



## General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/40/PV.77

18 November 1985

ENGLISH

Fortieth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 14 November 1985, at 3 p.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. DE PINIÉS	(Spain)
later:	Mr. BOUZIRI (Vice-President)	(Tunisia)
later:	Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Vice-President)	(Costa Rica)
later:	Mr. AGIUS (Vice-President)	(Malta)

United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year  
(plenary meetings devoted to policies and programmes relating to  
youth in accordance with resolution 39/22 of 23 November 1984)

- International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace: report of the Third Committee [89] (continued)
- Policies and programmes relating to youth: report of the Third Committee [95] (continued)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR  
(PLENARY MEETINGS DEVOTED TO POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO  
YOUTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 39/22 OF 23 NOVEMBER 1984)

AGENDA ITEMS 89 AND 95 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE THIRD  
COMMITTEE (A/40/855)

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/40/856)

Mr. MOREL (Seychelles): Once again, it gives my delegation great pleasure to extend to you, Sir, our congratulations on the occasion of your election as President of the General Assembly for this historic fortieth session. We are convinced that your wide-ranging experience in international relations will be instrumental in successfully guiding our deliberations on the item entitled "International Youth Year".

At its thirty-fourth session the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1985 as International Youth Year with the motto "Participation, Development, Peace". In taking that decision the United Nations, which recognized the importance of the direct participation of young people in shaping mankind's future in peace and progress, acted out of concern for the situation of young people in the contemporary world.

I am pleased to report that my country, the Republic of Seychelles, with nearly half its population under 20 years of age, since liberation eight and a half years ago has made its young people a focus of its constant concern. We have done that because we believe that today's generation is tomorrow's future. It is

(Mr. Morel, Seychelles)

because we believe that all the energy and efforts being directed towards our youth now will enable them in the future to develop a sense of justice, respect, mutual trust and the achievement of human progress and happiness.

My country has observed International Youth Year by establishing a National Co-ordinating Committee which organized, inter alia, the following events: a physical fitness and sports programme, a two-day youth seminar based on the adopted motto, a national song competition based on the International Youth Year theme, district-level week of films, community work projects and a national exhibition of arts and crafts.

Participation in the life of one's society is the birthright of all and that includes the right to take part in the economic, social, cultural and political process. From now on the youth of Seychelles have the possibility of embarking on that challenging process by joining the National Youth League, which was officially launched last month. The Youth League is an institution that focuses on the special needs of youth. It listens to the problems and aspirations of young people and involves them in the decision-making process. The most important objective of the League is "to promote the fundamentals of unity, dignity, fraternity, justice, self-reliance, discipline and socialist revolution".

Apart from taking such specific measures, my country has taken important steps in its development policy to make young people partners in that development. That is why, for example, young people have been given responsible positions in all fields early in their careers.

Development as it relates to youth is the growth of the personality of each person and his contribution to society.

(Mr. Morel, Seychelles)

There can be no development if education is not accessible to all, without regard to individual wealth. During the past few years, my country has undertaken a number of comprehensive reforms in the education system. Today every Seychellois child, irrespective of his or her social background, has equal opportunities at school and is able to complete a minimum of 11 years of education. There has also been an adult literacy campaign and we are satisfied to note that today we have almost eliminated illiteracy in our country.

As regards the question of employment, we have established the necessary infrastructures to ensure employment opportunities for our young people and to promote the adoption of full employment, job training, continuing educational policies for young people and protection against age discrimination. Our social security system ensures that the unemployed obtain temporary jobs to enable them sufficiently to obtain their basic necessities.

Turning to our social development, we have given attention to the process of eliminating vices like delinquency and drug abuse. That is going on through educational programmes at school and through our media. As for the particular problem of children, the National Council for Children was established some time ago as an organization responsible for the general welfare of children.

(Mr. Morel, Seychelles)

My delegation believes that peace is not simply the absence of war. It is social harmony, respect for human rights and true freedom, without the imposition of attitudes which undermine the dignity of peoples. Peace for us signifies understanding between peoples and nations. It is therefore no coincidence that in observing International Youth Year, youth delegations from Seychelles participated during the course of the year in the International Youth Year conference on law in Montreal, Canada, the Yamoussoukro Games and International Symposium on Peace in the Ivory Coast and the Twelfth World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, in the Soviet Union, to name but a few. Our concern for peace was clearly demonstrated by our youth at the Moscow Festival, where they joined other youths from the neighbouring Indian Ocean countries in a declaration to reiterate their wish to see the Indian Ocean turned into a zone of peace. They called for a halt to the arms race and called on those concerned to work constructively in the turbulent world we are living in.

It is widely accepted and recognized that my country has achieved considerable success in the implementation of its policies in relation to the youth of Seychelles. But on this momentous occasion our thoughts are also with the less fortunate - in particular, all the young men and women who are fighting for their dignity, freedom and liberation in Palestine, Namibia, South Africa, Central America, Western Sahara and elsewhere. We also salute those who continue to resist the forces of neo-colonialism. Our sympathy is also with the youth all over the world who face a number of serious disruptive elements in their daily lives, such as flight from war, refugee camps and hunger, drugs, nuclear nightmares, abandonment and enslavement.

The common objective of all efforts must be to enable all our leaders at all levels, as well as ordinary citizens, to become better aware of the situation of young people, their needs and aspirations as well as their fears, and to foster

(Mr. Morel, Seychelles)

among them the ideals of peace, mutual respect, understanding and solidarity among peoples, without which there is no hope for progress.

In conclusion, it is more necessary than ever for urgent measures to be taken by the international community, and by each State individually, to reinspire with hope all those young people who refuse to yield to discouragement.

Mr. GABORIT (France) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the European Community and its member States, the representative of Luxembourg has already made a statement that France fully supports, a statement rightly emphasizing the interest of the European Community in the objectives of International Youth Year. The interest of the States that make up the Community also deserves to be emphasized. Their response, and particularly that of the State that I represent here, seems to us to have measured up to the veritable challenge presented by the initiative of launching an International Youth Year while widespread economic difficulties face our societies, whatever their system of political organization.

