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CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 12:	
Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (continued)	
United Nations Children's Fund (continued)	11
Organization of work	15

Chairman: Mrs. Aase LIONAES (Norway).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3613) (continued)

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (continued)

1. Mrs. LEFLEROVA (Czechoslovakia) said that her Government followed the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with interest and sympathy, and spared no effort in supporting that agency. Czechoslovakia, which in the course of the year had had the privilege of welcoming the Executive Director of the Fund, would continue as in the past to co-operate closely with UNICEF, to which it would contribute 250,000 crowns in 1958. The Czechoslovak authorities had the interest of children constantly in mind; she emphasized the privileged status accorded to children in Czechoslovakia and the many measures adopted to improve their lot. The care lavished on the younger generation bore adequate witness to the Czechoslovak Government's desire to foster, in co-operation with UNICEF, a steady improvement in the level of living of children throughout the world.

2. Mr. EPINAT (France) considered that the work UNICEF was doing made it plain that the agency's efforts were being increasingly directed into channels more in keeping with its intended function than those into which it had been forced by the exceptional conditions of the post-war period. While coming to grips with urgent situations, UNICEF was gradually evolving a permanent working philosophy, and showed flexibility in its execution of long-term programmes in such fields as the control of infectious diseases, the improvement of nutrition and the establishment of medical and social infrastructures. The wide scope of current planning called for close co-ordination among all the agencies concerned, and the satisfactory co-operation already established among them encouraged the hope that the work of UNICEF, at once ambitious and modest, would continue to develop harmoniously and effectively. That increasing co-operation could be expected to develop, for all international organizations, into a model for the joint effort which was essential to the genuine and lasting success of the work of the United Nations. In conclusion he expressed his country's gratitude to all those who contributed at the various levels to the work of UNICEF.

3. Mrs. STOFFELS (Netherlands) expressed her deep appreciation of the work that UNICEF, since its establishment, had accomplished throughout the world, including the various parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The flexibility it had shown in urgent situations had enabled the Fund to render effective aid to peoples in distress whenever the need had arisen. The nature of the work of UNICEF had now changed, and it was to be integrated in the economic and social development programmes of the various States.

4. Sad as it was to note that some 50 per cent of the allocations for long-range programmes was devoted to disease control, it should not be forgotten that that aspect of the work of UNICEF was one of the first essential steps towards the improvement of the living conditions of the generations that were growing up. Disease control campaigns could not be divorced from maternal and child welfare activities, which were of vital importance in consolidating the results achieved through such campaigns. The closest attention should therefore be paid to the furtherance of those activities. Her country would, as in the past, fulfil the undertakings it had given to UNICEF, and she emphasized the active part private organizations and individuals in the Netherlands played in the Fund's work. For example, a private association had organized a campaign which had resulted in the collection of 200,000 guilders; such efforts should be encouraged in every country where they were undertaken.

5. U KO KO GYI (Burma) extended a welcome to the delegations of Ghana and the Federation of Malaya, whose representatives were sitting in the Third Committee for the first time.

6. He expressed his Government's gratitude to UNICEF for the work it was doing in Asia, and especially in his own country. It was a source of satisfaction that the number of contributing Governments had increased; his own country's contribution would be raised to £20,000 for the current financial year. He then drew attention to the extent to which UNICEF was assisting Burma in malaria control, maternal and child welfare, and tuberculosis and leprosy control. Despite the obstacles which had been encountered, remarkable progress had been achieved thanks to the co-operation of all concerned and the enthusiastic support given to the operations by the Government and people of Burma.

7. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala) observed that Guatemala, as a receiving country, was able to assess at their true value the increasingly remarkable achievements UNICEF had to its credit. She drew attention to some particularly important objectives of the policy of UNICEF. It was intended that the Fund's activities should be increasingly integrated in those of the administrative services of the receiving countries; that the child should be considered, not in isolation, but having regard to the various factors affecting his development; that social services of mutual assistance

should be co-ordinated; that an increasingly important place should be allotted to vocational training services; and that research on high-protein foods should be developed and efforts to that end unified. In that connexion she drew attention to the achievements of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama, the headquarters of which was in Guatemala. In conclusion she suggested that advantage should be taken of the opportunity offered by Universal Children's Day to organize a campaign for human solidarity among children throughout the world. Such a step would help to foster the spirit of universal brotherhood which could do so much to spread the ideals of UNICEF.

