had spoken of giving increased attention to Africa and Latin America. Action in all those areas was well under way: for example, loans and credits to African countries had increased by nearly 150 per cent in the past year. His delegation welcomed the annual opportunity to discuss the activities of the Bank Group and believed that, as the ramification of the Bank's activities in development described in the report continued, such meetings would become increasingly valuable and closer contact with the Bank would be essential. It should be borne in mind, without underrating the scale of UNDP's work, that the Bank's scale of operations involved new loans and credits in the financial year 1969 totalling some ten times the sum spent by UNDP.

31. His delegation also welcomed the new department established in the Bank to deal with population projects. It must be recognized that there was a long time-lag between action to control population growth and its effect on nutrition, education and employment but, although the problem was a long-term one, its urgency could not be disputed. In education, there was a need for better and longer-range educational planning more directly related to economic and social development plans, and the projects being launched by the Bank to explore new techniques in education were gratifying.

32. The most important single contribution to development might lie in agriculture, particularly in the development of large-scale low-cost protein production. He was therefore pleased by the Bank's intention to assist in promoting agricultural research and its awareness that research alone could not provide the answer, but that better management, land reform and development, fertilizers, pesticides, transport, regional centres for storage, marketing facilities and credit resources were all essential.

33. Very little was known about the problems of unemployment, urbanization and industrialization, or about solutions to them. The extent of the problems was staggering; the major cities of the developing world were doubling in size every ten years, and the resources needed to provide even minimal services and infrastructure for urban populations of the magnitude which they would reach by the end of the century were enormous. The selection of those areas for special attention by the Bank Group was a wise move and he hoped that rapid progress would be made.

34. The greatly increased programmes of the Bank Group were due in part to the second replenishment of the resources of IDA, to which some member countries, including the United Kingdom, had made advance payments. The fact that the Bank had raised \$1,224 million on world capital markets during the past year both demonstrated its reputation as a sound financial institution and justified the need for sound banking policies on its part. His Government strongly supported the proposal of the President of the Bank that discussions of the third replenishment of the resources of IDA should begin at an early date.

35. The decision of the Executive Directors of the International Monetary Fund and the Bank to extend compensatory financing facilities to provide short-term assistance to members with balance-of-payments difficulties and for financing international buffer stocks was welcome. National Governments and commodity groups must remain primarily responsible, but there was plenty of scope for the Bank and the Fund to supplement their activities in that area. Resolution 60 (IX) of the Trade and Development Board, inviting the Bank to work out means of giving effect to supplementary financing measures, was therefore a wise step. The Bank could render a unique service in its programme of country economic reports as a highly informed and impartial source of precise and professional development reports which, he hoped, would be comprehensive and up to date. That would provide an invaluable basis for designing, amending or updating development plans which could be of great assistance to Governments and international authorities and would offer an objective basis for evaluating progress in the Second Development Decade.

36. The report of the Pearson Commission would affect all development activities for a number of years, including the programmes of the Bank Group. International agencies and Governments should examine it and put into effect as soon as possible the proposals which they found useful. As the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom had said, the report gave a renewed sense of purpose to those engaged in development, and his Government would be studying it with interest.

37. Mr. SAHLOUL (Sudan) welcomed the fact that the Bank Group had succeeded in doubling its level of commitments in the financial year 1969 over that of the previous year and hoped that its new dynamic leadership would launch the Group in new directions which would take into consideration the real needs of the majority of the developing countries. Such new vistas for action had already been opened up: population projects and investment in educational efforts would no doubt assist many developing countries in tackling serious problems which had undermined the progress so far achieved by them. Such problems as unemployment and urbanization were in fact by-products of the over-emphasis placed by the Bank Group on infrastructural development. It might be true that IDA and IFC had contributed to directly productive sectors, but the replenishment plan for IDA was far below the real needs of the developing countries. During the financial year 1969, IDA had made commitments of \$385 million, and the remaining resources would have been committed by June 1970. A third replenishment would therefore have to become effective by that date, and his delegation wondered whether the replenishment would be forthcoming in time and whether its level would be commensurate with the growing needs of the developing world.

