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**Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark).**

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council  
 (chapter VI, section II) (A/3154, A/C.3/L.506)  
 (*continued*)**

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (*continued*)**

1. Mrs. LOPEZ (Colombia) thought the reports on the anti-malaria campaigns carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were encouraging for all countries affected by the disease; total eradication was now a possibility. Her own country owed thanks to UNICEF for help in setting up maternal and child welfare services, introducing anti-tuberculosis vaccination and establishing 520 nutrition centres, where 1.3 million children received milk daily. Thirty nurseries for the children of working mothers had been opened and twenty-six were under construction, throughout the country, even in the most remote areas. The celebration of Universal Children's Day would help to increase the Colombian people's awareness of the needs of children.

2. The joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) appeared to be timely and wise, and would improve the co-ordination of the work of UNICEF. She would vote for it, particularly in view of the provision that the terms of the States already elected would not be prejudiced.

3. Mr. VARGAS (Brazil) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the joint draft resolution.

4. The United Nations Children's Fund had done excellent work on an increasing scale; but hundreds of millions of children in the world still lacked adequate food, shelter and protection against disease. The short life expectancy and high infant mortality rates which prevailed in the under-developed countries, where the health services were scanty, showed how much remained to be done for the children in those areas. The root problem might be summed up in the one word "under-development", which had been defined as a situation of low economic productivity in which *per caput* income was below \$500, the level at which capital accumulation could take place. The average *per caput* income in Central and South America was about \$175, in the Eastern Mediterranean countries under \$150 and in Africa and Asia under \$100.

5. In prosperous countries, life expectancy at birth was sixty-five years or more; in many under-developed countries it was only half that figure, and infant mortality rates were seven to fourteen times greater than in more advanced countries. But a simple transposition of health services from the advanced to the under-developed countries was neither economically nor administratively feasible. Advances in child health depended on sound planning, raising nutrition levels and improving economic and social conditions; all the conditions which necessitated UNICEF intervention would gradually disappear through economic development.

6. The Children's Fund was thus faced with a choice between two policies: it could either act on an emergency basis, supplying resources while countries worked for their own economic development, or it could adopt a long-term policy of helping countries to achieve a stage of development at which the need for assistance would disappear. Lasting results in the fields of maternal and child welfare, nutrition and disease control could be obtained only by raising the economic level of the areas concerned. The need for close co-ordination between the activities of UNICEF and national economic development programmes could not be over-emphasized.

7. His delegation was pleased with the excellent co-ordination existing between UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which had been extended to regional and local organizations. It also welcomed the initiative taken by UNICEF in carrying out research on new protein-rich foods to supplement diets in countries where malnutrition was prevalent. Those foods must be produced economically on an industrial scale in the areas concerned; the progress that had been made with research into the possibilities of ground-nuts, sesame and cotton-seed flour was encouraging in that connexion. Finally, the work of UNICEF had had the direct effect of reducing the incidence of malaria, tuberculosis, yaws, trachoma and leprosy and had given rise to the development of new techniques of mass control and eradication.

8. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) thought the reports showed that the great philanthropic work of UNICEF sufficed in itself to justify the existence of the United Nations. The assistance reached to all corners of the earth, from large cities to remote rural areas. Particularly important was the work for maternal and child welfare, especially in connexion with the community development plans sponsored by the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs. Millions of mothers and children would be helped by the control of tuberculosis, syphilis, leprosy, trachoma and yaws and by the malaria eradication campaigns. The Dominican Republic had been among the first of the Latin

American countries to contribute to UNICEF, and had given over \$250,000. Although it was obliged for the time being to reduce the amount of its grants, it had established a regular annual contribution, which it hoped to increase every year.

9. On the understanding that the countries which had been appointed to the Board through the Social Commission would remain members until their term expired, she would support the joint draft resolution, for her delegation had always considered that the Executive Board should function as an autonomous unit.

10. Mr. MESSADI (Tunisia) thanked the Chairman for his words of welcome, and expressed his gratification at being able to speak in a Committee whose work had so long been of interest to, and appreciated by, his country. In his view, the main task of the Third Committee was to develop a world conscience and to ensure respect for human rights and the rights of peoples. Its work and efforts promoted human progress, the ultimate goal being the constant improvement of man and his lot. It was therefore most suitable that the first item on the Committee's agenda should be UNICEF, which had saved the lives of so many of the world's children and to which his delegation in its turn paid a well-deserved tribute.