8. Mr. IRARRAZAVAL (Chile) said that UNICEF had enhanced the prestige of the United Nations throughout the world and had made international co-operation a tangible reality. The Chilean Government, appreciating the essential part played by UNICEF in the development of the under-developed countries, would endeavour to increase its contribution to the Fund so far as its economic circumstances allowed. The Chilean delegation welcomed the Executive Director's proposals for the expansion of existing nutrition programmes. It was important that all countries should make full use of the highly nutritious foods at their disposal, for example, fish flour in the case of Chile.

9. Mr. VITELLI (Italy) congratulated UNICEF on his Government's behalf on the magnificent work it had done. He recalled the invaluable assistance which the Fund had rendered to Italy in the post-war years, and which had been sufficient to rescue thousands of Italian children from hunger, disease and death.

10. Turning to the responsibilities which the Italian Government had assumed towards Somaliland, he mentioned the many measures his country had taken to improve the living conditions of the Territory's population, especially the child population. In view of the importance of that work to the Territory's development as a whole, and the many obstacles which had still to be surmounted, the Italian Administration was most grateful to UNICEF for the valuable assistance it was giving Somaliland.

11. Mr. ASIROGLU (Turkey) associated himself with the tributes which had been paid to that humanitarian agency, UNICEF. He had been happy to note the impressive results achieved in the year under review, and in particular the encouraging progress made in the search for new high-protein foods. The Rockefeller Foundation had placed the sum of \$250,000 at the disposal of UNICEF for research into the problem of protein malnutrition; it was to be hoped that the efforts UNICEF and other agencies were making in that direction would be crowned with success in the near future. The Turkish delegation congratulated UNICEF on the brilliant results achieved in the campaigns for the control of malaria, trachoma, tuberculosis and other diseases and in the execution of maternal and child welfare programmes. The Turkish Government, which had always supported the Fund's activities, would spare no efforts to help it fulfil its noble and humanitarian task.

12. Miss RADIC (Yugoslavia) expressed her Government's thanks for the assistance it had received from UNICEF. The Yugoslav delegation was gratified at the increasing part UNICEF was playing and the ever closer attention it was devoting to the under-developed

countries and territories of Africa. The gradual establishment of a permanent system of maternal and child welfare services, the development of large-scale campaigns of disease control, and the closer co-operation between UNICEF and international organizations were all encouraging factors which augured well for the success of the Fund's ever-widening activities. It was impossible, therefore, to over-emphasize the need to increase the resources available to the Fund, and the Yugoslav Government would do everything in its power to assist in strengthening and developing that agency, which enjoyed the profound respect of millions of human beings.

13. Mr. KRAJEWSKI (Poland) was happy to note the very satisfactory progress which UNICEF had made in all fields during the year under review and to find that the Fund's activities were becoming ever more widely known and appreciated. The Polish Government wished to thank UNICEF once more for the aid it had given Poland during the difficult years after the Second World War. Combined with that feeling of gratitude was his country's gratification at being able to contribute in its turn to the Fund's activities by giving it each year financial assistance commensurate with the country's economic possibilities. The Polish Government would use all the means at its disposal to foster the work of UNICEF and felt sure that, given more active participation and harmonious co-operation on the part of all States, the Fund would in the future achieve results that were even more practical and useful than in the past.

14. Mr. ROJAS (Venezuela) expressed the profound admiration which the Venezuelan Government and people had for the concrete and positive achievements of UNICEF, through whose efforts millions of mothers and children enjoyed a healthier diet and better living conditions. He hoped that UNICEF would increase the scope of its activities so as to reach an ever increasing number of recipients and thus help to provide a better future for mankind.

15. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran) said that Iran took a very special interest in the expanding activities of UNICEF, and that that interest had been reflected in an increase in his country's contribution, which had risen to more than \$200,000 the previous year.