38. A valuable contribution had been made by IFC to the development of the private sector, but its contribution would be greatly enhanced if its operations were reoriented to take into account the fact that low income levels in the developing countries meant that their capacity for saving and investment was inadequate. Governments in many cases had to provide projects with financial resources in addition

to the private capital involved, thus disqualifying the project from IFC assistance. Such was particularly the case of medium-sized projects in industry. His delegation welcomed the increasing attention given by the Bank Group to industrial projects, but believed that greater co-operation with UNIDO, along the lines of the relationship existing between the Group and FAO, was desirable. IFC should become more active in identifying projects suitable for assistance in the developing countries. Industrialization could not be considered in isolation from the outside factors which were decisive in its formulation and development. The President of the Bank had stated that the developing countries were tempted to invest heavily in import-substitution industries which they protected to such an extent that there was little incentive to keep them competitive and efficient, and had advocated the encouragement of export-oriented industries. However, the fact that very little progress had been achieved in the matter of preferences left the developing countries with no alternative but to continue their current policy of establishing more import-substitution industries. The recent postponement of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community for the discussion of preferences and the negative attitude of the United States authorities showed that the developing countries could not concentrate on export-oriented industries without a drastic change in the attitude of the developed world.

39. As a general comment on the allocation of commitments by the Bank Group to individual sectors of development, it was worth noting that out of the total of \$1,800 million committed in 1969, nearly \$1,000 million had been for public services, \$81.8 million for education and \$367.3 million for agriculture, while only \$241 million had been allotted to industrial development. The heavy investment of the developing countries in projects related to infrastructure, at an unfavourable rate of interest, increased their burden of debt servicing and added to the concomitant problems of unemployment and urbanization. The situation was further aggravated by the lack of both internal and external investment, in productive projects of the type which the infrastructure was meant to make possible. He believed that the Bank Group should give increasing attention to such projects.

40. Mr. SULEIMAN (Libya) welcomed the significant step taken by the Bank in devoting more attention to major sectors such as education, population and agriculture. Education was of particular concern to Libya, where a major part of the budget was allocated to it in an effort to overcome the scarcity of professional and skilled personnel, which constituted a major obstacle to real economic and social progress. The Bank could play an extremely useful role in providing not only financial assistance but also experience in that vital sector, and he was encouraged by the President's statement that the Bank's efforts in education would shift away from physical construction and concentrate more on school administration, teacher training, curriculum design, innovative instruction techniques and long-range educational planning, tied directly to the development strategy of the economy as a whole.

41. Mr. MARTOHADINEGORO (Indonesia) said his delegation was gratified that the Bank had been able to attract more capital from the market and had succeeded in

expanding IDA's resources in the second replenishment. Indonesia was among the beneficiaries of the Bank's programmes, and his delegation welcomed the Bank's assistance in family planning, which had become increasingly relevant to successful economic growth; for the first time, his Government had made budgetary appropriations for family planning. It was gratifying to note that the Bank was paying increasing attention to population policy, agriculture, education, unemployment, urbanization and industrialization. Those sectors were the main areas in which the efforts and resources of Indonesia's five-year development plan were concentrated.

42. In 1968, his Government had succeeded in establishing monetary stability. Indonesia was not alone in its fight against inflation and for stable growth; the rise of developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia might well prove to be the most traumatic historic event of the twentieth century, but the process could not continue unless the developed countries also continued to grow under stable conditions. Economic growth in the industrialized countries was taking place at a rate which made the rich relatively richer and the poor poorer. However, with few exceptions, economic growth was hindered by monetary instability. Moreover, the recurrent international monetary crisis had detrimental effects not only on the countries directly concerned but also on the developing world, affecting monetary reserves, trade, the flow of capital and hence its entire economic development. Instability in the money markets also hampered the activity of such organizations as the World Bank and the regional development banks.

43. His delegation welcomed the close co-operation between UNDP and the World Bank. The stress placed by UNDP on pre-investment studies enabled the Bank and other agencies to provide the necessary financing more easily. Equally important to economic development was supplementary financing, and his delegation was gratified by the attention paid to it by the Bank Group. It was to be hoped that the reservations of certain developed countries would be withdrawn and that a supplementary financing scheme could, as a result of the Bank's efforts, be put into operation at an early stage. His delegation also hoped that the Bank would play a greater role in the preparation and implementation of the Second Development Decade.

44. Mr. McNAMARA (President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) expressed thanks, on behalf of the Executive Directors of the Bank, for the congratulations extended to the World Bank Group on its 1969 operations. Many of the points raised during the discussion would be discussed by him and his Executive Directors in coming months, but he would comment on four specific points.

45. Firstly, he had been impressed by the general interest in and support for the work of the Pearson Commission expressed in the debate. He had just been informed that the Second Committee was to discuss the report and that Mr. Pearson would be invited to participate in the discussion. He agreed with the representative of Argentina (1639th meeting) that the main value of the report must lie in any action that resulted from it.

46. Secondly, he and his Executive Directors shared the concern expressed in the Council over the Bank's interest rate. It should be noted that the Bank itself had recently had to borrow at a rate of 8 per cent. Nevertheless, he wished to emphasize that he and his Executive Directors were determined that the current Bank rate of 7 per cent should be reduced at the earliest possible moment.

47. Thirdly, several representatives had referred to commodity price stabilization. He shared their concern; as the delegation of Upper Volta had indicated, 80 to 90 per cent of the exports of the developing countries consisted of primary commodities that were subject to world market price fluctuations beyond their control. He shared the view that further commodity agreements were desirable, and the Bank would do everything possible to facilitate the conclusion and execution of any further agreements negotiated or desired.

48. Fourthly, many representatives had expressed concern about the debt-servicing burden borne by the developing countries. The main requirement was a larger volume of concessionary aid and a softening of its terms. Hence it was significant that a third replenishment of IDA's funds was being negotiated. At a recent meeting of the Governing Board of IMF, there had been a discussion concerning the creation of special drawing rights and their relationship to an increase in concessionary aid. There had been no agreement to the effect that there was a formal link between special drawing rights and development financing, although it had been agreed that special drawing rights would increase the possibilities for what were known as Part I countries to make aid available. Nevertheless, it was to be hoped that the contribution that the Special Drawing Rights would make to world liquid resources would in fact create more favourable conditions for the growth of development aid, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom had recently stated.

49. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association and of the report of the International Finance Corporation."

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Procedure for the consideration of the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/4751)

50. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that, at the 1637th meeting, during its summer session, the Council had proposed that the Secretary-General should consider the two separate questions of the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and that of the Executive Board of the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF). With respect to the first, it had been suggested that perhaps it was not necessary for the Council to consider the report before it was taken up by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General, after carefully considering the matter and consulting the High Commissioner, had come to the conclusion that the best arrangement would be for the UNHCR report to be presented to the Council at its summer session, on the understanding that it would be transmitted to the General Assembly, without debate unless the Council were to decide otherwise at the specific request of one or more of its members, at the time of the adoption of the agenda. The Secretary-General considered that that was the best way to alleviate the pressure on the Council, while still giving it the opportunity of seeing the High Commissioner's report, and discussing it if it so wished. The proposal before the Council was accordingly that the High Commissioner's report should remain on the Council's agenda, but would not be followed by a discussion of the report unless such a discussion was requested.

51. With respect to the UNICEF report, the Secretary-General had considered, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of UNICEF, the proposal made at the Council's summer session, namely that it might not be necessary for the General Assembly to deal with the UNICEF report at all, consideration by the Council being regarded as sufficient. The conclusion reached had been that questions relating to UNICEF might need consideration at an intergovernmental level where all Members of the United Nations were represented. Consequently the item should not be removed from the General Assembly's agenda, but it might suffice if the General Assembly took it up only every two years. That proposal would have the effect of lightening the work-load of the Assembly while still permitting the item to be dealt with in the appropriate forum where all Members of the United Nations were represented.

52. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had raised the two questions referred to at the summer session. For many years the practice had been for both the Council and the General Assembly to discuss the two annual reports every year. The United Kingdom doubted whether it was necessary for that practice to continue. That in no way implied any reflection on the value of the work done by the Office of the High Commissioner or UNICEF; that was made perfectly clear by the United Kingdom's recent decision to increase its contribution to UNICEF in 1970 by 20 per cent.

53. With respect to the High Commissioner's report, the Executive Committee met only once a year in the autumn, so that, when the Council dealt with the report in the following summer, it was considerably out of date. The United Kingdom proposal had been that the High Commissioner's report should be submitted to the General Assembly only. So far as UNICEF was concerned, however, its operations in the development field were increasingly tied in with those of other international agencies, and consequently it would be appropriate for its report to be submitted to the Council and not to the General Assembly. Hence, the Secretary-General's suggestions fell somewhat short of what the United Kingdom had proposed. Nevertheless, they represented a step in the right direction and his

delegation would support them, while reserving the right to reopen the matter of the procedure at a later stage, perhaps after a trial period of the new arrangements suggested by the Secretary-General, if approved by the Council.

54. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the Secretary-General's proposal was acceptable to his delegation. France had supported the United Kingdom suggestions. The proposals now before the Council did not quite correspond to the views which his delegation had expressed about the reorganization of the Council's work; France believed that problems could be regrouped so as to permit a reduction in the number of statements. However, the current proposals were a welcome step in the right direction.

55. Although the Council would not discuss the High Commissioner's report, unless it wished, the High Commissioner should nevertheless present his report every year, since his statement was very useful and his appearance would reflect the link between his Office and the Council, which was responsible for co-ordinating the activities of international agencies in general.

56. With respect to the UNICEF report, he understood that the Council would recommend to the General Assembly that there should be a separate discussion on UNICEF in the Third Committee only every two years instead of every year. If the Council agreed on that arrangement, he presumed that it could be left to the Secretariat to draft the recommendation to the General Assembly, but he would like to have some idea of the text which the Council would be asked to approve. It was not clear whether or not the Council was to discuss the UNICEF report every year, or every two years, and whether or not the Executive Board of UNICEF would continue to meet every year.

57. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Secretary-General's proposals, as set forth in his note (E/4751), were in the main acceptable. However, he agreed with the representative of France that the proposals concerning UNICEF, as outlined in paragraph 5 of that document, were not clear. In his view it was acceptable for the Assembly to examine the UNICEF report only every two years, but the Council should consider it every year in order to carry out its functions of co-ordination.

58. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) agreed that the Council should continue to examine the UNICEF report every year and that that point was not made clear in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's note. It was important from the standpoint of co-ordination to have an annual discussion because other operational activities were considered every year. If the High Commissioner appeared before the Council every year to present his report, there was no doubt that a number of delegations would feel bound to make formal statements of congratulations or thanks. Consequently it would be preferable if the High Commissioner presented his report only in those years when the Council was to discuss it under the arrangement proposed in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's note.

59. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) suggested that it might meet the points raised by the representatives of France and the United States if the words "or of the High Commissioner" were inserted after the word "numbers" in the last line of paragraph 3.

60. With respect to UNICEF, the request addressed to the Secretary-General at the summer session had been to consider whether or not the item should be dealt with by the General Assembly every year, and the question of the Council's consideration of UNICEF's report had not been raised. Consequently it had been assumed that the existing arrangement to consider the report at the summer session every year would continue. The recommendation in paragraph 5 would be in the Council's report to the General Assembly, and the Assembly's attention would be drawn to that point.

61. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) said that, if the Council considered the UNICEF report every year and the General Assembly considered it every two years, in some years the General Assembly would have two reports before it.

62. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that every year the Council reported on many matters that were not dealt with as separate items. Consideration of the UNICEF report would be incorporated in the Council's report submitted to the General Assembly (agenda item 12). There would be no separate item on UNICEF, unless the General Assembly decided otherwise.

63. Mr. VIAUD (France) suggested that for the time being the Council could confine itself to the proposals put forward in the Secretary-General's note with respect to

when the General Assembly should examine the UNICEF report. However, he hoped that the Council would reserve the subject of its own consideration of the report for later discussion in connexion with its internal organization, possibly in relation to the work programme for 1970.

64. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should approve the recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in his note.

The Secretary-General's recommendations contained in document E/4751 were approved.

Organization of work (E/L.1282/Add.1)

65. The PRESIDENT referred to the note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1282/Add.1) and asked if the Council would agree to include in the agenda for its resumed forty-seventh session the two additional items proposed, namely, the appointment to fill a vacancy in the Committee for Development Planning and the report of the resumed Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.