

tions. Youth and its organizations played an active social and political role supported by an institutional system which ensured their direct participation in the management of society, in the decision-making process and, in general, in the life of the nation. Young people were represented in the central and local organs of State power and administration, in economic units, in trade union councils and in university assemblies.

65. Romania considered that the United Nations could provide an appropriate framework within which a broader and more unified approach could be taken to the problem of the young generation, and thought that its activities in that field, which was currently of general interest, could be developed and broadened. Research, studies and analyses concerning youth and its problems in the modern world, especially in the developing countries, should be continued and intensified; there the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned with social and humanitarian questions had a special role to play. It would be particularly useful to prepare, over a period of several years, and with the help of the interested United Nations bodies, a new report on the situation of youth, based in particular on information from Member States.

66. Future analyses undertaken by the United Nations with regard to youth should be concerned to a greater extent with the role played by youth in the modern world, particularly in promoting the full implementation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international peace and co-operation and the elimination of colonialism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and in furthering progress and justice.

67. It might likewise be useful to draft appropriate recommendations concerning conditions of work, study, living and social welfare, and to study ways of enabling young people to give greater expression to their views and to participate effectively in taking decisions at the national, regional and international levels.

68. Considering the place and the role of youth in modern society, his delegation thought that the competent bodies of the United Nations should give thought to the formulation of a comprehensive international instrument concerning the young generation.

69. His delegation would like to see better coordination of the efforts of the various bodies which, each from its own standpoint, were concerning themselves with youth. Discussion of the Secretary-General's report offered an occasion to direct the efforts of the United Nations towards the most important aspects of international co-operation in respect of youth. The General Assembly could also use the occasion to address an appeal to those United Nations bodies and specialized agencies whose activities had a bearing on the situation of youth in the world to work for the implementation of decisions already taken and to adopt new ones concerning questions that were of definite interest to the young generation.

70. As far as specific action was concerned, his delegation did not think that it would be possible to make real progress on questions concerning youth without the direct participation of youth itself and its organizations. In that connexion he recalled that Romania had helped to organize a number of meetings concerning youth, some of them in close co-operation with the United Nations specialized agencies. Thus in 1974 Romania would be host to a conference on youth which would precede the World Population Conference, and it had offered to be host in 1975 to an international seminar on the theme "Human rights and youth: the participation of youth in the organization and administration of society".

71. In conclusion, he expressed the conviction that by joint efforts the Members of the United Nations could succeed in making a real and concrete contribution to international co-operation in that important social and humanitarian field.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

2027th meeting

Thursday, 15 November 1973, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2027

AGENDA ITEM 62

World social situation of youth: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.8; A/9119 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2052, E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1)

1. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that at its twenty-ninth session, the Commission on Human Rights had again considered the role of youth in the promotion and the protection of human rights, an item which it had included in its agenda in accordance with instructions from the General Assembly and which reflected the Assembly's concern. In the current year, the Commission had concentrated its at-

tention on two problems: conscientious objection to military service, and the teaching of human rights in universities and development of an independent scientific discipline of human rights. The Commission had decided to continue its consideration of the first question at its thirtieth session in the light of the information provided by Member States regarding their internal legislation and other measures and practices relating to conscientious objection to military service and other possible forms of service. With regard to the second question, the Commission had considered a report submitted by UNESCO¹ and had adopted resolution 17 (XXIX),² which requested UNESCO to continue to

¹ E/CN.4/1119 and Corr.1 and 2.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6*, chap. XX.

extend its activities in those fields and, in particular, to encourage teaching and research in human rights in universities and to that end to accelerate the preparation of appropriate material for the teaching of human rights in universities, for the guidance of universities and institutes in which the various legal, scientific, technical and other disciplines were taught. The Commission had also drawn the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the fact that it favoured the establishment of a centre for teaching and research in the field of human rights within the framework of the United Nations University established by General Assembly resolution 2951 (XXVII). At its fifty-fourth session, held in May 1973, the Economic and Social Council had taken note of the views expressed by the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The Secretary-General, for his part, had organized a Seminar on Youth and Human Rights, which had been held in San Remo from 20 August to 10 September 1973 at the invitation of the Government of Italy. The conclusions of the Seminar, which had also benefited from the valuable co-operation of the Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo, had been adopted unanimously and were reproduced in document A/C.3/L.2052. Several of the recommendations contained in those conclusions referred precisely to certain aspects of the item under consideration. It was to be hoped that in the future it would be possible to organize other seminars on the same topic within the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, in accordance with the wishes of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

3. Mr. HUMAM (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation was greatly interested in the item under consideration, since the youth of his country was engaged in the political, social and cultural transformation of society. Democratic Yemen had done much to meet the needs and aspirations of youth and to increase their role in national development, as could be seen by comparing the situation of youth before and after independence. After the achievement of national independence, the Revolutionary Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen had taken all possible measures to improve the situation of youth and encourage their participation in the process of change and construction of the new society; thus, articles 28 and 59 of the Constitution referred in particular to the welfare, education and organization of youth.

4. The preparatory conference for the establishment of the Democratic Yemen Youth Organization, held in February 1973, had laid the foundation for a wide and effective youth movement which would direct the energies of youth towards the achievement of the goals of the revolution. At the national level, the conference had endorsed the idea of reforming the existing educational programmes and eradicating illiteracy and had emphasized the need to mobilize all sectors of youth to achieve that goal as soon as possible. At the international level, the conference had saluted the struggle of world youth against imperialism and on behalf of peace and had considered the holding of the Tenth World Festival for Youth and Students in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, a significant manifestation of the struggle of world youth against imperialism and on behalf of peace, friendship and solidarity.

5. His delegation took pride in the fact that the youth of its country co-operated enthusiastically and effectively with their elders in the administration of the country. In six years of independence, they had achieved what had been unattainable in 129 years of colonial domination. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the growing interest of the United Nations in improving the world social situation of youth, in meeting their needs and aspirations and in expanding their role in all aspects of national and international development.

6. Mr. GRUBER (German Democratic Republic) said his delegation felt that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were in a position to make a valuable contribution to the definition and implementation of the rights and obligations of youth and that each State bore responsibility for using that exchange of opinions to solve the problems of youth. The Secretary-General's analytical study on the world situation of youth (E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1) showed that in some States there still existed a wide gap between social practice and the ideal proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The report justly and expressly pointed out that in many countries the situation of youth was characterized by social insecurity, insufficient general education and vocational training, the lack of co-determination in the solution of important social questions, bad health, hunger, inequality of women and girls and worse conditions for rural youth than for urban youth. It confirmed that in many countries large sectors of youth who belonged to the socially inferior strata of the population were in an especially unfavourable position. The problems of youth in the developed capitalist countries naturally differed from those in the developing countries. The report also made it clear, with regard to the rights of youth, that many developing countries were still facing the effects of centuries-old exploitation and oppression by imperialism. His delegation noted with interest the pertinent statement in the report to the effect that the socialist system ensured implementation of the elementary principle of full employment among youth and thus guaranteed a decisive prerequisite for the realization of the political rights of youth.

7. The analysis of the situation of youth contained a number of conclusions and suggestions for the youth policy of States, among which he considered the following to be especially important: the adoption of measures to prevent and eliminate unemployment; the elimination of educational privileges and the implementation of comprehensive educational programmes, especially for the children of workers and peasants; the guaranteeing of vocational training and the application of just development principles; the implementation of agrarian reform as a prerequisite for improving the education of youth; the continuous review and improvement of educational systems; achievement of the co-determination of youth in the elaboration and implementation of national development programmes; the improvement of health care and nutrition; and the necessity of taking measures against drug abuse.

8. In that connexion, his delegation wished to state that those and other proposals were self-evident practice in the socialist countries or were implemented in them with success. The social roots of economic exploitation, unemployment, educational privileges and

other disadvantages had been eliminated long ago and for ever, and it would have been desirable for the report to pay more attention to that fact in the interests of a better and more balanced assessment. His delegation held that it was not enough, for example, to indicate a further growth of unemployment among youth as a general trend without pointing out the social reasons for it and without saying that unemployment did not exist in the socialist countries.

9. The Government of the German Democratic Republic attached special importance to the political co-determination of youth. Of the 17 million citizens of the German Democratic Republic, more than 2.5 million were young people of 14 to 25 years of age, who did excellent work in socialist construction in all spheres. The fact that 20 per cent of all the deputies of the various people's representative bodies were young people aged between 18 and 30 was regarded as a significant achievement. The unified youth organization of the country—Free German Youth—had its own groups in the People's Chamber and in the local representative bodies of the people. In addition, there were many other opportunities for youth to participate in the management of political and social life. The Government had drafted a new youth bill which dealt with the rights and social position of youth. Since its birth, the German Democratic Republic had paid special attention to the education of youth, and one of its decisive reforms had been the elimination of educational privileges, so that education was now guaranteed to all citizens, on the basis of the law on the integrated socialist educational system, which covered all stages of education and which had introduced compulsory 10-year general secondary education. Currently, 37 per cent of the student body at universities were women, while the percentage of girls in the specialized schools was 50 per cent. Education was free and every boy and girl had the right and the duty to learn a trade or profession. The universities, colleges and specialized schools were open to all gifted young people free of charge. He wished to stress the high percentage of workers and farmers and of girls in the total number of students.

10. The youth policy of the German Democratic Republic was aimed at educating the younger generation in the spirit of peace, international friendship and social progress. That policy was fully in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, in particular with the principles of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, which had been adopted as General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX). The youth of the German Democratic Republic had demonstrated its will for peace and its solidarity with all oppressed peoples by acting as host for the Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students held in the summer of 1973 at Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic. The 25,000 foreign guests, representing 1,700 national and international associations and coming from 140 countries of the world, had had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the life of young people in the German Democratic Republic. He gave assurances that the German Democratic Republic was prepared to contribute to the co-operation of States in promoting the well-being of youth.

11. Mr. BAL (Mauritania) said that his country had always considered young people as a human resource of incalculable value to development and for that

reason had been endeavouring to train them to play an active role in the life of the nation. Thus, the Government authorities were striving to ensure the participation of youth in the elaboration and implementation of development plans.

12. His delegation emphasized the urgent nature of the problem under consideration, and felt that it would be wise and realistic to accord priority to it in the coming years. The current opportunities for understanding and reflection, especially those offered by the information media, enabled young people to gain a very early awareness of reality and of their own potential. In the developing countries, there were also other reasons why the younger generation reached maturity at an early age: the daily difficulties of their existence and the multiple economic and social problems which they had to face. Moreover, young people to whom lofty ideals had been transmitted in the family, the school and the university were not slow to realize that those principles were not observed by adults but were mocked when discrimination, oppression and social injustice were accepted. Youth therefore felt impelled to establish its own scale of values, with a view to achieving a new and peaceful world in which the dignity of every human being constituted a living reality. The young people of the developing countries wished to gain access to health, education and interesting employment consistent with scientific and technological progress. They also wanted a purpose in life other than the accumulation of material goods, and in that respect it could be said that there was a real generation gap.

13. On examining the recommendations contained in document A/C.3/L.2052, his delegation noted that the concerns of modern youth were constant. In 1970, the World Youth Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters had condemned colonialism, *apartheid*, racial discrimination, the deterioration of terms of trade, and so forth. The young people participating in the seminar held at Belgrade in June 1970 had also condemned those evils. In that context, there was no denying that young people had adopted an attitude of scepticism with regard to the values and structures of modern society and even, perhaps, with regard to the United Nations.

14. Like most developing countries, Mauritania, with meagre resources, was providing for the education and training of young people, their integration in a rapidly changing society, and their participation in national development. The main concern of his country was to stimulate the younger generation to participate as actively as possible in development and to awaken their enthusiasm and spirit of initiative.

15. He asserted that any draft text that was adopted on the subject should be realistic and reasonable, and should take into account the fact that it was impossible to dissociate the ills suffered by young people in Africa, Asia and Latin America from the tragic fate which the young of countries under colonial and foreign domination had long been suffering, sometimes in silence. In that connexion, more data and know-how were required on the question of youth, since, as the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had indicated in introducing the item (2026th meeting), the United Nations had a very important role to play in that regard. In future studies undertaken by the United Nations on the world social situation of youth, particular attention should be de-

voted to the role which youth could and should play in the contemporary world.

16. Mr. VENIŠNIK (Yugoslavia) said that although there was no doubt that young people everywhere had to confront to a greater or lesser degree the growing problems and difficulties of the modern world, there was also no denying the fact that the actions of young people were motivated by the desire to secure a better future not only with respect to economic and social matters but also in the political, national and international spheres.

17. Youth constituted a part of society and, consequently, the problems of youth were social problems and could not be solved in a vacuum, outside a broader economic, social and political context. It was an accepted fact that there existed a close relationship between the social problems of the community, on the one hand, and its wealth and the methods of distribution of that wealth, on the other. The problems of young people in such spheres as education, employment and health had their roots in social and economic facts, both at the national and at the international level. In most parts of the world, young people were fully aware of their responsibilities and contributed to the creation of the material and intellectual wealth of society, but where the process of distribution was concerned, they took very little part in either its planning or the enjoyment of its benefits. Those problems manifested themselves in a particularly acute form in the developing countries, a fact which imposed special obligations on them, on the international community and, above all, on the highly industrialized countries. The young, who considered that a more equitable redistribution of goods and more balanced world development constituted a prerequisite for securing a better future for mankind, fully supported the measures adopted both within and outside the United Nations to help the developing countries, measures which would obviously help to solve many problems of youth.

18. Mention should also be made of the relationship between the social situation of young people and fundamental human rights, because there was no doubt that the social situation of young people was largely determined by the opportunity afforded them to enjoy the fundamental rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

19. The general conclusion that could be drawn from the Secretary-General's report on the subject was that in most countries of the world the social situation of young people was unsatisfactory or even deplorable. The forecasts based on well-founded arguments were even more disquieting, and in that connexion he referred in particular to the growing number of illiterates in developing countries and to the increasingly difficult situation that young people had to face in the sphere of employment. Those projections should be a warning to Governments and to the international community of the urgent need to solve those cumulative problems. Certainly, all measures aimed at reducing the disparity between the developed and the developing countries, as well as the constant struggle against the policy and practice of neo-colonialism and economic domination, would always be supported by young people and would warrant their active interest. Essential structural and social changes had to take place, differences of class, race and other kinds had to be overcome, and young

people had to be granted their proper role in the evaluation, establishment, planning and development of national and international policy in all its forms. It should also be borne in mind that young people represented the best educated part of the community and, consequently, had an immense potential that was not sufficiently realized or was simply ignored for various reasons.

20. The system of social self-management that marked the structure of Yugoslav society expanded civic rights and offered great opportunities to youth, while at the same time imposing on them the obligation to participate in all activities of their society. Thus, young people participated on an equal footing in the adoption and implementation of all decisions of general interest, and both young people attending schools and women workers participated fully in the building of the society. For that reason, his delegation was convinced that youth could also play a role of prime importance in development programmes at the international level and within the United Nations, particularly within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. In that connexion, he supported all the proposals that appeared in the Secretary-General's report. The report showed that the aspirations of the young, in addition to their own emancipation, reflected their great interest in the ideals of peace, equality and progress and in the solution of the problems of the international community. In Yugoslavia that interest had led to the formation of clubs supporting the United Nations and UNESCO and of other youth organizations.

21. At both the national and the international levels, youth activities were more intense in areas where the situation was least satisfactory, in other words, in those areas where human rights were most flagrantly violated. Since most young people today were politically aware, it would be useless to try to take the political element out of the debate on the current situation of youth. In that connexion, it was necessary to devote special attention to the young people in various parts of the world where the prevailing situation impeded the establishment of the necessary conditions for their development, in particular the youth of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, who were affected by Portugal's colonial war; the youth of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, who were victims of racial discrimination; the youth of Palestine, who were enduring an unjust and exhausting war; those who were imprisoned in Saigon; and the students whom the soldiery of the military régime in Chile had expelled from their universities.

22. His delegation was pleased that the questions relating to youth were being considered with increasing interest in the United Nations. Now that the United Nations had achieved almost complete universality in its representation of States, it was particularly necessary to continue the efforts along those lines with regard to youth, *inter alia* by increasing contacts with national non-governmental youth organizations. He trusted that the Committee's debate would complement the considerable contribution which the Secretary-General's report represented by adding suggestions and proposals on the activities relating to communication with young people, analysis of the social and other problems of youth and possible measures within the United Nations

system. His delegation and the youth of Yugoslavia would, as always, co-operate fully in those tasks.

23. Mr. MUSAFIRI (Zaire) said that his delegation endorsed the suggestions and proposals on behalf of youth that appeared in the Secretary-General's report, which it had studied with great interest. In his country the problems of youth were viewed in the light of standards of justice, democracy, technical progress, laws and universal freedom, and the manifesto of the People's Revolutionary Movement committed all citizens to unified collective action. That criterion reflected and strengthened the principles of the Constitution of Zaire, article 13 of which provided for national public education and stipulated that all students should have access to such education, without distinction as to origin, race or political or philosophical opinion. The National Party likewise was concerned with training young people to fulfil their future responsibilities as citizens; one of its main objectives was to enable all young people to have the same opportunities in the fields of education, nutrition, health, employment and national planning. At the First Regular Congress of the Party, resolutions had been adopted which opened up new prospects for the polyvalent training of young people, not as recipients of State aid, but as agents of development and economic, social and cultural progress.

24. Mrs. OBRCIANOVÁ (Czechoslovakia) said that the fact that the Committee had been dealing with the question of youth for some time underlined the importance of the item. She was glad that no doubts had been raised with regard to the right of the younger generation to participate in the consideration of current and future problems, since she considered such participation to be of great importance.

25. Some months previously there had taken place an event of great importance—the Tenth World Festival of Youth and Students, held at Berlin and attended by 25,000 young people from countries throughout the world, who had proclaimed their unanimous determination to struggle for peace, democracy, freedom and the rights of youth, and had expressed very clearly the ideals of elimination of discrimination against young people and equal rights in respect of education and participation in the administrative process. The consideration of the problems of youth within the United Nations represented an important step forward, and in that connexion mention should be made of General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX) which proclaimed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

26. The social situation of youth was developing side by side with the social situation of States, so that young people could not be dissociated from the social conditions prevailing in the world. One of the basic duties of States was to ensure the integration of the young in society by guaranteeing their access to education and to occupations and by enabling them to participate in social administration. Young people constituted an important sector in society, and could not be indifferent to the problems of inequality, colonialism, discrimination and other existing evils. The fact that young people took an active approach to the questions of the day was a guarantee that the younger generation would adopt a

progressive position with regard to the problems of society.

27. The Constitution of Czechoslovakia laid down the necessary conditions for ensuring equal rights to young people in respect of education and free medical attention, employment, and full physical and intellectual development, while at the same time their sense of patriotism and internationalism was encouraged. Moreover, special importance was attached to the satisfactory development of the personality of the young and their active participation in public life, as was illustrated by the fact that the proportion of young people elected to public office in the 1971 elections had been one third of the total. Youth was thus offered the opportunity to lead a full life.

28. Her delegation would support all constructive steps taken by the United Nations with a view to the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples.

29. Lord GAINFORD (United Kingdom), referring to the problems that were faced in dealing with the important and complex problem of youth, noted firstly, the generation gap, which presented itself in different ways, one of them being the fact that the old attempted to decide the future of the young. Although some people associated the idea of youth with the attitude of rebellion and contempt for authority and tradition of certain young people, in reality there were millions of young people ready to take on duties and responsibilities. It was necessary to achieve a synthesis whereby the zeal and enthusiasm of young people would be encouraged while they in turn listened to the voice of experience.

30. Another factor was the size of the problem: if young people were defined as those under 25, the group would comprise more than 2,000 million people. On that scale, it was easy to talk about goals of improved education and more employment opportunities and the need for improved nutrition, health and housing for young people, and to urge Governments to adopt the necessary measures, but it was much more difficult to formulate simple action programmes that would yield concrete results. A meeting of Commonwealth Ministers on youth, held early in 1973, had agreed in three days on a programme which might serve as an example in that respect. It comprised the training of youth leaders, particularly for youth organizations in the developing countries of the Commonwealth; education of youth; material assistance between the developing countries; youth award schemes; and the drafting of legislation to ensure employment opportunities for youth. He was confident that the United Nations would be able to prepare a similar or even better programme, given the multiple resources and the expertise at its disposal. At the same time, greater attention should be paid to the young in the dialogue between the developed and the developing countries.

31. In conclusion, he referred with satisfaction to the arrangements for the participation of youth in the World Population Conference, to be held at Bucharest in August 1974, and welcomed most warmly the action of Romania in that field, as mentioned by the delegation of that country at the preceding meeting. During the deliberations of the Population Commission which had taken place at Geneva a few days earlier, it had been agreed that the representatives of youth organizations

from all over the world should meet at Bucharest during the week preceding the Conference in order to express their own views in advance, and then participate directly in the deliberations through the non-governmental organizations which would attend the Conference as observers. That would give young people in whose hands the future of the world lay, the opportunity to make a real contribution to the Conference.

32. Mr. IRARRAZAVAL (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the delegation of Yugoslavia had once again referred to Chile and its Government in the Committee, and had once more made a false and malicious accusation. In the first place, it was quite inadmissible that the representative of a Government which could hardly be characterized

as democratic in its origins should refer scornfully to the "soldieri" of military régimes, which existed in many respectable and respected countries. Secondly, what the Military Junta of Government in Chile had done in relation to the country's universities, was to make them non-political and ensure that they again became the centres of culture to which thousands of students from all over the Americas had flocked, which they had been until three years previously. The Chilean Government was making every effort to restore the prestige which had made the University of Chile, in particular, famous throughout the world, and the meddling of a representative of Yugoslavia would not make the Government of Chile change its course.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

2028th meeting

Thursday, 15 November 1973, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2028

AGENDA ITEM 62

World social situation of youth: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.8; A/9119 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2052, E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1)

1. Mr. THOMAS (Liberia) associated himself with the compliments expressed to the Director-General of UNESCO on his clear and lucid statement at the 2024th meeting, during consideration of agenda item 63.

2. The subject under discussion was of vital importance, because youth was the most valuable potential of any nation. His Government attached great importance to the youth of Liberia and believed that it was its responsibility to stimulate their latent promise for work for spiritual values and serving society creatively. It held that, if Liberia was to rise out of under-development, there would have to be a massive return to the land by young educated people, whose scientific skills could increase productivity and, accordingly, *per capita* income.

3. Since the family was the first unit of society, it was essential that parents should instil into their children the right principles, which would favourably influence their future. It was therefore important that children should be able to attend the best schools and be taught by the best teachers. Young people should be free to think and to develop their thought processes, but they should also be subjected to restraining influences and discipline; much of the current widespread juvenile delinquency was undoubtedly due to the fact that parents and teachers had neglected to perform that duty towards their children and pupils.

4. His delegation believed that the United Nations should devise some plan to assist Member States in implementing their educational programmes for developing young people into citizens who could make a worth-while contribution to their countries and the world in general.

5. Mr. BIRBAUM (Austria) observed that throughout history youth had been the hope of nations and the subject of special care. The situation of contemporary youth, however, had features which had never arisen in earlier generations. For instance, a substantial proportion of young people, when they took up a career, would no longer find their parents' professions available, simply because they had disappeared. During their working life many young people would have to change professions several times, because technological and economic progress would require the elimination of their jobs. Such mobility would inevitably lead to abandoning the emphasis on a single period of vocational training during one's lifetime; it demanded an open-mindedness and mental flexibility which would make young people capable of facing a variety of situations and adapting themselves to a variety of tasks. However, it was not merely a question of preparing young people for life, in the spheres of education, vocational training or health. Youth was not just a period of preparation; it was a period which had its own significance. Youth should be allowed—or given back—freedom of action; in the contemporary world, to educate was to confer responsibility. Young people were prepared to accept responsibility and, in so doing, they worked out ways of thinking and acting that were appropriate for them. In so doing, they would cease to be a mere reproduction of the previous generation, and therein lay society's best chance of self-renewal. It was for that reason that Austria had encouraged that transfer of responsibility by lowering the voting age and the legal age of majority from 21 to 19 years.

6. The situation of youth undoubtedly raised a great many problems, and since those problems generally transcended national boundaries, his delegation believed that the help of the United Nations and the specialized agencies was eminently desirable and, indeed, essential. His delegation, which had frequently been associated with proposals concerning youth within the United Nations, would welcome any measures to improve the world situation of youth.