16. The activities of UNICEF in Iran were extremely varied and deserving of the highest praise: programmes of maternal and child welfare, provision of equipment for a milk pasteurization plant, tuberculosis control, school nutrition programmes and an anti-malaria campaign conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

17. Those activities also had a stimulating effect on national organizations, which were sparing no effort to assist UNICEF in its work. For the year 1957 alone, the Ministry of Health had had available to it a supplementary appropriation of close to 500 million rials, or almost \$7 million, for its health programmes. The non-governmental organizations were not idle, and since 1954 a national committee for maternal and child welfare had been engaged in co-ordinating the decisions and measures taken by the various governmental and non-governmental organizations. It would be impossible to overstate the importance of what the Secretary-General, in the introduction to his annual

report on the work of the Organization (A/3594/Add.1),^{1/} had called the Fund's role as a catalyst.

18. Mr. RAFIK (Afghanistan) considered UNICEF to be a remarkable example of international co-operation.

19. Since 1949, Afghanistan had been receiving assistance from UNICEF, which had successfully conducted a malaria control campaign there and had helped to establish maternal and child welfare services in the country. Its co-operation with certain specialized agencies, particularly WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was extremely fruitful and he hoped that that co-operation would become even closer as the years passed.

20. The Afghan Government was also among the contributing Governments and would continue to give its complete support to UNICEF. He hoped that the Fund would be able to continue expanding its activities and that, to make that possible, Governments, especially those with the most means, would be able to increase their contributions.

21. Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Egypt) said that UNICEF was the most tangible example of the work being accomplished by the United Nations for the benefit of all the peoples of the world. It was also a striking example of international co-operation for peaceful purposes.

22. When it had been proposed that UNICEF should undertake long-range programmes, many representatives had expressed doubts as to the desirability of such a course, but those doubts had been completely dispelled by the results obtained. The United Nations Children's Fund was able to carry out simultaneously both long-range programmes and emergency aid, as it had demonstrated the year before at the time of the events at Port Said and in Hungary.

23. He would not review again the many concrete accomplishments of UNICEF in Egypt or refer again to the participation of the specialized agencies, since all those questions had been discussed at length at meetings of the Executive Board.

24. There was one passage in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3613) that he had read with particular interest; he referred to the new policy outlined in paragraph 472, which stated that, during the period under review the Executive Board had placed increased emphasis on aid for the establishment of maternal and child welfare services, not as isolated centres but as an integral part of provincial and national public health services which could, in turn, be co-ordinated with educational, social welfare, nutrition, and agricultural extension programmes. The Egyptian delegation whole-heartedly supported that policy and would like the UNICEF programmes to be integrated into the broader framework of the community-development schemes. The Children's Fund had already taken steps in that direction in a number of countries, in India for instance, and the Egyptian delegation would be happy to see that policy extended to other countries.

25. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) wished to bring up again a matter mentioned at the previous meeting by the Chairman of the Executive Board: the new nutrition programme which had been adopted in

principle. She wished to explain in that connexion that certain delegations, including that of the United States, had expressed concern over certain parts of the nutrition programme in its existing form and felt that action in connexion with those parts should be approached with caution and with due regard for problems of technical soundness. Co-ordination with the specialized agencies concerned was also a matter of concern to the United States delegation, and she had been happy to learn that UNICEF was taking appropriate action in that respect.

26. The United States Government attached great importance to the work of UNICEF. Accordingly, it had decided to increase its contribution to \$11 million in 1958, or \$1 million more than in 1957. It had indicated, however, that its contribution should not exceed 52.5 per cent of the total. The United States' object was not to restrain but to bring greater vigour and more balanced contributions to the Fund.

27. Mr. CALAMARI (Panama) emphasized the magnitude of the work of UNICEF, which had succeeded in remaining aloof from political controversy and which, guided by purely humanitarian considerations, was helping the less fortunate, whatever their race or nationality, to rid themselves of disease, poverty and hunger. The Children's Fund had made all the peoples of the world aware of their duty towards children. The performance of that duty was also having an effect on the economic life of all countries, for children were the human capital without which financial investments, capital goods and the most carefully prepared projects were completely useless.

28. Panama was deeply grateful to UNICEF, which, in co-operation with WHO, was helping it, among other things, to expand its system of public health services in the rural regions. Child nutrition and malaria control were other fields in which UNICEF was particularly active.

29. He was happy to say that Panama was not satisfied merely to receive but was making a contribution in accordance with its means. He hoped that those countries which were able to do so would give UNICEF increased financial support so that it might continue its work, which was of such vital importance and the scope of which was indicated by the figures quoted in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3613).

30. Mr. RAMOS (Argentina) was gratified to note the increasing activity of UNICEF, which in April 1957 was aiding 102 countries and territories through its participation in 319 programmes. He hoped that the Fund would be able to reach the goals it had set for itself.

31. Mrs. HENSMAN (India) wished to pay a tribute to an organization which was drawing all nations of the world closer together and was helping to conquer disease, solve the problem of nutrition, and improve living conditions for thousands of women and children.

32. The Fund's resources were, for the moment, being severely strained, but she felt certain that the nations would gradually realize the necessity of increasing the appropriations they made under their own budgets.

33. She emphasized that the use of pharmaceutical products, such as BCG vaccine, must be supervised quite strictly in countries like India, where the population was undernourished and where the lack of social

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 1A.

welfare services made it difficult to give the children the proper follow-up care.

34. Mr. ROSSIDES (Greece) said that UNICEF stood as a symbol of mankind united against misery and afforded tangible proof of the vital importance of the United Nations. It was reassuring to note that the number of women and children receiving UNICEF assistance had grown very rapidly from 30 million to the current figure of 45 million, which represented an increase of 50 per cent. On the other hand, he regretted that the list of beneficiaries still did not include Cyprus; at the eleventh session of the General Assembly he had shown, by giving a few concrete examples, how much that territory needed UNICEF assistance. The Executive Director had said at the eleventh session that UNICEF would go to Cyprus if the Government responsible for the territory asked it to do so. He wished to know, therefore, whether any request to that effect had been submitted since the previous session by the United Kingdom Government.

35. In conclusion, he wished to say that the support which Greece was giving to UNICEF would certainly be maintained.

36. Mr. PATE (Executive Director of UNICEF) said that UNICEF had received no request for assistance for Cyprus.

37. He had listened carefully to the opinions expressed by the various members of the Committee, whom he wished to thank for their confidence.

38. At the preceding meeting, the Chairman of the Executive Board had said that the national and international resources allocated to the implementation of UNICEF programmes during 1957 totalled more than the equivalent of \$80 million. Having visited seventy-seven countries and territories, he could assure the members of the Committee that the money was being well spent. He hoped that the representatives would persuade their Governments to afford UNICEF even greater moral and financial support.

39. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) regretted the fact that the representative of Greece had seen fit to introduce into the discussion observations of a political nature. Nobody had the right to comment on the reasons which influenced a country's decision to call or not to call for UNICEF aid.

40. As he had previously stated, his Government was most grateful for the assistance furnished by UNICEF to many Territories under United Kingdom administration.

41. Mr. ROSSIDES (Greece) said that he had made his observations solely in an attempt to obtain redress of the injustice which Cyprus was suffering. He had not intended to criticize the United Kingdom Government, whose good will he did not question.

42. Mr. COX (Peru) stressed the importance and scope of the material and moral benefits which UNICEF was bringing to the world's children. Peru represented a magnificent example of the results achieved by that agency, especially in the field of child health and education.

43. The extraordinary value of the work of UNICEF lay in the fact that the assistance was not unilateral and that those who benefited from it also made their contributions. All peoples thus felt bound by the close ties of human solidarity.

44. With reference to improved standards of nutrition, he noted that the Peruvian Government was encouraging the cultivation of quinoa, a very high protein cereal which the Incas had grown on the high plateau of the Andes. The use of that cereal was gradually becoming more widespread and would contribute towards a greater balance and variety in the diet of children throughout the world.

45. Miss AGUIRRE (Mexico) said that the increasingly vital work undertaken by UNICEF on behalf of mothers and children, especially in the under-developed countries, deserved universal gratitude. If the results were still short of the targets, that was because the number of beneficiaries throughout the world - and sometimes also their needs - were increasing much more rapidly than the resources of UNICEF. Mexico, like other countries, was doing everything possible to increase its annual contribution to the Fund.

46. She pointed out that UNICEF, in co-operation with WHO, had undertaken a malaria eradication campaign in Mexico, which was already having beneficial effects.

47. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that UNICEF should be helped by every means possible to continue to fulfil its mission on behalf of the family, which was the vital unit of society.