11. Tunisia had received UNICEF aid since 1949 and was most grateful for it, but it had also done much on its own initiative. One of the first actions of the Government on achieving independence had been to set up a Ministerial Department of Youth, which protected the interests of children, in social matters, as the Ministries of Health and National Education did in their own fields. The Department had worked out a systematic policy for the defence and protection of children and young persons and had made plans for children's villages, two of which were already in operation and provided shelter, food, medical care and education for thousands of children snatched from the grasp of misery and disease, until they became useful members of society. Under the direction of the Ministries of Health, Education and Justice, efforts were also being made to combat another scourge of childhood, juvenile delinquency.

12. Although the activities of UNICEF had improved the lot of millions of children, millions were still a prey to disease and hunger. Governments should spare no effort to advance and expand the work of UNICEF; their contribution should be twofold, in that it should take the form both of expanding their own health and welfare services and of increasing their assistance to UNICEF. That was the policy Tunisia, for its part, intended to pursue in 1957: both to expand its own child welfare work under UNICEF programmes and with UNICEF assistance, and to increase its financial contribution to UNICEF.

13. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala) expressed her delegation's admiration for the fine work done by UNICEF and for the excellent co-ordination achieved between UNICEF, WHO and FAO. Her country was particularly interested in the Fund's disease control programmes, which included the manufacture of vaccines and penicillin, assistance to remote rural areas, and research in the economical production of protein-rich foods. Guatemala was the centre of that type of research in Central America. The Fund had proved its efficiency and had done great work to promote

human solidarity; the time had come to separate it from the Social Commission. She would therefore vote in favour of the joint draft resolution.

14. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) expressed his great admiration of the humanitarian work done by UNICEF. Although Saudi Arabia did not receive UNICEF aid, for reasons of organization and social structure, it was well aware of the value of the Fund's activities, which were helping to build a foundation of health and prosperity for future generations. The objectives of UNICEF could not be described as utopian; its work was wholly practical, and, like that of the International Red Cross, knew no political frontiers. Unlike the Red Cross, however, it did not wait on catastrophes and wars; it was dedicated to peace and was therefore performing an entirely constructive task.

15. The joint draft resolution was praiseworthy in its aim of extending the scope of the Executive Board; however, the phrase restricting the Board's membership to Member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies was inappropriate. It was most unwise to inject a political note into a resolution relating to purely humanitarian work; such a policy was unworthy of the Third Committee. By imposing such a limitation the Committee would prevent vast areas from benefiting by UNICEF aid and would penalize innocent children in the name of an ideological principle. He asked for a separate vote on the phrase.

16. Mrs. KRASSOWSKA (Poland) associated herself with the tributes paid by other delegations to the work of UNICEF, which was an outstanding example of international co-operation and should be greatly expanded. The activities of UNICEF had been energetically promoted in Poland, where the maternal and child welfare programmes were felt to be of particular importance. Universal Children's Day was observed in Poland, not only as a children's festival, but as an occasion in which adults fully participated. The Polish Government attached great importance to co-operation between States with a view to solving problems of child welfare and to exchanging experience, and it hoped to co-operate more closely with UNICEF, to which it had contributed \$40,000 in 1955.

17. She supported the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506), which she felt to be desirable in its aim. However, the Fund should apply the principle of universality in its membership; the operative paragraph of the draft resolution should not, therefore, contain the restriction already mentioned by other delegations.

18. Mr. MARRIOTT (Australia) said that the Australian Government had always warmly supported UNICEF, to which it was one of the largest contributors on a *per caput* basis. The work of UNICEF would be facilitated if its administration functioned more efficiently; the change in the membership of the Executive Board proposed in the three-Power draft resolution would be a step in the right direction. He would support the draft resolution as it stood.

19. Mr. SINGH (India) said that India had always been a strong supporter of UNICEF; that was demonstrated by the fact that its contribution to the Fund was one of the largest, having amounted to 1.6 million rupees in 1955. As India attached very great impor-

tance to the observance of Universal Children's Day, he had been happy to note from paragraphs 437 and 438 of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3154) that by the middle of June 1956, forty-eight countries had already replied to the circular letter from the Executive Director of UNICEF on that subject. His Government hoped that an increasing number of countries would observe Children's Day, and that it would become truly universal.

20. Turning to the three-Power draft resolution, he observed that the Executive Board of UNICEF, as originally constituted by the General Assembly in its resolution 417 (V), comprised the eighteen members of the Social Commission and eight other members designated with due regard to geographical distribution and to the representation of the major contributing and recipient countries. Such an arrangement had been entirely suitable at the time, when UNICEF was still a temporary organization concerned mainly with the relief of the war-devastated areas in Europe; but the situation had changed. It had now become a subordinate body of the Economic and Social Council, and reported direct to the Council, not to the Social Commission. Although it still did some emergency work, the main emphasis in its activities was now on long-term relief programmes such as maternal and child welfare. Furthermore, its activities had extended far beyond Europe and were mainly concerned with the under-developed areas, where health problems were the most serious. In view of the importance of its activities, moreover, it was desirable that the Executive Board should meet twice a year, whereas the Social Commission met only once every two years. All justification for the original tie between the two bodies had now disappeared; such a tie, in any event, was almost unique in the United Nations. Indeed, its continuance was inconvenient. Some countries might be interested in the Social Commission and not in UNICEF, and *vice versa*; and there was a difference between the activities and the operation of the two bodies. As the three-Power draft resolution would undoubtedly eliminate an anomaly and enable UNICEF to function more efficiently, he would support it. However, he attached great importance to the principle of universality, and therefore requested a separate vote on the phrase "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies", in the text proposed in the operative paragraph (A/C.3/L.506).

21. Mrs. MARZUKI (Indonesia) congratulated UNICEF and its administration on the work it had done and the progress it had achieved. Indonesia had always supported UNICEF activities and would continue its contribution to the Fund in 1957. Her Government was particularly appreciative of the Fund's co-operation with specialized agencies such as WHO and FAO in combating disease, malnutrition and ignorance. The work of malaria eradication was particularly important, for a country's economic potential depended not only on the provision of economic assistance but also on the preservation of its human resources. Since signing the basic agreement with UNICEF, Indonesia had contributed \$100,000 annually to the Fund, and it was gratified to see the development of the Fund's activities.

22. It had been evident at the twenty-first session of the Economic and Social Council that there was general agreement on the necessity of reorganizing the

membership of the Executive Board of UNICEF to provide for direct election of all members. The separation of the membership of the Board from that of the Social Commission would ensure the active participation in it of more Governments which were interested in UNICEF. But as the representative of Czechoslovakia had pointed out at the preceding meeting, General Assembly resolution 417 (V) had laid down the principle of universality by providing that the membership of the Board should be selected from States not necessarily Members of the United Nations. In view of the humanitarian objectives of the Fund, it was essential that countries which were not Members of the United Nations should be allowed to participate if they wished. However, bearing in mind the humanitarian objectives, her delegation hoped that even in the event of the rejection of the Czechoslovak proposal (686th meeting), delegations would not withhold their support from the three-Power draft resolution. In casting its vote Indonesia would be guided by those considerations.

23. Mr. BAHADUR (Nepal) said that Nepal was a country of great contrasts, where climate, flora, fauna and geography varied greatly. It was an economically and industrially under-developed country, and had been isolated until 1951, so that it possessed no health statistics. However, life expectancy was known to be low, and maternal and child mortality high. Parasites, tuberculosis, venereal diseases and malaria were common, the latter affecting about 30 per cent of the population living in the areas concerned. There were sporadic outbreaks of leprosy; and other tropical diseases, such as cholera, were endemic in the tropical area. Plague, however, was so far unknown.

24. Before 1954, when a programme for the control of insect-borne disease had been launched, there had been no preventive medicine at all. It was now being given top priority, as essential to the health of the nation. Under the five-year plan, the Health Department proposed to establish the necessary machinery for its task. It intended to provide: education on the simple principles of sanitation and hygiene; maternal and child welfare services; preventive services such as malaria control measures, compulsory vaccination and the provision of safe water supplies; and treatment centres, by improving existing hospitals and dispensaries and opening new ones.

25. A start had been made, with the assistance of UNICEF, on projects connected with the organization of local health services and the control of insect-borne disease. Schools for training health assistants, nurses and health specialists had recently been opened with the help of WHO experts. It was hoped that under the five-year plan the health of the population would improve and that the improvement would be reflected in increased productivity. However, much remained to be done: more personnel needed to be trained and information and statistics had to be collected to provide a basis for the next five-year plan. Under the present five-year plan, the local health services had already been organized under the Medical Officer of Health. The malaria control programme would continue under the supervision of the Insect-Borne-Disease Control Bureau.

26. He supported the Indian representative's remarks concerning the three-Power draft resolution.

27. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) said the United Nations might well be proud of the achievements of UNICEF and of the Technical Assistance Administration, from which under-developed countries such as Afghanistan had derived great advantage. The maternal and child welfare programmes were particularly important, as many millions of mothers and children throughout the world lacked clothing, shelter and protection from disease. The Afghan Government was very grateful to UNICEF for the work it had done in Afghanistan since 1949 in mother and child welfare, malaria eradication, typhus control and other fields.

28. However, UNICEF could assist only a small fraction of those who needed help, as its funds were limited; much larger contributions were needed. The work of the Executive Board and Programme Committee of UNICEF had been remarkably efficient, but even better results would be possible if more funds were available.

29. He supported the three-Power draft resolution and expressed the hope that the new membership of the Board would reflect the principle laid down in the text given in the operative paragraph: "with due regard to geographical distribution and to the representation of the major contributing and recipient countries".

30. Mr. SULAIMAN (Iraq) associated himself with the tributes already paid to UNICEF and its staff for the services rendered in all parts of the world irrespective of race, creed or political boundaries. The non-political character of the activities of the Fund and other agencies of the United Nations was the best guarantee of their continuance and expansion. He hoped that whatever political differences might exist, they would be kept out of the sphere of activities of that valuable and unifying organ. The work done in Iraq by UNICEF in co-operation with other United Nations bodies had already produced tangible results. It had fitted in ideally with his country's own long-term development programme. Iraq was an excellent field of action for projects initiated by UNICEF for there existed a need and a will to improve conditions caused by past neglect, as well as the ability to shoulder the main responsibility by providing the material and administrative backing required. The Government of Iraq was giving its full support to the Fund's programmes. For example, it had contributed ten times as much as UNICEF to a milk distribution programme under which UNICEF had supplied the equipment for a milk sterilization plant. Similar co-operation was being achieved on an increasing scale in schemes promoted by UNICEF and other agencies in the field of public health. He believed that the real significance of all those services lay in their being a symbol of international interest and co-operation as well as instruments in initiating projects which could be taken over and operated by the people of the country.

31. He supported the three-Power draft resolution, which would serve to improve the functioning of UNICEF.

32. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that UNICEF had been instrumental in improving living conditions in many countries, in order that children might grow up to live better lives. It had thus contributed to the eventual achievement of one of the main purposes of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter. Furthermore, its work did not stop at

political and geographical boundaries: it was helping to build one world. The Philippines had already benefited greatly by UNICEF programmes, which provided an opportunity for co-operation between United Nations bodies, Governments and individuals.

33. The Fund supplied assistance without discrimination of any kind, and brought the children of all countries together. The principle of universality was particularly important, and should be adequately reflected in the membership of the Executive Board. The three-Power draft resolution was a step in the right direction, but it would be improved if it did not restrict membership to Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies. The operative paragraph should mention nations or countries, in his opinion, rather than States; but he would not press the point.

34. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) associated himself with the tributes paid to UNICEF and to the Chairman of the Executive Board. Austria was ready to give UNICEF its whole-hearted support. In addition to carrying on its permanent activities, UNICEF was always ready to lend emergency aid. When Hungarian refugees, predominantly women and children, had begun to pour into Austria, UNICEF had instantly offered the Austrian Government its help in providing for them—an offer of aid which was sorely needed and greatly appreciated.

35. As the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) would serve still further to increase the efficiency of UNICEF, he would vote for it.

36. U THWIN (Burma) said that UNICEF was an outstanding example of international co-operation. Its work was an important part of the economic and social activities which had won good will for the United Nations throughout the world. Burma had been a beneficiary of UNICEF programmes since 1950, and was grateful for the aid it had received. He suggested that UNICEF should not concentrate exclusively on the less developed countries, but should promote child welfare in the more advanced countries as well, with a view to inculcating an international spirit in the children of today, who were the leaders of tomorrow. His delegation would support all measures designed to enable UNICEF to function even more efficiently.

37. Mr. STEWART (New Zealand) congratulated Mr. Rajan on his brilliant and moving account of the work of UNICEF. He would forbear to comment on that work, since it spoke for itself. The New Zealand Government had from the very first been one of the firmest supporters of UNICEF, and was still the largest contributor on a *per caput* basis.

38. With reference to the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506), he observed that the method of direct election to the Executive Board of UNICEF was preferable to the present system, under which countries interested in the work of the Social Commission but not in that of UNICEF were compelled to serve on both. He would support the draft resolution as it stood.

39. He was unable to agree with the Czechoslovak representative that membership of the Executive Board should be open to countries not Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies. The operational activities of the Fund would, of course,



not be restricted in any way; but the administrative control of a United Nations organ, whose staff were members of the United Nations Secretariat and whose Executive Director was appointed by the Secretary-General, should be reserved to States which were, to some degree at least, in formal relationship with the United Nations. He therefore hoped that the Czechoslovak representative would not press his amendment, and that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

40. Ato Solomon TEKLE (Ethiopia) associated himself with the tributes paid to Mr. Rajan for his brilliant statement and to UNICEF for its invaluable work.

41. He would vote for the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506).

42. Mr. ROY (Haiti) said that his country owed UNICEF a great debt of gratitude. No country could have needed UNICEF assistance more than Haiti, with its dense population, its numerous children, its few doctors and its low *per caput* income; and since 1949 UNICEF had allocated over \$1 million to Haiti. The results of the Fund's operations had been nothing short of miraculous: to cite but two examples, the malaria eradication programme, undertaken in 1955, had already afforded protection to one million out of the 1.7 million who were exposed to it while the yaws eradication campaign had reduced the incidence of yaws among the rural population from nearly 50 per cent to 0.34 per cent.

43. The Fund was also to be commended for the close co-ordination of its programmes with those of the specialized agencies, in particular WHO.

44. He would vote for the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506).

45. Mr. MAHMUD (Ceylon) thanked the Chairman for the kind welcome he had extended to representatives of new Members.

46. It was generally recognized that the humanitarian work performed by UNICEF and the specialized agencies was at the same time a sound financial investment. The Fund, in particular, had a record of service which would alone suffice to justify the existence of the United Nations, and had given the world a fine demonstration of man's humanity to man. His Government had doubled its modest contribution to UNICEF in appreciation of the Fund's work in Ceylon.

47. He supported the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506).

48. Mrs. SHOHAM-SHARON (Israel) observed that UNICEF had been in existence for ten years; the time was therefore appropriate for stock-taking and making plans for the future.

49. She thanked the Chairman of the Executive Board for his inspiring statement. From the first, the Fund's operations had been characterized by boldness, vision and flexibility. Since 1950, UNICEF had devoted itself wholly to seeking to abolish disease and malnutrition and to helping people to help themselves in forging a better life for their children. In 1956, UNICEF programmes had been operated in ninety-eight countries and had reached some 40 million mothers and children; nevertheless, only 6 per cent of those who required help from UNICEF had so far received it. The budget of UNICEF was growing from year to

year, and its activities would expand accordingly. With the limited means at its disposal, it had already performed miracles. It was well on the way to eradicating malaria in Latin America and the eastern Mediterranean; thanks to its efforts, the scourge of yaws and leprosy would soon be a thing of the past; it was developing mass techniques for the treatment of tuberculosis in the home; it was eradicating trachoma, developing cheap high-protein foods, instituting maternal and child welfare centres, training welfare personnel and improving children's nutrition; and in addition, it was always ready to help in an emergency.

50. Israel had been assisted by UNICEF in setting up milk-pasteurizing and sterilizing plants. As a result, milk had for the first time become a staple article of diet for many Israeli children.

51. The Fund was also to be commended for the balance it maintained in its programmes; the maternal and child welfare programmes had not suffered when it had turned its attention to disease eradication. She paid a tribute to the Executive Director and his highly qualified and devoted staff, who had managed to accomplish so much at so little cost.

52. She would vote for the three-Power draft resolution.

53. Mr. TOSCANO (Italy) thanked the Chairman for the welcome he had extended to new Member States.

54. He associated himself with the many representatives who had expressed appreciation of Mr. Rajan's statement. The figures cited had been particularly impressive in that they had shown the astonishingly low *per caput* cost of the immensely beneficial projects undertaken. He congratulated the Executive Director on the efficiency of UNICEF. That such splendid results had been achieved at so little expense made it a moral obligation for States to increase their contributions to the Fund.

55. He hoped that UNICEF would do its utmost to help the children of the Hungarian refugees.

56. The present system of election to the Executive Board had been devised before UNICEF had achieved its present autonomy and permanence. He was therefore in favour of replacing it by a system of direct election, and would vote for the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506).

57. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) observed that the membership of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council would probably be enlarged in order to accommodate new Members. For the same reason, the membership of the Executive Board of UNICEF should also be increased. She therefore proposed that the words "twenty-six States" in the text proposed in the operative paragraph of the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506) should be replaced by the words "thirty States".

58. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) and Mrs. LORD (United States of America) felt that it would be desirable to hear the views of the Executive Director or the Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF on the feasibility of the proposed change.

59. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) asked the Secretariat to inform the Committee of the financial implications of the proposed change.

60. Mr. PUDLAK (Czechoslovakia) reminded the Committee that he had suggested the deletion, in the operative paragraph of the three-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.506), of the phrase "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies". He would be content if a separate vote was

taken on those words. However, as his suggestion had been supported by a number of delegations, he hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution, in the interests of unanimity, would themselves agree to the suggested deletion.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.