Is it not admitted today that there was something of a paradox in inviting young people to celebrate International Youth Year at a time when the economic crisis was affecting them much more harshly than the rest of the population? That is why I spoke of a challenge, a challenge in the good sense of the word, but one that raised questions among young people about the credibility of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies.

However, it seems to us today that the United Nations system has been strengthened by International Youth Year. Therefore, as the representative of France, I wish to pay tribute to the initiative that led to it.

Although we can draw up only a provisional balance sheet, the success of International Youth Year is illustrated by three facts.

First, questions concerning youth have been raised to the level of matters of universal concern. Better still, most Governments today believe that policy

(Mr. Gaborit, France)

regarding youth is not simply one question among many, but the decisive question, since it includes all the others. That awareness depended on the United Nations firmly implementing the idea of an International Youth Year and States agreeing to a dialogue with young people themselves about the relevance of national solutions they propose in response to the aspirations of youth. It seems to us that both conditions have been met.

Secondly, the establishment in 158 States of national co-ordinating committees for International Youth Year, at the invitation of the United Nations, should also be emphasized. What is important about that is not the creation of such committees but the fact that, in contrast with what can be said about other international years, almost all States Members of the United Nations responded to the invitation. Most did so in sufficient time for the preparation of International Youth Year to be effective and, above all, they gave an important place on the committees to youth organizations. Therefore, there is no doubt that the dialogue thus begun or strengthened has a good chance of becoming permanent.

Thirdly, the work of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and the statements of most representatives at this Conference have convinced us that the focus of International Youth Year was right.

Whilst it was decided that International Youth Year should be observed simultaneously at the world, regional, national and local levels, it soon became clear that the national and local levels should receive greater emphasis. France is absolutely convinced that the initiatives of young people can most relevantly be encouraged at the local level. One of the most important lessons of International Youth Year is that it has done much to overcome the image of a resigned, gloomy youth, too easily fostered by the media. Moreover, for world public opinion and political leaders to be aware of the creative capabilities of youth and be ready to mobilize them, the spotlight had to be shone on those capabilities.

(Mr. Gaborit, France)

That role could only be played by the United Nations system. We wish to affirm here, without fear of denial, that it did not fail in its task in this area.

International Youth Year has made it possible in the area of international co-operation to achieve far from negligible progress and should inevitably, we feel, be reflected in lasting positive effects in the area of questions relating to youth in the United Nations system.

The General Assembly has recognized the importance of improved co-ordination of the efforts made to resolve the specific problems facing youth and of consideration of the way those problems were being dealt with by the specialized agencies and various bodies of the United Nations system. This closer co-ordination seems to us all the more necessary since youth questions scarcely lend themselves to compartmentalization.

Our country, which has already expressed its support of such co-ordination, can only be pleased with that approach and expresses the desire that the work of the inter-organizational group be continued beyond International Youth Year.

The Secretary-General in his report on communication flows between the United Nations, youth and youth organizations, has presented a very detailed balance sheet which makes it possible better to appreciate the important role devoted to youth by the institutions and organizations of the United Nations system in their programmes.

May I stress in this regard the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in this process by virtue of missions entrusted to it.

Twenty years after the first international youth conference, hosted by our country in Grenoble, and during the World Congress at Barcelona in that year, UNESCO undertook to review with young people themselves the situation of youth in



(Mr. Gaborit, France)

today's world, the developments which had occurred since that time, the progress accomplished and the role which it felt it could play in the various areas of competence of the Organization.

The results of the Barcelona Congress, as in due course the report on youth presented to the general conference in 1968 or the more recent study on youth in the 1980s, again reflected the quality of the programme of that institution in the area of youth as well as in the area of research, and operational activities for the benefit of Member States.

International Youth Year has also been an occasion to strengthen, albeit as yet inadequately, however, the consultation machinery between the United Nations system and the international youth organizations, and to that end to improve communication channels.

In so far as the rules adopted by our general conference have not made it possible for the representatives of international youth organizations to state their views on the subject, I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the joint declaration drawn up at the Geneva informal meeting and the collective consultation of non-governmental youth organizations and UNESCO.

Consideration of the proposals formulated in that declaration cannot fail to improve the participation of young people in the work of the United Nations and thus increase our Organization's credibility with young people at a time when we are celebrating its fortieth anniversary.

However, international co-operation is not confined to the activities of the intergovernmental organizations. Thus, we welcome the proposal of the Austrian Government to organize and host in 1987 an international symposium on youth employment.

(Mr. Gaborit, France)

Another subject which deserves our full attention is research. As was made clear in the Barcelona declaration, research programmes on the situation of young people should help to fill in existing gaps in the areas of statistics and analytical tools. France plans to take an initiative in the very near future on this subject, an initiative which will make possible a comparison of studies and research carried out throughout the world on the situation of young people living in different socio-economic and cultural contexts. We hope that more comprehensive international work on research will help Governments to conceive policies and to prepare ambitious action and development plans for the benefit of young people.

In the great concert of International Youth Year France does not intend to play a solo part. However, the approach adopted has various specific features which, the Assembly will understand, we wish to discuss briefly now.

The National Co-ordination Committee has been in existence since the beginning of 1984 and half of it consists of representatives of youth associations. The work of its Secretariat has been entrusted to the national committees of youth and popular education associations. It will be made permanent in 1986 in the form of a national committee for popular education and youth.

A broad appeal has been launched for priority to be given to original projects from young people themselves, and particular attention to those created by or addressing themselves to young people in reduced circumstances or with particular adaptation or employment difficulties. France has in this process sought to adhere to a decentralized procedure based on the pluralism of the partners involved and confidence in the initiative ability of young people. And this hope has not been disappointed.

(Mr. Gaborit, France)

Allow me to cite some facts. More than 1,300 projects have been submitted to the National Co-ordinating Committee. More than 700 of these have been successfully carried out thanks to an unprecedented government financial effort which in 1985 will have allocated a total of 50 million francs to specific International Youth Year projects, or a sum more than three times greater than that earmarked in 1984 for the preparation of the Olympic Games.

Large-scale measures have at the same time been taken by the French Government to meet the needs and aspirations of youth. To give some of the most meaningful examples of this, I will cite the fact that all young people under 21 years of age, will by the end of this year either be in training or employed or in situations where they are carrying out work of benefit to the community usefulness, as well as the creation and permanent status of the young people's initiative fund and the launching of the youth card, which makes it possible for French or foreign youths under 26 years of age to have privileged access to facilities for culture, sports and tourism, as well as thousands of other benefits in daily life.

(Mr. Gaborit, France)

Many of these measures would not have been possible or would have been much more modest if 1985 had not been International Youth Year. In other words, the promotion of an ambitious national youth policy would have been compromised had it not been supported by the resolute commitment on the part of the United Nations system, which has played a decisive role in making public opinion aware of the need to mobilize in matters concerning the future of our societies. Thus, a new impetus has been provided and youth would be unable to understand any failure to do even more to help them.

France feels that the regional dimension is an area of paramount importance in this respect. We attach great importance to the implementation of the guiding principles in the report of the Advisory Committee of 6 May 1985 and the follow-up to be given to the regional programme, as established in 1983 at Costinesti.

We also participated with great interest in the European meeting on co-operation in the area of youth policies held in Budapest in September 1985.

We attach great importance to and expect very much from the First Conference of European Ministers for Youth Affairs to be held in Strasbourg from 16 to 19 December 1985 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and at the invitation of France. We feel that this Conference will have been very well prepared in advance by the European Youth Week which took place in Strasbourg in July 1985, during which youth organizations of the countries of the Council of Europe very forcefully expressed the aspirations of young Europeans.

In his closing statement at that Week, Mr. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister of the French Government, expressed himself in the following terms:

"Devote your energies to organizing and sharing our knowledge and wealth with the developing world; resist the temptation to young people who, in the course of history, have given up; resist indifference and selfishness; resist

(Mr. Gaborit, France)

racism and intolerance; resist pessimism."

May this conviction be that of all the youth of the world.

Mr. KHALIL (Egypt): The General Assembly has created a historic event by calling for the observance of 1985 as International Youth Year and for the convening of the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year. Indeed, this call is very timely. It comes at a time when the international community represented in this body seems to have forgotten young people in some parts of the world. In a year especially declared for them, such youth hope that this Conference will remember their plight and misery. The theme of International Youth Year, participation, development, peace, is indeed a significant and relevant one. However, when youth in many parts of the world examine each word separately they find that the three words are somewhat out of context. For they are not participating in the development of their societies. And the peace they hear about is only an illusion. In South Africa and occupied Namibia, the escalation of violence against African youth increased tremendously during 1985. Youth are being shot in the streets and hurled into prisons without the benefit of trial: they are being shot and imprisoned simply for protesting and expressing their disapproval of an immoral and unjust practice called apartheid, a practice that has been condemned and rejected by the international community.

This Conference should not conclude without stressing the inalienable right of our young brothers and sisters in South Africa and occupied Namibia to freedom of expression and the need to put an immediate end to that ever-growing cancer called apartheid.

In the Gulf region a war has been going on for a long time - much too long, in fact. That war has brought nothing but devastation and caused nothing but the death of thousands of young people, who should have been involved in developing their societies instead. This Conference should indeed call for an end to this war before more young lives are lost.

(Mr. Khalil, Egypt)

One cannot mention the injustice and persecution perpetrated against young people without mentioning the injustice done by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian youth in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. During 1985, the Year declared by this body as the International Youth Year, Palestinian students were detained or imprisoned. Teachers were expelled, schools and universities were shut down. Even the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) training school on the West Bank was no exception. These and other similar actions should be condemned by this body and there must be a strong call for the cessation of acts of a similar nature, acts that contradict the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Youth everywhere has the right to education and freedom of expression, the right to live in their society without persecution or harassment.

Young people should be actively involved in developing and solving the problems of their societies. Their energies should neither be wasted nor curtailed. They should be allowed to participate in combating illiteracy, drug abuse and to find employment opportunities and better living conditions.

The international community has to play an important role by saving the lives of millions of youth and combating one of the major ills and dangers of this century which is drug abuse. Studies have shown that educating young people about the danger of drugs is the best approach for a long-term solution and prevents a drug-user from becoming a criminal. The family, which is the main nucleus of any society, should indeed play a greater role in this respect. A world-wide campaign under the auspices of the United Nations could be, we believe, an important factor in combating such danger.

In this respect, my delegation believes that the proper functioning of the

(Mr. Khalil, Egypt)

channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations is of crucial importance in the education of young people about such dangers, on the one hand, and acquainting the international community with the main problems, worries and dangers facing youth on the other. The channels of communication should be strengthened and fully used. My delegation also believes that steps such as ensuring the proper distribution of United Nations information relating to important youth issues such as housing, employment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and youth crime, as well as literacy and other matters of great concern to young people, should all be taken more seriously.

The Youth Information Bulletin, we believe, must be improved to become more appealing to a larger number of young people, and information regarding regional, interregional and international meetings dealing with youth should be provided with the objective of finding solutions to the many problems confronting youth today. Finally, such an important meeting for youth as the Geneva Informal Meeting (GIM) should be fully supported and expanded to include youth representatives from other regions as well.

(Mr. Khalil, Egypt)

Since the General Assembly's decision to declare 1985 International Youth Year, Egyptian youth have increased their participation in development programmes with the objective of applying these chosen themes for the observance of that Year. They have been actively involved in literacy programmes, programmes dealing with modern family planning, and other programmes aimed at beautifying and conserving the environment. The Egyptian Government has distributed unreclaimed land to interested university graduates with a view to providing employment opportunities to young people on the one hand and increasing food production on the other. This project has proved to be highly successful.

Egyptian youth also participated during 1985 in many cultural projects aimed at restoring and preserving our precious antiquities and monuments, the last such project being the restoration of the famous Citadel of Cairo.

Egyptian youth have also participated in various cultural programmes in observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations on the theme "Participation, Development, Peace," as well as other exchange programmes organized by the Egyptian Supreme Council for Youth and Sports in co-ordination with various international youth organizations with a view to discussing and exchanging views on different issues of common concern to them. It is estimated that approximately 180,000 young Egyptian people have benefited from the programmes and activities that took place in Egypt during the earlier part of this year. It is also worth noting that the Egyptian media have devoted both daily and weekly programmes to a discussion of the problems, worries and fears of youth in an open manner. Such programmes have proved to be very successful indeed. The Egyptian Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, in co-operation with Egyptian research centres and universities, has prepared a long-term plan on youth with the aim of understanding the needs and aspirations of young people during the next decade.

My delegation strongly believes that the limelight that has been focused on youth during the International Year should continue in the years to come. The



(Mr. Khalil, Egypt)

recommendations of the various international conferences and meetings held during 1985 in Barcelona, Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Baghdad, Ottawa, Bucharest, Kingston and other capitals should be consolidated to constitute an international charter for youth to ensure the realization of their hopes and dreams.

We believe this august body should stress the right of young people to freedom of expression and freedom of speech, condemn any discrimination against youth on the basis of colour, sex or origin, and commend the participation of youth in the development of their societies and their involvement in political processes in their respective countries.

Youth are half the present and all the future, they are tomorrow's leaders and decision-makers. The international community represented in this august body has to ensure peace and prosperity for them by making sure that the scourge of war will not again shatter their hopes and dreams and that peace will always prevail, for, without peace, there could be neither participation nor development. To this end, Egypt reaffirms its commitment to the ideals and objectives of International Youth Year, not only during 1985, but also in the years to come.

Finally, on behalf of my country, I should like to express our appreciation to the United Nations Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, the national co-ordinating committees, the host countries of international youth conferences, seminars and meetings and the Secretariat for their invaluable efforts during the observance of International Youth Year.

Mrs. AGNELLI (Italy): I would like to convey Italy's greetings and good wishes to the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, which is called upon to consider the problems of young people in depth.

If we solve the problems of youth today, we shall be able tomorrow to count on more efficient and more motivated ruling classes and workers in various areas of

(Mrs. Agnelli, Italy)

activity, and therefore on the more orderly advancement of national societies and of international relations.

For this reason, as well as in line with an institutional duty, the Italian Government has duly established and carried out a youth policy.

This policy is based on the guidelines laid down in a number of documents presented to Parliament by the Government and on the principles set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee established pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 39/22 of 23 November 1984.

Italian policy in this field is concentrated mainly on: youth employment, assistance to the handicapped and to drug addicts, schools, cultural exchanges, volunteer services, and the status of women.

The specific objectives chosen by the Italian Government in the employment sector are: to create areas of employment for young people in industries and other economic sectors through the introduction of incentives in vocational training contracts; to provide the discipline of part-time work; to utilize the opportunities offered by the public sector; and to review apprenticeship norms, especially in the artisan sector.

We plan to help the handicapped and drug addicts by meeting not only their health needs but also their social needs. We have undertaken the programming of school studies and vocational training, as well as the programming of housing and urban structures which will provide the handicapped with easy access to collective public services.

We shall soon complete the reform of the high schools, the review of the elementary school curriculum and the extension of the programming method, recently applied in some university sectors, to all aspects of university organization. Thus we plan to bring education more closely into line with the job opportunities offered by the modern world.

(Mrs. Agnelli, Italy)

With a view to allowing young people to enjoy the positive feelings derived from a growing awareness of other national cultures, the Italian Government is laying more and more stress on the development of foreign cultural exchanges. It recognizes that such exchanges, together with increased international co-operation in the scientific, economic and technical fields, is a means of establishing fraternal relations between peoples.

The Government is also giving strong support to initiatives taken in the field of volunteer services. Its aim is to promote the fruitful involvement of our young people in projects that favour the growth of the host countries. Their work has proved to be highly useful in the developing countries and they have been given special encouragement in the ecology sector and in activities designed to protect the environment.

Particular importance is attached to the question of equality between the sexes. The specific aim is to improve the position of young women in society and also to fight the discrimination from which working women are still suffering and which makes them a minority group, especially as regards promotion to higher-level jobs. The Italian Equal Rights Act of 1977 sets forth the principles for solving this problem. In this sector, too, the Government has set up, within the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers, a Committee to deal with the problems of women.

The topics proposed by the General Assembly for International Youth Year proclaimed in resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979 have been debated in Italy with profound interest and in depth. We have laid particular emphasis on the active participation of young people in this debate. We understand it as a genuine and special "partnership" which will tackle various issues. The Government is at great pains to avoid any temptation to manipulate youth organizations with a view to obtaining results imposed from above.

(Mrs. Agnelli, Italy)

Pursuant to the Assembly resolution, we have set up a National Committee for International Youth Year that I have the honour to chair. Within this Committee, a number of sectoral working groups have been established to deal with such specific youth problems as information, employment and marginalization.

(Mrs. Agnelli, Italy)

We have tried our hardest to encourage the elaboration of a new youth policy, with as many young people as possible taking part in this task. We hope that this policy will break through the institutional barriers which still oppose their full participation and will gather into one comprehensive whole what has been autonomously developed at the local and national levels. In other words, this is an effort to co-ordinate the initiatives carried forward by young people themselves.

In this context we have started to extend to all the municipalities of Italy the experience of youth projects already carried forward by some, such as Torino, Bologna, Vicenza and Forli. Quite recently in Bologna a conference entitled "The institutional forms to give effect to a national youth policy" was held. It assembled concrete proposals in order to give a common sense of direction to a multiplicity of local initiatives.

We have also established a number of working groups in which youth organizations play a dominant role.

The first working group was set up to foster the participation of young people in discussions of school problems. The group completed a study which will be presented during a conference to be held in Urbino on the topic "Young people and institutions: youth participation in school - objectives and proposals".

The second working group studied a report on the development of a new employment strategy evolved from many youth projects on the basis of the diversification, extension and more sophisticated development of the educational system and of vocational training. The specific conclusion which emerged is that the system should not only consider existing job opportunities but also anticipate future employment trends. In this field, self-employment initiatives have received a strong boost by the establishment of youth co-operatives and the experiment of opening "transitional shops" designed to revive the handicrafts industry through the training of artisans in the various sectors.

(Mrs. Agnelli, Italy)

The third working group has devoted special attention to the question of peace, not in its negative sense meaning absence of war, but as a positive instrument of brotherhood and understanding. The "International Youth Meeting" held at Jesolo in September provided a moment of reflection for 450 young participants. Of these, 280 came from European and non-European countries. They agreed on the adoption of a new set of values - namely, individual responsibility; international social justice; individual freedom with respect for diversity; self-determination of peoples; international democracy; and partnership.

The fifth working group tackled the problems of marginalization. As a consequence of conditions of diversity, marginalization involves different approaches to social conflicts: some young people react aggressively or violently, some take to alcohol or drugs; some, on the other hand, become loyal members of youth organizations; others retreat into a state of passivity or shrink back into their shells in a state of sterile withdrawal. The most vulnerable are those who live in difficult social conditions. To cite only some of the most endangered groups, we could mention the handicapped and the immigrants.

Finally, the question of drugs was exhaustively discussed at the recent conference, "Youth for youth against drugs", held in October at Villa San Giovanni. In its conclusions, it stressed that the instruments of youth policy must involve not only the individual but all the resources of society. This conference, in other words, laid down the principle that even the individual with the greatest lacunae in his own affective past has the ability to make his own special contribution to the elaboration of his life projects. This contribution must be recognized and encouraged.

In concluding, may I point out that we have tried to work in a whole series of heterogeneous sectors, analysing separately the individual problems in order to reach also viable conclusions likely to improve substantially the overall picture.

(Mrs. Agnelli, Italy)

We hope to be able to profit from our own experience; but we are also watching with equal interest similar experience acquired in other countries. We are convinced that the exchange of experience and of opinions can enrich all of us and help to open up before us the prospect of a generation of active young people in the different nations who are healthier and more aware of their problems.

Indeed, we must admit that development in this direction would obviously help to reduce international tensions, which are inevitably affected by the upsets inherent in the struggles and malaise of young people.

Mr. DUDINSKI (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): We the representatives of the youth of the Member States of the United Nations have gathered here at the United Nations in this International Youth Year being held under the theme "Participation, Development, Peace" to discuss the most difficult problems facing the young generation of the world.

The main condition to guarantee and ensure the vital rights and interests of the youth of all countries and the main prerequisite for progress in all areas of human activities is precisely the prevention of nuclear war and ensuring global lasting peace. This is particularly timely this year, on the fortieth anniversary of the victory over Hitler fascism and Japanese militarism. In the noble goal of defending the greatest human right, the right to life, a great deal depends on young people and much can be done by them. Just as it is to all other young people in the Soviet Union, peace is very dear to me. And these are not just words; this is the policy of our State and the aspiration of our people. The Byelorussian SSR knows very well the meaning of war. In the period of the Second World War our Republic was subjected to terrible destruction by the Hitler hordes. But the greatest and most irreplaceable losses to Byelorussia, like those of the entire Soviet State, were the losses in people: our grandparents, our mothers and fathers, our older brothers and sisters, those who fell, were killed and tortured

(Mr. Dudinski, Byelorussian SSR)

in Fascist prisons. More than 2,230,000 people - that is, one-fourth of the inhabitants of Byelorussia - were lost by the Republic in the war. The whole world knows the tragedy of the Byelorussian village of Katym, which was burned down with all its inhabitants - and there were 619 such Katyms in Byelorussia.

A total of 8,500 inhabitants of my region, the Ivanovski, in the Brest district did not return from the battlefield. Sixty villages were completely burned down by the Fascists, and their people were left without any shelter. Our family was not spared by the scourge of war. In the very first days of the war my father went to the front; he was lucky to have remained alive. He used to tell me: "My son, we won the victory and brought peace to the peoples. Do everything possible; do not spare any effort to ensure that such a war is not repeated."

The last war brought unspeakable suffering and grief to the peoples of many countries. The world was threatened with domination by the brown-shirted hordes. The historic victory, to which the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution, gave the peoples hope for a peaceful future and, at the same time, a feeling of responsibility and the determination "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" - precisely the solemn obligation set forth for all the peoples at the beginning of the United Nations Charter. We must always remember that one of the main lessons of the last war is that we must fight together against war before it starts, before the bombs fall, before the rockets start flying. But the fight for peace must be at the centre of all activities of the United Nations, where States of various social systems are brought together to work towards the attainment of this paramount goal.



(Mr. Dudinski, Byelorussian SSR)

Questions relating to the struggle for the preservation of peace have always been given tangible form in the activities of youth organizations in our Republic. Our youth is not a passive observer of international life. It is convinced that its efforts, just like the efforts of progressive youth in general, are crucial for the future of the world. Our young people are participating very actively in the World Disarmament Campaign, in youth peace actions proclaimed by the World Federation of Democratic Youth as "World youth action for peace and against nuclear war", in the "Peace March of Soviet Youth" and in anti-war activities in response to the relevant decisions of the United Nations and on the initiative of Soviet voluntary organizations, the Komsomol Central Committee and the Committee of Youth Organizations. In this year alone more than 5,000 anti-war events were organized by the youth in our Republic. Under the slogan "Anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship", anti-war events were organized on a large scale during preparations for the twelfth World Youth Festival. Meetings, anti-war demonstrations, peace vigil festivals, exhibitions of political posters, sketches and photographs, political song contests, quizzes and International Solidarity Weeks were held in all parts of the country. The proletarian socialist internationalism of our youth is reflected in its participation in a worthy cause - that of making contributions to the Soviet Peace Fund. In 1985 the young people of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic contributed 3 million rubles to that Fund. For example, members of the Komsomol youth brigades at various enterprises adopt fallen war heroes who were the victims of imperialist and reactionary terror, perform the tasks that they would have been assigned had they been alive, and donate the equivalent of their wages to the Peace Fund. I shall give you another example. Vyacheslav Rabchun, a young taxi driver who lives in Brest, decided, after the birth of his son, to work one day a month for the Fund until his son came

(Mr. Dudinski, Byelorussian SSR)

of age. There are thousands of other such examples involving real living people, motivated by a passionate desire to do everything possible to prevent a nuclear catastrophe. Many strong international links bind Byelorussian youth to their foreign contemporaries. In the last two years alone, envoys of over 50 youth organizations from 35 countries in the world were the guests of Byelorussian youth. Every year the direct links between Byelorussian youth organizations and the youth organizations of other countries are strengthened. The main purpose of our relations is to strengthen peace, friendship and co-operation. The noble objectives of International Youth Year were welcomed and supported by the Byelorussian SSR's young generation and public opinion. Its theme, Participation, Development and Peace, is fully in keeping with the role played by the youth of our Republic in the life of the community, and above all in solving the most important social, political, cultural and economic problems.

The Constitution of the Soviet Union and that of the Byelorussian Republic grant full civic, political, social, economic and cultural rights to young people. Not a single important question - regardless whether it concerns national affairs or matters relating to a region, district or workforce - is settled without the participation of youth. The major role played by the young generation in state affairs is reflected by the fact that, in the Republic, 34 per cent of the members of Local Soviets are young persons. Ninety-two young people occupy a responsible position as deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic and 10 are deputies to the highest legislative body of the USSR, namely, its Supreme Soviet. I, a simple pleasant lad and tractor driver on a collective farm was elected by the voters of my home district in the Brest region of Byelorussia, to represent them in the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union and to work in a parliamentary group.

(Mr. Dudinski, Byelorussian SSR)

Approximately 1 million young people below the age of 30 in the Republic are engaged in the material production sphere. Our young people do not know what unemployment is. Our Constitution guarantees them the right to work and to choose and be given a job. Our Republic has introduced universal compulsory secondary education for young people. About 250,000 young men and women are studying in the Republic's higher and specialized secondary educational establishments. In all, 4 million persons out of a total population of 10 million are receiving various types of free training. All this has resulted in a particularly rapid increase in the number of graduate experts, of whom there are now 1.2 million - almost one-eighth of our population.

It is clear that the recommendations set out in the Programme of measures and activities in preparation for the observance of International Youth Year, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, has been fully implemented in the Byelorussian SSR. Questions relating to compliance with legislation, including schooling, working and living conditions, leisure and health conditions for youth, as well as increasing its role in the political affairs of the country and in the building of a better economic and cultural society in our country, are systematically studied by the Youth Affairs Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR and by Local Soviets of Deputies.

In January this year the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Republic set up a Commission responsible for International Youth Year activities in our Republic. The establishment of this Commission, under the chairmanship of the Deputy President of the Republic's Council of Ministers, Mikhail V. Kovalev, is yet one more confirmation of our country's readiness to make a constructive contribution to International Youth Year. Ministries and government departments, the executive committees of local Soviets and public organizations are

(Mr. Dudinski, Byelorussian SSR)

participating extensively in the observance of International Youth Year. We share the views of those delegations which feel that, in the coming years, Governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including youth organizations, must pay due attention to questions relating to youth participation in the social and economic development of their countries, to ensuring the right of youth to work and education and to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against youth. In many parts of the world, young people are in difficult situations as a result of the economic crisis and failure to solve problems relating to employment, education, vocational training, health services and cultural matters, and many live in conditions of colonial dependence. I share the concern expressed by many who have spoken on these problems.

As experience with socialist construction in our country shows, youth deserves and justifies the trust of society. Where youth has greater rights and trust and possibilities of using its knowledge and abilities it plays a large and active role in the social, political and economic affairs of society. Only a socially active youth moving in the direction of social progress can be a genuine creative force for civilization. The main point is that today not a single social achievement is possible for youth - or for people in general for that matter - unless their basic right, namely, the right to live in peace is guaranteed. For this reason the young generation of the Republic welcomed the United Nations declaration of 1985 as International Youth Year with great enthusiasm.

We have done and intend to do everything possible to make sure that the right of our people and the people of other countries to peace and life is never violated by anyone. We call upon young people of all countries to prevent nuclear war and the militarization of outer space, and to achieve disarmament and the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid and to establish co-operation

(Mr. Dudinski, Byelorussian SSR)

in equality. The youth of the Byelorussian SSR is at present discussing and unanimously endorses the new programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. We are infinitely grateful to the Leninist party for its constant concern for the youth of our country, where every year is Youth Year. We firmly support the foreign policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which is designed to preserve and strengthen peace, curb the forces of aggression and militarism for the benefit of the present and future generations, and are convinced that a union of the forces of peace, social progress and national liberation is the best guarantee of the future of mankind.

Mr. GJIKA (Albania): The consideration of the problems of youth in the General Assembly of the United Nations shows that they are of great concern and importance. It would be a grave mistake to ignore the thoughts, aspirations and life of youth, of that segment of mankind which is to play a fundamental role in all fields of life. It is youth who, by their struggle and work, should make the decisive contribution to the process of far-reaching transformations in the life of society. However, if we make an objective evaluation of the status of youth all over the world, we cannot ignore the fact that in many countries the ideals of the younger generation for a better life, their aspirations for justice and progress not only are not taken into consideration but, on the contrary, that youth has become the subject of obvious social injustices, of social and national discrimination, of oppression and exploitation. It is because of all this that we often hear nowadays, both in the West and in the East, of a crisis of the younger generation. This situation is, first of all, a direct consequence of the grave situation prevailing in the world today, because of the policy of the super-Powers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, of their constant plundering and exploitation of many peoples and countries, and of the existence of the system of exploitation of man by man.

(Mr. Gjika, Albania)

The arms race, tensions, conflicts and local wars instigated by them and their interference in the internal affairs of other countries have created the conditions for the young to be the first victim of the consequences of such a policy. In addition, the grave crisis that has gripped both the economic basis and the superstructure of the capitalist and revisionist world makes millions of young people the first to increase the army of the unemployed and the victims of many social evils. The huge expenditure devoted to armaments and the increase in the war budget at the expense of social funds, together with phenomena such as inflation, unemployment, illiteracy, hunger and various diseases, prevent a considerable number of the young men and women from actively participating in the development of society and leading a dignified life. Depressed, hopeless and disillusioned by a hard life, many of them take the path of degeneration, corruption, physical and mental degradation and criminality.

The development of events all over the world shows that it is youth who, first and foremost, bear upon their shoulders the consequences of the aggression and wars instigated by the super-Powers. Suffice it to mention the turmoil fomented in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Central America and other places, where the young are the first to be killed and persecuted, because they, with their inherent vigour and courage, cannot resign themselves to the denial of freedom, dignity and national independence. Thousands of young men and women throughout the world are fighting weapon in hand against aggression and wars incited by the imperialist Powers, the super-Powers in particular, economic and social injustices and the policy of armament and preparations for war. Young men and women are being killed by the thousands in fratricidal wars instigated by the super-Powers and reactionary forces. They are suffering real genocide, such as that which the Pretoria régime is inflicting on the Azanian people and the Israeli Zionists on the Palestinian people.

(Mr. Gjika, Albania)

Along with the struggle for hegemony and world domination, the imperialist super-Powers have also intensified their poisonous propaganda, whose aim is to confuse and pervert the young and alienate them from the revolutionary struggle. Knowing the might of youth, they try their best, through well-calculated cultural and ideological aggression, to corrupt youth, both morally and ideologically, paralyse that great force, and exploit and use them as cannon fodder in their aggressive wars. It is to benumb and paralyse the energies of youth, extinguish their revolutionary ideals and obscure their prospects that they stimulate and propagate alcoholism, criminality and prostitution. But neither the aggressive wars, violence and terror nor sophisticated propaganda can extinguish those sacred ideals, for no power in the world, however savage and diabolical, can overcome the struggle for freedom and human dignity. Testimony to all this is the struggle now being waged by the peoples, with youth in the front rank, against imperialism, social-imperialism, racism, Zionism and reaction, and the ever rising tide of protest against oppression and exploitation that has swept the whole world.

In the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, youth live and work in freedom. They enjoy fully all the rights sanctioned in the Constitution and laws of our socialist State. They play an important role in the development and management of the country. There is no aspect of social and economic development, no major project of the socialist construction in our country, that does not bear the seal of youth, their minds and hands. As active participants in the society they are guaranteed all the conditions and facilities to learn, be educated and work. The terrible evils typical of capitalist and revisionist societies, such as oppression and exploitation, unemployment and illiteracy, narcomania, criminality

(Mr. Gjika, Albania)

and insecurity, are alien to Albanian youth. On the contrary, their life is secure and happy with a much better future. In Socialist Albania all prospects are open to the younger generation, which works unsparingly for the construction and happiness of the homeland, which is its happiness as well.

Actually, more than 700,000 pupils and students attend the different categories of schools in our country. That means that of every three or four citizens one goes to school. In the last elections of deputies to the People's Assembly, 50 per cent of those elected were young men and women. Over the 15-year period from 1970 to 1985 150,000 youth with middle-school education and about 43,000 with higher education have been employed. Under the people's power, education for the younger generation is free of charge. Jobs are guaranteed to the young after graduation from middle schools and the university and favourable conditions are created for new families, the sound units of our socialist society.

Socialist Albania's younger generation, like the Albanian people as a whole, suffered a great loss this year; they lost their great and beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, who devoted his whole life to the noble cause of liberating and defending the independence of the homeland, the emancipation of the people, their progress and happiness. Our youth felt that loss deeply, but they turned grief into strength. As a sign of gratitude for the glorious deed of Comrade Enver Hoxha, for the special care he used to take of the younger generation in particular, and for everything the Party and our Socialist State do for youth, they are entirely engaged in the movement "Torch bearers for the implementation of the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha". The broad masses of our youth have undertaken activities on the local and national levels, and redoubled their energies in the struggle for the construction of socialism and the defence of the homeland and the victories achieved.



(Mr. Gjika, Albania)

The youth of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania stand firmly by the struggle that the younger generation and peoples all over the world wage against oppression, exploitation and the policy of war and aggression, and for peace and genuine democracy. They are well aware of the fact that their struggle and efforts are part of the struggle being waged at the international level, just as the struggle of progressive youth throughout the world supports and encourages their struggle. The Albanian youth will always be loyal to those lofty ideals.

Mr. RADMAN (Yugoslavia): On behalf of the self-managing and non-aligned Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I should like to greet the participants in the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year and to join in the congratulations on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

My country highly appreciates the role that the United Nations has played for four decades in preserving the world from a new catastrophe and expresses the hope that the United Nations will continue to serve the peoples of the world even more effectively in continuing in the future also to shape an alternative to the unjust, divided and warring world. In this, Yugoslavia and its youth see a guarantee of their own independence and free development.

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

We have been following with attention the evolution of awareness of the importance of the question of youth in the United Nations system, from the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples some 20 years ago and the United Nations Volunteers Programme and World Youth Assembly in the early 1970s, to a number of resolutions and decisions and the proclamation of International Youth Year in 1979. From the initial patronizing attitude to the acceptance of equitable co-operation with the young within the framework of International Youth Year has evolved within the United Nations awareness of the importance of the problems of youth for the future of all mankind.

The emergence of that awareness has coincided with growing understanding of the complexity and significance of the role of the United Nations in the contemporary world. In search of the root causes of conflicts and instability in relations between States, the world Organization has had to embark upon the analysis of open processes and social relationships in the contemporary world, perceiving what is happening not only within Member States and their Governments, but also in social groups and individuals. Although such an approach by the United Nations transcends the institutional framework delineating the scope of United Nations activities, and may indeed invite criticism, we understand it and consider it logical and justifiable. When the United Nations Charter was drafted it was hardly possible to foresee the direction international relations would take or to foresee how much the United Nations would have to do to avert a new world conflict and to build equitable international co-operation based on lasting and stable peace.

Our request for a more effective role for the United Nations should not be understood as a demand to return the world Organization to its beginnings, to the practice of the late 1940s and early 1950s; rather, it is a request for more

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

advanced and up-to-date methods and forms of work, free from the dangers of bureaucratization and mindful of the fact that States are no longer the dominant subjects of international relations that they used to be.

The proclamation of International Youth Year was the affirmation of such a perception of the role of the United Nations. The world Organization must not be an objective and, at the same time, powerless observer of world events or at world bureaucracy's beck and call. It should become an active and equal participant and partner in the elimination of the root causes of international conflicts and the resolution of accumulated contradictions.

This is of exceptional importance to the young, since they perceive the world as one and indivisible. They are becoming increasingly aware that, regardless of differences in ideology, policies, faith, race, national or ethnic origin, regardless of the part of the world they live in, it is they that are affected most by the trials and tribulations that beset the world.

The mere facts of the state of the young generation - the population pressure that threatens development, famine and poverty, illiteracy, large-scale unemployment and the general feeling of social insecurity - are in themselves a telling sign of the global dimension of the problem and the timeliness of the United Nations initiative. The injustice of ever-diminishing resources, which are sometimes even below the subsistence level, is a daily phenomenon and glaring testimony to the gravity of the condition not only of the young generation but of the world at large. Instead of practical action aimed at resolving the situation, we have been witnessing international relations fraught with confrontation and conflicts, rooted in exploitation by the military and political blocs, and big Powers using ideology as a cover-up.

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

Those are the bases of the statements being made on behalf of the young and of their manipulation by parading the advantages and disadvantages of one system over the other. What the young need is not promises of an uncertain and ill-defined future, but the means and wherewithal for life and work, which will make it possible for them to decide on their own development and cultural and political perspective.

We do not think that it is possible - nor do the young demand it - to realize political, economic and other freedoms and new and more just international relations for the young alone. Young men and women are not demanding special treatment. What they are asking for, however, is equal participation in the solution of all social problems of the contemporary world, in the interest of all. They are, therefore, rallying behind those progressive forces of the world struggling for the elimination of all forms of exploitation and subjugation of people and for relations based on self-determination, independence and freedom, respect for human rights and world peace, as an essential condition of the development of mankind.

For us in Yugoslavia such a force in the international community is, above all, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which, on the basis of its own doctrine of international relations and the policy of active and peaceful coexistence, has already been actively involved for years in the solution of a whole range of major international issues, such as the liberation of colonial countries and peoples, the establishment of the new international economic order and the new international information order and disarmament.

In that context, the principles and goals of International Youth Year have heightened the international importance of the question of youth, not only as a question of one social group or age structure of the population, but as a serious

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

social and world problem the solution of which is of vital interest to mankind as a whole. Although the position of the young is a realistic and irreplaceable indicator of the basic features and quality of life of each individual society, it cannot be dealt with successfully without the active, direct participation and contribution of young people or only nationally. This is not possible, because "youth" does not stand for an amorphous mass of young people but, rather, for the preponderant part of them who are active and who, through their numerous political, social and humanitarian organizations or national liberation, peace or "green" movements, are trying to take part in almost all major processes and developments of the contemporary world at the local, national regional or international level.

That fact cannot be ignored, for the young do not permit themselves to be treated only as an object of social developments; they want to be treated as an equal and respectable politically and socially influential entity. That desire must be better reflected in United Nations initiatives as well. On the basis of experience gained in that field by some specialized agencies and international organizations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations should do more to create the conditions for the bringing together and co-operation of youth organizations at all levels, for which the existing channels of communication are not sufficient and should be improved.

In such a way a more favourable framework would be created to make possible a joint approach by the young to the key issues of the contemporary world and to overcome the present ideological, political and organizational divisions among the youth organizations of the world, which make possible their manipulation in the interest of bloc politics and influential centres of power in the world. The United Nations would thus be given another autonomous subject of international relations to co-operate with in the creation of its own policy.

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

We are convinced that each organized society can, if it wishes, more easily recognize within its youth the elements of its own shortcomings and contradictions, which it should strive to eliminate, as well as the new progressive processes which it should adopt as its own and encourage.

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

We, in Tito's Yugoslavia, are proud of the results we have achieved in this respect in the course of the last 40 years. With the direct contribution of the young, we have created a solid material basis of the standard of living and industrial development, developed a specific political system of self-management inspired by socialist ideas in accordance with the requirements of a multinational, medium-developed country and thrust the open door for everything that is humane and progressive in the world. The young have been given the possibility to participate in the creation of conditions for their own life and for decision-making in the communities in which they live, work or study and through them in society at large.

Through our unified political organization, open to all who accept our constitutional order we participate, on an equal footing with other socio-political organizations, in the political life of the country and we are directly represented in the legislatures. The basic motto of such an approach is:

"there are no social problems which do not concern youth and, vice versa, there are no youth problems which are not social".

Society has assumed the obligation to create conditions for creative self-assertion of the young as active and responsible subjects of social life. That is borne out by the fact that the youth organization is the only competent social factor dealing with the questions of youth in the overall system in my country.

Notwithstanding all those achievements, we welcomed the proclamation of International Youth Year which provided us with yet another impetus for analysing and assessing the overall position of the young in society. We have established that the young in Yugoslavia have experienced in varying degrees the hardships similar to those in other countries, such as a high rate of unemployment and lack

(Mr. Radman, Yugoslavia)

of adequate job opportunities. We have learned that those hardships are the consequence of our own inconsistencies, and of international circumstances as well. We shall do everything we can to remove the shortcomings in our own practice, since we are convinced that it is in the interest of the whole society, but we shall also strive to ensure such international solutions that would benefit the young all over the world directly or indirectly. We are willing to learn from the experience of others, just as we make available our experiences to all those interested in them.

Although we respect the breadth and reach of the principles and goals of the International Youth Year, we are convinced that its result should benefit first and foremost the young in those countries which are most seriously affected by the unjust international relations. Yugoslavia has always been consistent, and will continue to be so, in rendering unconditional support and assistance to the peoples and youth victims of any foreign aggression and pressure or those that do not yet enjoy their sovereign rights. Within the limits of our possibilities we are doing all we can to contribute to the realization of the sovereign rights of the peoples of Palestine, