

the contributions which they could make to the attainment of those goals; as social welfare policies and programmes were formulated, the question must be raised as to whether or not they took into account the needs and resources of the aging. The existence of age discrimination, economic insecurity and failure to provide for an equitable distribution of national income and wealth, required major redefinition of existing policies, such as social security, the right to work, the right to needed social and health services, housing, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities. A policy on aging, therefore, was essential as the world approached the twenty-first century, in order to assure the increasing numbers and proportions of older persons their basic rights and full participation in society.

66. The problems of aging in the present-day world could not fail to concern the United Nations, which had a key role to play, both at the national and international levels, in meeting the needs of older persons. Probably the first question that arose was whether Governments, in the developed and developing countries, were committed to building a better quality of life for everybody, including the aged. The latter needed immediate attention as their number was growing at an alarming rate and they could become an economic and social burden for society and thus jeopardize the efforts made by countries to promote progress and development.

67. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) thought that the time had come to consider the question of the elderly

and aged, an item whose inclusion in the Third Committee's agenda the Maltese delegation had requested some years before. As a result of increased life expectancy, older persons were becoming more numerous in all countries. Although the rise in the level of living afforded many advantages it also presented certain disadvantages, the most serious of which, from the point of view of the question under consideration, was the dispersal of the family. Within the framework of the social unit constituted by the extended family, which still existed in many countries of Asia and Africa, elderly persons lived with their children and grandchildren, who could take care of them. But where that family attitude changed, older people found themselves alone. Even in cases where, as in such countries as Sweden, their material welfare was assured, they suffered considerable moral and emotional alienation. The sense of isolation was even more acute when they had no role to play in society and felt useless. The situation was a matter of concern in many countries, such as the United States, where volunteers visited the elderly in order to alleviate their solitude. It was necessary to find other structures to replace the extended family and he was willing to give consideration to any study the Secretariat might make on the subject and to any draft resolution submitted with a view to solving the problem.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*

## 2023rd meeting

Monday, 12 November 1973, at 3.15 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2023

### AGENDA ITEM 58

**Question of the elderly and the aged: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.7; A/9126 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2051)**

1. Mr. BELLIZZI (Malta) recalled that two years previously, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2842 (XXVI), in which it had requested the Secretary-General to continue the study of the changing socio-economic and cultural role and status of the aged and to prepare a report suggesting guidelines for national policies and international action related to the needs and the role of the elderly and the aged in society, in the context of over-all development, particularly in countries where the socio-economic problems of the aged were marked. By adopting that text and interesting itself in the fate of the elderly and the aged, the Third Committee had shown itself to be equal to its responsibilities as a body dealing with social, humanitarian and cultural matters and had further broadened its field of study and activity.

2. One other important fact should be noted: in resolution 2842 (XXVI), the Secretary-General had also

been requested to submit a report on the subject of the elderly and the aged to the Economic and Social Council in 1973, through the Commission for Social Development, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. At its twenty-third session, the Commission for Social Development had considered the question on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General entitled "The aged and social change",<sup>1</sup> and on the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1751 (LIV), entitled "The aged and social security". In that connexion, his delegation wished first to commend the Commission for Social Development for its work. It had not been greatly assisted in that work by the report of the Secretary-General, since owing to factors beyond his control the latter had been able to prepare only a progress report lacking the findings and guidelines that might have aided the Commission in its task. Such findings and guidelines were contained in the report under consideration, and the Committee should take immediate action to ensure that its approach to the question did not become distorted. The question of the elderly and the aged did not only involve problems of social security, as might be implied by the title of the Council resolution, but a whole cluster of problems

<sup>1</sup> E/CN.5/482.

concerning the personality of the elderly and their role in society. In that connexion, he wished to make some comments on that resolution.

3. Its title—"The aged and social security"—appeared to indicate that the Commission for Social Development had deviated from its terms of reference; as had been explained in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>1</sup> those terms of reference had emanated first and foremost from General Assembly resolution 2842 (XXVI), which related not only to social security but to everything connected with the elderly. Furthermore, it was apparent that the issue had not only been dealt with from one particular angle—namely, social security—but had to a certain extent been obfuscated by the introduction of new elements. Thus, paragraph 3 of the Council resolution made recommendations for "workers with special needs, in particular women", "immigrant workers and their families" and "the vocational training and employment of the handicapped", while paragraph 4 dealt with the participation of trade unions in the field of social security as well as in the improvement of the general well-being of the population. While his delegation had no objection to any of those recommendations, it felt that, in the context in which they had been stated, they had merely served to confuse an issue which had been submitted to the Commission for Social Development by the General Assembly in straightforward terms and, even more serious, had made it a side issue. Having said that, his delegation recognized the value of that resolution and particularly welcomed the provision regarding the preparation of a comparative study of social security systems to which the ILO would contribute.

4. It was not his intention to refer to matters already dealt with in the Secretary-General's report (A/9126 and Corr.1), which was extremely comprehensive. He merely wished to highlight the complex problem of old age which had been brought out in the report and to focus attention on the approach that should, in his opinion, be taken in dealing with that problem.

5. The question of aging raised three major problems. First, there was a population problem. Calculations showed that the absolute and relative size of the aging populations was increasing. That trend could be expected to continue, both in the developed and in the developing countries, and in many cases to accelerate. In 1970, there had been approximately 291 million old people in the world. By the year 2000 they were expected to number approximately 585 million—or an increase of almost 100 per cent in 30 years—while the world population as a whole would increase only by some 80 per cent.

6. That increase in the absolute and relative size of the aging population represented both an opportunity and a challenge to society. The untapped human resources constituted by the elderly and their potential economic and social contribution held out great possibilities. However, the question was how countries could utilize such resources by involving the elderly in national and international efforts. Too often, the elderly were regarded, especially in the developed countries, as dependent and unproductive members of society. That was a negative development which the developing regions should try to avoid; they now had the opportunity to do so and to harness the human resources constituted by their older citizens to meet the needs of elderly

persons who required aid and assistance, and those of dependent young people.

7. Secondly, aging presented a social problem. In the developing countries, where households contained three or more generations, real economic and social power resided in the head of the family, who was its senior member. However, as was also indicated in the Secretary-General's report, it could be expected that the younger urban generations in most developing countries would loosen their traditional ties with the family and that the prestige and power of older people would decline. Furthermore, the acceleration of urbanization and rapid economic and technological growth could lead to a relatively rapid change in the situation of the aged. There was no doubt that the growing economic independence of each one of the three generations from the other two affected the nature of the interrelationship between children, parents and grandparents, because of the disappearance of an essential basis for co-operation—the pooling of forces and work with a view to the allocation of resources among family members. Family ties were slackening, and the traditional role of the elderly within the family was being eroded. The most significant consequence for the family of the increase in the size of aging populations was the fact that the three-generation family was increasingly coming to be replaced by the family of four or even five generations. That phenomenon, coupled with the geographical dispersal of the family as a result of emigration, had a substantial impact on the traditional roles of the various generations and the responsibilities of family life, particularly in regard to aged family members.

8. Thirdly, aging raised an economic problem. The elderly were on the fringe of economic and social life; in highly industrialized countries, at the age of 60 to 65 years they entered a particularly frustrating phase of life since, while their needs and capacities had in some cases changed little, their opportunities for self-expression had been reduced because of dwindling finances. Also they might become dependent on their spouse of children or, worse still, in the absence of personal or family resources and of a social security system, they might have to turn to charitable institutions for support. In rural areas, the problem was relatively new, particularly in developing countries. However, because of the migration of young people to the cities, a large number of elderly persons were deprived of their traditional sources of income and support. Moreover, as a result of industrialization, the growth of the economy was increasingly dependent on the efficiency of the individual worker; each one became a focal unit in the social system and, judged on the basis of personal achievement which was fundamental in such an evolution, elderly people were becoming increasingly vulnerable. If for elderly people the loss of their own income was a sad reality, for society it was a heavier burden and the question was whether economic assistance for elderly persons was a right they had acquired or an inherent human right.

9. All those considerations showed that the problems of elderly persons must be considered comprehensively if it was desired to give elderly persons the possibility of preserving their personality into old age. Elderly persons would be able to fulfil themselves merely by being provided for through a social security scheme.

10. The problem was where to look for remedies. An article in the *The times* of London rightly pointed out that most health and welfare services were designed for infirmed elderly persons and that there was often a tendency to equate old age with illness. Quite frequently, active elderly persons were not considered as being elderly. Currently, very little was known of what elderly persons thought about the assistance provided to them by society, and no critical evaluation by those who benefited from such assistance was available. Provisions for later life must be rethought. The Secretary-General was right in proposing the elaboration of dynamic long-range policies for the elderly and in suggesting an approach to the problem which would replace traditional measures designed to cure rather than prevent, by measures actually aimed at prevention and development. The Secretary-General stressed the idea that elderly persons must not be treated in isolation and that their particular needs and the positive role they could continue to play must be dealt with in national policies for the promotion of social and economic development. The report of the Secretary-General clearly indicated that more research would be necessary at the international level so that the suggested guidelines might be implemented. His delegation was of the opinion that the Secretary-General should be the focal point for the activities which would be undertaken for that purpose. Hence along with a number of other delegations, now joined by the Australian delegation, his delegation was submitting a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2051), which while not increasing the financial burden of the United Nations would enable the Secretary-General to undertake the activities his delegation considered to be the next stage after the initial studies requested two years previously by the General Assembly.

11. The draft called for an integrated approach to the problem and dealt with various matters which might help to solve it. Thus, operative paragraph 3 invited Governments to take action not only in the field of social security, but in a number of other fields as well. Paragraph 4 related to what the Secretary-General might be requested to do with the resources at his disposal. The request made in paragraph 4 (a) was not new. The Secretary-General was also requested to intensify research in order to be better able to give opinions and advice. In that connexion, he expressed the hope that, at the next session, a more complete report would be available to the General Assembly.

12. With regard to the progress report proposed in paragraph 7, the sponsors had considered that the Secretary-General would not have enough time to report to the Commission for Social Development by 1975. Three years would have been sufficient, but since that body did not meet in 1976 the date selected had been 1977. The draft resolution had been worded in very general terms in order to avoid any controversy, and some delegation would probably wish to expand certain of its provisions.

13. The text was not incompatible with other resolutions on the subject, particularly Economic and Social Council resolution 1751 (LIV). Moreover, the study proposed by the sponsors should not involve additional expense. He therefore hoped that the draft resolution would receive unanimous support.

14. Mr. MUSAFIRI (Zaire) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged (A/9126 and Corr.1) and the introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (2021st meeting) were very much in keeping with the outlook of the Executive Council of Zaire in that field, and the practical activities undertaken in Zaire for the benefit of the elderly and the aged were in conformity with the basic principles contained in the reports of the United Nations. All political and economic activities in Zaire were aimed at improving the living conditions of the people and promoting their personal fulfilment, but the solution to social and humanitarian problems was sought in the framework of authentic Zaire culture, which also included the concerns of the Government for the elderly and the aged. In that connexion, the Manifesto of the Zaire national party known as the People's Revolutionary Movement stated that elderly persons must be able to end their days without material cares and without being subjected to material poverty because of advancing age. Pursuant to that decision, Zaire had initiated a whole range of co-ordinate promotion and social welfare services under the authority of the State Commissioner for Social Affairs, its main objective being to bring about qualitative and quantitative changes in the life styles of the people of Zaire. The Department of Social Affairs, whose task was to provide assistance to elderly persons, was striving to determine their real needs and seek equitable solutions, either by assisting them at home through the intermediary of social centres located in their communities or by admitting them to social welfare homes. At the same time, a great deal of importance was attached to the virtue of filial devotion, which obliged children to make their elderly parents as happy as possible in their old age. In that connexion, it should be borne in mind that the developing countries very often did not have the necessary material resources to establish institutions which could receive ever-increasing numbers of elderly and aged persons.

15. For the benefit of that age group, the Zaire Government was trying to prepare general social service programmes which were related to other aspects of its national policy and associated private initiative with State activities. The responsibility for elderly persons must be assumed both individually and collectively and at the level of the various groups in the community. In that connexion, the best solution for the developing countries would be to organize national solidarity councils for co-ordinating various types of assistance for social welfare and also to establish national public welfare commissions. The activities of such commissions would not be limited to material aid only. They would also provide more active assistance by studying each case and seeking practical ways of enabling those being helped to adapt more easily to their living conditions. His delegation was prepared to take part in the search for means of improving the living conditions of the elderly and the aged throughout the world.

16. Mr. KHMIL (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that the report of the Secretary-General (A/9126 and Corr.1) described the measures taken in the socialist countries for the benefit of the aged—retirement homes and hostels, supportive services, home help services, and social security systems, but

that the indications given did not truly reflect the useful experience those countries had acquired.

17. In the Ukrainian SSR, in particular, life expectancy continued to increase as a result of social progress, improved living conditions and medical advances, and also because the country had enjoyed more than 28 years of peace. By 1970, there had been almost four times as many elderly as in 1926. The Constitution guaranteed each citizen old-age assistance, including sickness benefits. The right to retirement was granted to men aged 60 who had worked for 20 years and to women aged 55 who had worked for 15 years, the required number of years of employment being less in the case of particularly arduous occupations. The retirement pension represented between 50 and 70 per cent of wages. Retirement was not automatic and any worker who so desired could continue to work. In certain occupations he would then receive, in addition to his wages, a bonus representing between 50 and 100 per cent of the retirement benefit to which he would have been entitled; consequently, 22 per cent of persons of retirement age continued to work. The retired worker was entitled to remain in the same housing, at a very low rental. If necessary, he could apply for home help for certain tasks. Medical and dental services and medication were free and, if rest or special care was needed, there was a large network of rest homes and sanatoria in which he could be accommodated. Under the ninth five-year plan, provision was made for further improving the lot of the elderly; the plan also provided for more cultural activities for the whole population, including the aged. Socialist society was conscious of its debt to those who had worked for its development; consequently, social security constituted an important element in economic and social development planning and was a significant item in the State budget. Socialist society was structured so as to ensure that the elderly did not become isolated. Private life was not limited to the family circle, but merged into community life. The worker had strong links with the community in which he worked and retired persons were not excluded from the community, but remained members of the organizations to which they had belonged before retirement.

18. The report of the Secretary-General, in particular paragraphs 4 to 9, showed that the question of the elderly and the aged was not new; as a result of the past activities of United Nations bodies in that area, the United Nations had had a fairly clear idea of the importance of that question, and of the resources which would be needed to deal with it, even before the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2599 (XXIV). At its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly had considered the question on the basis of the preliminary report of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup> which had preceded the report which was currently before the Committee. All aspects of the question—moral, social, economic and other—had been laid before the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council; those two bodies had decided to concentrate on the social aspect and the Economic and Social Council had accordingly adopted resolution 1751 (LIV). That resolution rightly stressed social security, since the establishment of an adequate social security system was the first step to be taken in resolving the social aspects of the problem of the elderly. The

preamble to that resolution referred to the importance of social security and to article 11 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, and stressed the fact that the protection of the aged was an important element in any comprehensive social security scheme and that it could not be dealt with in isolation: the latter assertion answered the objection of the Maltese delegation that the resolution would bring outside elements into the problem.

19. Referring to the operative part of that resolution, he noted, *inter alia*, that paragraph 3 recommended that Governments should carry out the necessary social security measures to ensure that the aged received adequate social security payments, and that in paragraph 4 the whole community, including the trade unions, was called on to participate in those efforts.

20. Economic and Social Council resolution 1751 (LIV) conformed throughout with the report of the Secretary-General, and his delegation therefore proposed that the resolution should be adopted as a General Assembly resolution. The United Nations should not duplicate the effort of the specialized agencies such as the ILO and WHO, but should indicate ways of finding a solution to that world-wide problem. Social security provided the key which would enable a solution to be found. He hoped that the members of the Committee would share his views and would support his proposal.

21. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had before it, in addition to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2051, a draft resolution submitted by the Ukrainian SSR.<sup>3</sup>

22. Mrs. BONENFANT (Canada) congratulated the Secretary-General on his excellent report. Although the scope of that report was world-wide, since it dealt with all geographical regions, her delegation felt that the problem of terminology had not been solved and that there was an urgent need to establish an international terminology which would enable countries to understand one another better in international exchanges.

23. Referring to the question under consideration, she said that the first priority was to recognize the new situation resulting from the continued growth of the elderly population in industrialized societies, where technological progress, while improving levels of living, mobility and communications, tended to exclude the elderly members of society from the productive sector and to accentuate the isolation and segregation of the elderly population by accelerating the trend towards urbanization.

24. The second priority was to take the necessary measures to prevent a progressive deterioration of the situation of the elderly in the developing countries, even if, in those countries, tribal and community structures had in general continued to evolve as far as the elderly were concerned.

25. The third field of action related to the attitudes of society and of the elderly themselves. In the industrialized countries, those attitudes must change if full use was to be made of the resources offered by that age group; in that connexion, a systematic campaign should be waged to secure the participation of the elderly in

<sup>2</sup> A/8364.

<sup>3</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2053.



planning and organizing programmes for other elderly persons, in order to prove to them that they could continue to play an important role in society. In the developing countries, where, in general, the elderly still constituted a productive sector of society, every effort should be made to ensure that their influence and their participation did not decline. In general terms, new roles must be found for the elderly, and the Canadian Government had made efforts in that direction. In 1972, the Canadian Minister for National Health and Welfare had prepared and launched the "New Horizons" programme which was designed to help the retired and the elderly in general and to enable them to engage in useful and satisfying activities. The programme provided funds for the full or partial financing of activities organized by or for the elderly, but did not provide for the direct remuneration of those taking part. The intention of the programme was not to provide the elderly with additional income, but rather to enable them to extend their field of interests and to maintain and increase their links with the rest of society, notably the young, within the framework of participation projects.

26. Once it had thus been proved that the elderly could play a productive role in society, the fourth priority was to adopt a creative and innovative attitude in conceiving new and valuable roles for them, as technological progress and social evolution rendered traditional roles obsolete.

27. In order to continue to play an active role, the elderly must of course enjoy good health and it would be necessary to launch constructive programmes which would emphasize preventing illness, as well as returning the elderly to and keeping them in active life. The improvement and maintenance of the health of the elderly constituted an essential part of general planning.

28. It was necessary to intensify the role of private and voluntary organizations and agencies so that isolated elderly persons could be traced more effectively. There was an urgent need for well-planned co-operation between the various public authorities at all levels and between Governments and voluntary organizations, not only in connexion with the financing of the programmes but also in establishing the necessary services.

29. She expressed the hope that the General Assembly would adopt the "suggested guidelines for the development of national policies and international action" put forward by the Secretary-General in chapter V of his report on the question, and that the Secretariat would use all means at its disposal to ensure that the measures suggested were implemented. She also felt that a progress report should be presented to the General Assembly in 1977.

30. In conclusion, she said that her delegation wished to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.3/L.2051.

31. Mr. BIRBAUM (Austria) stressed the importance in humanitarian and social terms of the question of the elderly and the aged, and said that he had a number of observations to make on the problems faced by that particular age group, which comprised an increasingly broad sector of the population.

32. Firstly, he wondered whether the industrialized countries, in the name of efficiency, had not been somewhat too hasty in putting aside those persons who no longer directly played a part in active life, and

whether it would not be better to give the elderly a new lease on life by providing them with a social function which would enable them to assume responsibilities, to make use of their creative energies and their abilities and thus to remain a part of the social process.

33. At the same time, the elderly should be provided with a whole range of social services enabling them to remain as long as possible in their usual surroundings: home visits, home help services, assistance in cases of illness or permanent disability, home meal services, and so on. He referred in that connexion to the example of Austria. However, such social services were useless if the State did not guarantee the elderly reasonably adequate old-age pensions. Social justice required that the material interests of the retired should be safeguarded. His Government had taken such action by instituting a scale of pensions linked to the cost of living, which also took into account improvements in the level of living in general. His Government was thus doing everything it could to put into effect the right to security in old age, which was set out in article 25, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

34. His delegation would give its support to any project designed to improve the lot of the elderly and involve them in social life, as well as any resolution which pursued those goals.

35. Lord GAINFORD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation attached great importance to the question of the elderly and the aged, and welcomed the introduction of the item for discussion by the Committee. His Government viewed the problem of the elderly with profound concern. Life expectancy was growing considerably as a result of progress in medical science and, since retirement age in the United Kingdom was about 65, millions of persons faced a number of years living on a pension and regarded apprehensively that period of their lives which might appear to be no longer useful and might be difficult from the material point of view. His Government was aware of those problems, and was seeking to ensure that pensions for the elderly kept in step with increases in the cost of living. Moreover, many persons received additional pensions from the companies or government organizations which had employed them. Also, certain kinds of employment, such as clerical jobs, were open to retired persons. Finally, advisory services were organized for the purpose of helping them to make the most of their leisure during retirement. Despite those efforts, there were still elderly persons with the government pension as their only income who lived entirely alone in squalid conditions. Regardless of efforts made by official and voluntary social workers, such persons, usually the survivors of an age when security was provided by the family, did not manage to make new friends. In order to avoid such tragedies, preparations for dealing with that period of life should be made at a very early stage, and, in that connexion, education could play a major role in enabling each person to develop his abilities and talents and enjoy a richer and more varied life. As an example, he referred to the activities of certain local authorities in the United Kingdom, particularly the Greater London Council, which not only provided its staff with an efficient pension scheme, organized courses for employees approaching pensionable age and offered them advice, but also organized in many colleges and schools courses covering almost every subject, which were

open to students of all ages. At the outset, those courses had been attended by young people endeavouring to gain professional qualifications, but they were now attracting a growing number of elderly persons who thus kept their minds active, broadened their social contacts and, through their experience, assisted their teachers and their younger fellow students.

36. Finally, from the psychological point of view, he stressed the importance of the terminology used to refer to the social group of the elderly: whereas such adjectives as "old" or "elderly" tended to emphasize the negative aspects of aging, the phrase "senior citizen" suggested a person who had lived a fruitful and interesting life and who could still be of service to the community.

37. His delegation reserved the right to speak later on the subject of the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.3/L.2051).

38. Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) said that the appearance of the Secretary-General's report (A/9126 and Corr.1) was particularly timely: progress in gerontology now made possible better understanding of the biological, psychological and sociological implications of aging and, accordingly, the needs and potential of the elderly, at a time when, because of developments in society, the basic human rights of the aged and the elderly were being threatened. The United Nations, with its specialized agencies, was the organization best equipped to view global social issues in a long perspective, to pool national resources for the solution of international problems and vice versa, and to point out guidelines for the future. The Secretary-General's report on the subject was commendable, both for the basic information it provided and for its suggested guidelines for the development of national policies and international action.

39. The elderly and the aged constituted a minority group, currently amounting to 8 per cent of the world's population. Their numbers were steadily growing, and it was clear that society's responsibility for them would also grow. The vital question of maintaining their income levels, for example, was a critical one, and society had a duty to guard against the economic deprivation of the elderly. The Secretary-General's report made it clear that the elderly, especially in the developed countries, were among the most deprived and that the situation of women was particularly unfavourable; they also experienced social and emotional isolation.

40. Governments had an important role to play in protecting the elderly. For that reason, her delegation had become a sponsor of the text adopted as Economic and Social Council resolution 1751 (LIV), relating to the aged and social security, in which the protection of the elderly was regarded as an integral part of the social and economic development of society as a whole, and which stressed that that question could not be dealt with in isolation. The developing countries in particular should establish comprehensive social security schemes, granting high priority to the needs of the elderly and the aged. In that connexion, the Economic and Social Council resolution was particularly relevant for countries now engaged in social planning. The question of the elderly presented special challenges for the developing countries. The aged and the elderly currently represented between 5 and 6 per cent of their population but, given the phenomenal rise in life expectancy, there would be a higher proportionate increase in

the elderly population there than in the developed countries. In addition, the developing countries, which had limited resources, encountered difficulties in financing measures to benefit the aged. Some countries, such as her own, had established insurance schemes based on deductions from salaries, but that system bypassed the jobless. The developing countries, which were confronted with the problem of massive unemployment, found it difficult to keep the elderly in the productive process: one possible approach would be to promote flexible employment practices and develop social services which could make use of their abilities. Another role of the elderly was to preserve the values and customs of the traditional family. Finally, the usefulness of self-help measures and individual initiative should not be ignored.

41. It was regrettable that the Secretary-General's report did not cover the situation of the elderly and the aged in Africa and Asia, but was based exclusively on the experience of the developed countries. She also believed that the report attached too much importance to national plans, which did not always faithfully reflect local social realities. As the United Nations continued its work, it should draw on a wide range of experience which transcended national differences.

42. Mr. PETHERBRIDGE (Australia) said that his delegation had made a preliminary study of the Secretary-General's report (A/9126 and Corr.1) and had realized that it was an important and valuable document, which would be forwarded to his Government for more detailed study. The report had been issued at a particularly opportune moment for his Government. The aged and the elderly represented 10 per cent of the total population of Australia, and their needs were met by a three-tiered programme providing a comprehensive range of benefits and welfare services: some programmes—pensions, free medical treatment and tax concessions—were wholly financed and administered by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia; others, such as housing, welfare services, free hospitalization and low-rental housing, involved both the Federal and State governments; lastly, there were schemes in which the Government joined financially with religious and charitable bodies.

43. Realizing the inadequacy of existing social and economic structures to meet the needs of modern society, the new Australian Government which had come into power in December 1972, had launched a programme designed to achieve basic changes in the structure and administration of society. Studies were currently being made on new measures to assist the elderly and the aged: a National Commission on Social Welfare had been set up to study community needs in that field, to report and to make recommendations on the matter; a Commission of Inquiry into Poverty was to investigate the extent, incidence and causes of poverty in Australia and ways of alleviating the problem; a National Superannuation Committee of Inquiry would examine and report on a national superannuation scheme and a Working Party on Homeless Men and Women would propose recommendations for government action designed to assist that particular group. All those bodies had been established relatively recently and the Secretary-General's report should be of valuable assistance in directing their attention to a number of points, such as the need to institute policies and programmes

for the elderly and the aged within the framework of the country's over-all economic and social planning; the importance to the elderly and the aged of anti-inflationary measures and, generally, of all measures to maintain the economic level of the country so that social services could be improved.

44. He also noted that the Secretary-General's report had pointed out that the proportion of the elderly and aged in the total population was increasing as a result of increased life expectancy, which was in turn the result of medical and scientific progress. The report also drew the international community's attention to the psychological and human problems of the elderly and the aged and to the untapped reservoir of skill, talent and knowledge provided by that section of the population, which went to waste when compulsory retirement ages did not give the elderly the opportunity to continue to lead an active and fruitful life. It rightly pointed out that aging might be one of the crucial questions of the latter part of the twentieth century and that the international community's interest in the problem should be aroused so that Governments could be encouraged to take the broad measures required in that field.

45. Mr. WILSON (Liberia) said he was glad to see that the international community was directing its attention to the question of the elderly and the aged, which had always been a matter of concern to his delegation. He stressed that the question could be considered from several different viewpoints, depending on the cultural background and the life style of the individual. Throughout Africa, and particularly in Liberia, everyone was accustomed from childhood to think of himself in relation to his family, his clan and his tribe. The members of each group were obliged to help each other in poverty, sickness and old age. Because of the extended family system, there was always someone to look after the elderly, and the latter were respected by everyone for their wisdom and experience. In the absence of a written tradition, it was the elderly who were the educators of the young. Liberia naturally had a Ministry of Social Welfare, one of whose functions was to take measures to provide for the socio-economic needs of the elderly, but it was always the family which assumed the main responsibility in that respect. In any case, the Liberian delegation would unreservedly support any decision which the Committee might take for the benefit of the elderly and the aged.

46. Mr. FØNS BUHL (Denmark) said that his country had always devoted much attention to the problems of the elderly and the aged. As long ago as 1891, the Danish Parliament had enacted the first legislation providing for public pensions for indigent elderly people. The Government had also endeavoured to meet the housing needs of that section of the population by providing homes for old people, institutions and other residential arrangements. Furthermore, a ramified system of service was provided to assist people who continued to live in their own homes: it included home nursing and domestic help. A variety of leisure activities was also organized for the elderly.

47. His Government had acquired considerable experience in the field of gerontological research. The National Institute of Social Research, which had been established in 1958, had already published nearly 20 reports on the living conditions and social problems of the elderly and the aged. In the light of that experience,

the Danish delegation would make some comments on specific passages of the Secretary-General's report (A/9126 and Corr.1), the high quality and usefulness of which it greatly appreciated. First, at the end of paragraph 20, the observation about the increasing number of elderly persons, and the future acceleration of that trend was certainly true for many developing countries, but not for the developed countries. In Denmark, for example, the percentage of people over 65 years of age was expected to grow at a decelerating pace until 1990 and then begin to decrease, which meant that the care of the elderly would impose a smaller burden on the other sections of the population and that the development of services for their assistance should be facilitated. His delegation was not convinced that the reduction in the death rate could be ascribed principally to advances in medicine, as was stated in paragraph 58 of the report. It was conceivable that improvements in living conditions and an increase in real *per capita* income had played a greater part.

48. Another point to which he wished to refer was the isolation of the elderly. The picture given in paragraph 85 was perhaps somewhat exaggerated. A study conducted in Denmark had shown that over 80 per cent of elderly persons living alone had had some sort of social contact on the previous day and that only 5 per cent had not had any kind of social contact during the week preceding the inquiry. That did not mean that the problem did not exist in Denmark, but it was certainly not so great as was generally assumed.

49. With regard to the economic position of the elderly, it was stated in paragraph 101 of the report that in the most affluent countries the aged were among the most impoverished in the nation. That was not the case in Denmark, where interviews had shown that the large majority of elderly persons over 65 thought that they were no poorer than they had been 10 years previously. He thought it was the same in the other Nordic countries. With regard to the question of leisure and recreational activities, mentioned in paragraph 137, he thought that the developed countries should give serious attention in coming years to the creation of a service machinery to cover the real needs which existed in that field for, as the most elementary needs were satisfied, new needs, of a more cultural nature, tended to emerge.

50. With regard to the age of retirement, referred to in paragraphs 172 and 173 of the report, he said that Denmark had set up a special committee to review the whole pension system.

51. His delegation agreed with the observations in paragraph 185 of the report with regard to the establishment of new centres and, particularly, the training of personnel. It was a question to which the Danish Government attached very great importance: care must be taken not to underestimate the needs. For example, qualitative improvements in institutions for the elderly and the fact that it would become increasingly difficult for such persons to count on assistance from their children would probably result in an increase in the number of applications for admission to such institutions greater than might be anticipated at first sight if projections were based solely on the increase in the number of elderly persons. His delegation did not approve of the tendency to give priority to providing places in institutions to give the elderly the long-term care and facilities

they required, mentioned in paragraph 200 of the report. In many cases, the provision of home services was a more satisfactory and less expensive solution than placement in an institution.

52. With regard to the goals listed in paragraph 207, his delegation thought that it would have been appropriate also to refer to the question of employment opportunities. It did not suffice to give priority to the need for counselling and adjustment services related to losses associated with aging; efforts should also be made to provide better employment opportunities for elderly persons who wished to work. The Danish Ministry of Labour had set up a committee to recommend measures to that end.

53. Mr. TUROT (France) pointed out that during the previous 20 years, the United Nations had tended to concentrate on problems posed by the younger age groups and the general increase in population as a direct consequence of the success achieved in the effort to combat sickness, poverty and natural disasters. Although specialists had anticipated an increase in the number of elderly persons and in their proportion in relation to the total population, that problem had not been viewed as a matter of priority by Governments and public opinion. One reason was that the people who had reached the age of grandparenthood constituted a small minority, often without means of action, whereas the young commanded attention; furthermore age-old traditions had made it possible to solve the problem to some extent through the social structures of each civilization and, lastly, the situation varied considerably from one country to another and from one region to another.

54. He commended the Secretariat on the excellent report before the Committee which was both precise and well documented; although the report inevitably failed to cover certain aspects, its purpose was merely to state the problem and not to propose ready-made solutions that could be universally applied. His only regret was that the document, like many others, sometimes tended to make too rigid a distinction between developed and developing countries. He stressed the need to guard against *a priori* classifications, and considered that a regional approach would be more appropriate. At the current stage, data should first be obtained on all existing situations, since there was still an insufficient understanding of all the causes and consequences of aging, which was linked to climate, geography, ethnology, sociology, physiology and psychology.

55. Aging was a world-wide phenomenon whose consequences were becoming increasingly acute, as could be seen from a mere projection of current population trends, and which would mainly affect the developing regions, since it was in those countries that the impact of a longer life span would be greatest. The working population would therefore have to bear an increasing burden which would become overwhelming if the age of retirement was lowered. There was a risk that the traditional solution based on a policy of family assistance, and which was threatened by the radical transformation of social structures, would prove inadequate. The only realistic course was to forecast future developments and seek solutions based on equity and social justice.

56. With regard to France, which was mentioned several times in the Secretary-General's report, he pointed out that the current active population—between the ages of 20 and 64—represented approximately 55 per cent of the total population, but if the age of retirement were fixed at 60, the active population would barely equal the non-active. The proportion of persons over 65 years of age was currently 13 per cent. In 40 years the life expectancy of men had increased by 12 years, and that of women by 19 years. It was expected that by 1980 persons over the age of 70 would represent nearly 10 per cent of the total population.

57. The many measures taken in France during the preceding few decades for the benefit of the elderly and aged had recently been co-ordinated into a coherent whole which constituted a genuine policy for the elderly. For example, 10 years earlier a special committee had been set up to harmonize the regulations in force and to propose new measures, which often ran counter to certain ideas—as, for example, when it was proposed that elderly persons should adhere as long as possible to their normal way of life. The eminent specialist Mr. Sauvy had rightly observed that a sound policy for the elderly should not aim at preventing elderly people from leading an active life. The transition to total inactivity must be gradual, and should take into account the wishes and capabilities of the individual.

58. The system instituted by the French authorities was based on three main ideas: to ensure an adequate standard of living for elderly persons by guaranteeing their means of existence; to enable them to obtain housing suited to their needs; finally, to help them to maintain their position in society or facilitate their reintegration. The first two objectives had largely been attained by various means: a compulsory retirement system, allowances for non-wage earners, health insurance, social assistance, the provision of apartments and the building of homes, residential institutions and retirement colonies. Less progress had been made towards achieving the third objective, but various measures had already been taken, notably with a view to facilitating employment of elderly persons by removing age limits or restrictions on pensioners who wished to earn a living. He also mentioned the exemptions or reductions allowed to elderly persons on certain taxes or transport charges. In fact, the French system included virtually all the measures mentioned in the study contained in annex II to the Secretary-General's report. Owing to the additional financial effort needed to implement such policies, the expenditure on elderly persons accounted for approximately 36 per cent of the French social welfare budget.

59. He thought that that information would explain his delegation's interest in United Nations work in the field under consideration. The French delegation, which had been one of the sponsors of the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 2842 (XXVI), had expressed, at the twenty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, its regret that the question of elderly persons had ceased to be studied separately, and that its significance had been reduced as a result of its being partially merged with social security problems. It now wished to express its support for the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Malta on behalf of several delegations (A/C.3/L.2051) because the text derived directly from resolution 2842 (XXVI), and,



without creating additional burdens, would make it possible to achieve further progress in the study of the problem of the elderly, in knowledge and control of the aging process, in development assistance and in the harmonization of the policies adopted. The draft resolution was in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Charter, under which the Organization was entrusted with the task of promoting international co-operation by solving economic, social, intellectual and humanitarian problems, and by harmonizing national efforts to that end.

60. Mr. VON KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) noted that the proportion of elderly persons was constantly growing and said that his delegation supported the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his excellent report. The question of the elderly and the aged would be of major importance in coming years, largely because of the increase in life expectancy throughout the world. Industrialization and urbanization imposed new responsibilities upon society. The complexity of those problems was linked not only to the diversity of socio-economic and cultural systems, but also to the extreme variety of the needs of the elderly themselves, and it had quite rightly been emphasized by the Secretary-General in his report.

61. In the Federal Republic of Germany the social security system and services providing special assistance for elderly persons made it possible to meet the needs of such persons. It should be noted in particular that the amount of pensions was raised automatically to coincide with the increase in the cost of living, salary rises granted to other sections of the population and inflationary trends. Special efforts had also been made in connexion with the establishment of retirement homes and institutions and the introduction of support services. As for foreign workers, international social security agreements had been concluded with a number of the countries of origin of the migrant workers.

62. The Federal Republic of Germany intended to give priority to the question of measures to enable older persons to lead an active life and remain an integral part of society. Measures had already been taken to that end, notably in the field of preventive and medical care and other support services. Research had been undertaken to determine the most effective ways of meeting the needs of the elderly.

63. The United Nations had an important role to play in such matters, and could help to promote a better understanding of the needs of the elderly and aged and of the measures that needed to be taken for their benefit.

64. With regard to the draft resolution which had just been submitted (A/C.3/L.2051), at first sight his delegation considered it satisfactory in that it took an over-all approach to the problem.

65. Mr. ABSOLUM (New Zealand) said that his delegation had read with considerable interest the Secretary-General's excellent report, paragraph 90 of which summed up perfectly the medical, social, economic and psychological problems that confronted the elderly. Owing to the considerable progress of medicine and the prolongation of the life span, and also to the significant decline in the birth rate in many countries, elderly persons now represented a far greater proportion of the total population than they had in

previous centuries. It would be a mistake to regard to problem as one which concerned only the developed countries: industrialization and its attendant phenomena would sooner or later pose similar problems for the developing countries.

66. The goals aimed at were easy to define. First there was a need to keep elderly persons alive and in good health as long as possible. In many countries the problems facing the elderly were simply those of survival. In addition to medical services and housing, they should be ensured an acceptable minimum level of economic security. Moreover, elderly persons must be made to feel useful, and, consequently their living patterns must meet their social and psychological needs. In many societies elderly people represented a source of tremendous experience, which was too often ignored, so that society as a whole suffered.

67. Although the goals were reasonably clear-cut, the solutions were not easy; elderly people did not constitute a homogeneous group in terms of financial status, health or family circumstances. It was therefore difficult, even within countries, to devise appropriate systems of income maintenance and welfare services. It would be even harder to devise systems that would be universally applicable. Discussions had revealed that there were striking differences between various countries and in the way in which different countries sought to solve the problem. While each country must meet the needs of its aged population, the United Nations could play an important role by helping countries to draw up their own policies, taking into account their stage of economic development and social circumstances. New Zealand had acquired considerable experience in that field, particularly with regard to the provision of economic support for the elderly. It was prepared to make available to the Secretariat or to interested countries the information it had on the subject.

68. His delegation had not had time thoroughly to study the draft resolution which had just been submitted (A/C.3/L.2051). It seemed balanced and positive, but his delegation had slight reservations about operative paragraph 3 (d), which recommended that Governments should discourage discriminatory policies and measures based primarily on age. As it stood, the subparagraph seemed to conflict with the practices followed in many countries concerning a mandatory retirement age. He wondered if that was the intention of the sponsors or whether his delegation had misinterpreted the subparagraph, and would welcome some clarifications on that point.

69. With regard to the draft resolution proposed by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR, his delegation would have no hesitation about supporting it.

70. Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) said that the excellent report submitted by the Secretary-General clearly defined the problems faced by most countries, whether developed or developing, as a result of the substantial increase in the proportion of elderly and aged persons. The document contained information on the ways in which different countries had been dealing with those problems, and recommended guidelines for national and international action. The United States Government was in accord with the approach taken in the report and felt that the Secretariat should continue its research on the subject in co-operation with the specialized agencies and non-governmental or-

ganizations concerned. The United Nations had a pivotal role to play in developing a variety of programmes that could be used by the varied cultures and countries that made up its membership. Her delegation saw that as a multidisciplinary and balanced approach—a chance to plan from the beginning. She hoped that the Secretariat could set up a clearing house of information on research, social programmes and policies, experiments and evaluations which all countries could contribute to and seek assistance from when developing their own policies for dealing with the aging. She also hoped that attitudinal changes would evolve towards older people in those countries where age had not been as venerated as in some of the world's older cultures. The elderly should not be thought of as a dependent segment of the population but should be accorded the rights and privileges that belonged to them. They were an economic resource and a moral force in a complex changing world. It was to be hoped that the good aspects of older traditions and cultures would be maintained and combined with the integrated planning for development that was being sought internationally, nationally and regionally.

71. Her delegation approved of the contents of the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Malta on behalf of his country and several others (A/C.3/L.2051).

72. Dr. MALAFATOPOULOS (World Health Organization), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, recalled that WHO had taken an active part in the consideration of the question of the elderly and the aged and had, at an earlier stage, submitted a paper on the subject which had been transmitted to the Third Committee at the twenty-fourth session in a note by the Secretary-General.<sup>4</sup> At the current session it had submitted a note which had been reproduced as annex III to the Secretary-General's report (A/9126 and Corr.1). The WHO Regional Office for Europe had recently conducted a Symposium on Mental Disorders in the Elderly, and in 1974 there would be a meeting of a WHO Working Group on Rehabilitation and Long-Term and Geriatric Care, at Copenhagen. WHO's experience in the study of geriatric problems, which dated back to the 1950s, had led it to virtually the same conclusions as those reached by the Social Development Division and other arms of the United Nations Secretariat; it could therefore readily endorse the guidelines for national and international activities set forth by the Secretary-General in his report.

73. WHO felt that the question of the elderly and aged was a field in which the activities of the United Nations and specialized agencies could effectively complement each other. The multidimensional aspects of the problem were outlined in chapter III of the note by WHO and, more particularly, in paragraph 66, which stressed that health care for the aged was no longer a matter of charity but a matter of social justice. It had also been recognized that there was a need for a long-term approach to the problem and that the preventive aspects of health programmes for the elderly were of primary importance. Such programmes must be co-ordinated with other services, such as education, housing, employment and the like, so that those separate elements formed part of an integrated programme of care.

74. The medical and health aspects of the problems of the elderly and aged were becoming increasingly important to the developing countries as well as to the developed. In the former group, the question became more complicated owing to the lack of adequate health services. Special emphasis should be laid on the importance of preventive measures to combat cardiovascular disease and cancer, which accounted for a high proportion of deaths in many countries. Since many cardiovascular diseases were preventable, WHO had for many years initiated prevention trials to promote a co-ordinated approach, including action to suppress smoking, enhance physical activity and treat other factors predisposing to heart diseases. WHO was intensifying its activities in that field, particularly by promoting and co-ordinating research, emphasizing efforts in connexion with education, information and the standardization of methods to control cardiovascular disease, and publishing recommendations concerning its control.

75. With regard to cancer, he recalled that WHO had established an International Agency for Research on Cancer. It was also advising Governments in the organization of cancer-control services and co-ordinating studies carried out by various institutions. The World Health Assembly had repeatedly expressed its concern by means of a series of resolutions, the most recent of which—resolution WHA26.61—called for long-term planning of international co-operation in cancer research. WHO would convene a meeting of experts to make recommendations for the programme, and those recommendations would be submitted to the World Health Assembly the following year.

76. With reference to table 1, in paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's report, and to the report's projection that aging would be one of the crucial social-policy questions of the latter part of the twentieth century, he observed that, with the marked increase in the proportion of elderly persons, the problems of geriatric medicine, preventive as well as curative, would be more and more pressing. Currently, the resources to meet the need were inadequate in all respects—as regards personnel, facilities and equipment—and most countries were not geared to meet the problems adequately because it had taken too long to understand the magnitude of the problem. Funding helped, but failed to solve the problems unless trained personnel was available. Most professionals in the field were without special preparation and, although they might be doing their best, that was not good enough. A primary step towards correcting the situation would be a change in attitude on the part of the faculties of medical and nursing schools towards the elderly patient. There should be special programmes for staff interested in treating elderly patients, to provide information on the special problems of geriatrics—problems whose very existence was frequently denied. It was unfortunate that resident staff physicians too rarely took an interest in patients over 70 years of age.

77. Another important facet of the problem which he wished to emphasize was the lack of contact and communication between different groups which should be involved in the care for elderly patients—physicians, nurses, social scientists, managers, among others. Another approach to keep in mind was continued public education regarding basic health principles, plus the

<sup>4</sup> A/C.3/616.

recognition and meticulous treatment of the diseases he had mentioned earlier. Physicians and social scientists must participate in the development and continuation of that educational programme.

78. In conclusion, he stressed that the basic key to progress was research, not only in the diseases he had mentioned but also in the mechanisms of aging and methods of interrupting the process. Only by exploring that field would it be possible to make a more significant

contribution not only towards enhancing the quality of life in old age but also in extending the productive middle years in the life span. WHO would continue its commitments to the health needs of the older age groups and would co-operate with any other interested organizations and agencies, both within and without the United Nations system, to facilitate progress in that field of endeavour.

*The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.*

## 2024th meeting

Tuesday, 13 November 1973, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2024

### AGENDA ITEM 63

#### Human rights and scientific and technological developments: report of the Secretary-General (A/9075, A/9227, A/C.3/L.2050)

1. Mr. MAHEU (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization),\* introducing UNESCO's observations on the item under consideration (see A/9227), prepared in pursuance of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 3026 A (XXVII), said that as far as he knew it was the first time that the Assembly was to give in-depth consideration to the important cultural questions of the preservation and further development of cultural values, and what could be done by the international community in that connexion. That was in fact one of UNESCO's major responsibilities under its mandate to ensure the preservation and expansion of culture; it should be stressed that in little more than a quarter of a century, UNESCO had expanded, deepened and diversified its activities and had obtained far-reaching and favourable results and responses. In contemporary society, cultural matters were assuming increasing importance; culture was no longer a luxury, a privilege of the *élite*; today it was part of a general and profound demand of society as a whole; young people, in particular, considered culture an essential. Culture was closely linked to the concept of the quality of life which increasingly dominated the problem of development and of the environment in the industrialized countries. For the developing countries, culture lay at the root of their distinctiveness and national identity, and was the best form of protection against the transfer of foreign life styles that could accompany the transfer of technology. In his view, the debate to be held in the Committee would be a landmark in the development of international co-operation, and for that reason he had particularly wanted to introduce the observations personally.

2. The document was in two parts, in accordance with resolution 3026 A (XXVII), in paragraph 2 of which the Assembly requested the Director-General of UNESCO to communicate to it, at its twenty-eighth session, his

views on the problem of the preservation and further development of cultural values—which was done in the first part of the document—and on the measures already taken by the international community and on further measures that should be taken—a subject covered in the second part in the form of a note by the secretariat of UNESCO. While within the United Nations system UNESCO was the organization competent to deal with cultural questions, many other intergovernmental and interregional organizations, and government agencies were playing an active role in the field of culture, in close co-operation with UNESCO; and in that sense the observations could not be regarded as complete, since they did not refer to the activities of such organizations and agencies. The information contained therein was of a factual nature and required no introductory comment; however, he would be at the disposal of the Committee for any clarifications which might be requested of him particularly since the first part of the document referred not to specific facts but to ideas and thoughts regarding problems of major importance; and they might be the subject of differing interpretations and criticisms.

3. Although resolution 3026 A (XXVII) was welcome in substance, the way in which the text was worded had unquestionably raised certain difficulties of interpretation, and for that reason he wished to make some preliminary comments in order to define UNESCO's viewpoint. With regard, first, to a basic problem posed by the resolution, while it was true that there was a growing uniformity in the world from the cultural point of view, there was, on the other hand, a marked tendency towards pluralism. It would be a mistake not to take account of the unquestionably increased intensity of cultural life, particularly in urban centres, and the multiplication of cultural centres, a trend accentuated by the growth of the information media. Those factors served to establish a balance between uniformity and diversity which perhaps was unrecognized.

4. Science was a cultural phenomenon, and nothing could be more erroneous than to regard scientific progress as being incompatible with cultural development. In the intellectual and ethical sense, science was perhaps the major cultural phenomenon in modern civilization, and hence there was no dichotomy between science and culture. What resolution 3026 A

\* The statement by the Director-General of UNESCO is reproduced *in extenso* in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee (see para. 34 of the present meeting).