48. The Dominican delegation noted with satisfaction that UNICEF was showing an ever-growing interest in the improvement of vocational training, which would give all countries the qualified staff that they needed. The malaria eradication programmes introduced in many regions of the world were a fine example of co-operation and constituted one of the Fund's most admirable achievements. The Government of the Dominican Republic would continue to give the Fund all the assistance that it possibly could.

49. Mr. TEJERA (Uruguay) said that his country, which was faced with no insoluble problems and had also reached a relatively advanced stage of economic development, was particularly well placed to make an impartial appreciation of the efforts of UNICEF. Uruguay had followed with great interest the remarkable work done by that organization since its establishment and would continue to lend it the same support as in the past. Thanks to UNICEF, many of the world's peoples had learned of the existence of the United Nations and had come to regard it as the great hope of mankind.

50. Mr. COLOMA (Ecuador) paid a tribute to the Executive Director and the staff of UNICEF, whose ceaseless efforts had enabled that agency to achieve significant results and thus to renew the hope which the entire world placed on an altruistic endeavour on which mankind's welfare depended.

51. Mr. DEVASAR (Federation of Malaya) said that, as a newcomer to the United Nations, he appreciated the remarkable work of UNICEF at its true value. His Government had established a special department to deal with international agencies such as UNICEF and would co-operate with them to the full.

52. Mr. QUENTIN-BAXTER (New Zealand) welcomed to the Third Committee the representatives of Ghana and the Federation of Malaya, the two most recent Members of the United Nations. Those two countries would certainly bring a valuable contribution to the work of all United Nations organs.

53. With reference to the part of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/3613) dealing with UNICEF, he stressed the deep interest shown in his country in the Fund, which was a concrete example of what the United Nations could do and was determined to accomplish. The United Nations Children's Fund had scored certain important successes, especially against disease, but it had also not forgotten the less spectacular tasks. The New Zealand Government was grateful to UNICEF for the work it was doing in certain isolated islands in the Pacific and would continue to give that agency its unqualified support.

54. Mr. PETER (Hungary) thanked UNICEF for the assistance which it had given to so many Hungarian families and paid a tribute to all those who, by their moral or financial support, had enabled the Fund to continue its humanitarian work.

55. The assistance which UNICEF had furnished to Hungary had been both rapid and substantial. One of its representatives had recently visited that country and had been able to ascertain what type of assistance should be given in the future. He pointed out that countries such as Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the USSR and the German Democratic Republic had also done much for Hungarian children, especially by accepting many of them in holiday camps that summer. Hungary was grateful for the assistance which it was receiving and would be happy if it were in a position to make its own contribution. Its possibilities were for the time being very limited, but they could increase if the international situation improved. In fact, a reduction in international tension would clear away the difficulties now confronting a number of countries. They would then be in a position to take a more active part in the work of international agencies. The efforts of all the delegations in the Committees and in the General Assembly would help to remove the obstacles which hindered mutual understanding.

56. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) regretted that her country's appreciation of the work of UNICEF could not be re-

flected in the size of its contribution. However, its genuine interest was demonstrated by the active part played by the Iraqi Government in the implementation of programmes initiated by UNICEF and by other international bodies. Moreover, the Iraqi Government was not content with co-operation alone but also tried to extend the scope of such work by training personnel and by increasing its "matching" contributions. The United Nations Children's Fund had scored many important successes in Iraq, in such fields as malaria control, milk conservation and maternal and child welfare. Even more important, however, was the fact that UNICEF had shown what could be achieved and had made the entire country understand the vastness of the task still to be accomplished.

57. All improvement in the lot of children depended on the health conditions and the level of living of the entire population. For that reason, the Iraqi delegation was happy to note that UNICEF attached such importance to the struggle against disease, the improvement of nutrition and other measures for the general welfare.

Organization of work

58. The CHAIRMAN said that chapter VI, section IV, of the Economic and Social Council's report (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) would be considered concurrently with agenda items 30 and 31. At the meetings which it still had to devote to item 12, the Committee would also be dealing with all the other sections of chapters VI and VII and representatives would therefore be able, if they so desired, to range over all the matters dealt with in those sections; but they should avoid dwelling on subjects which would be more appropriately considered during the discussion on the other items relating to human rights.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.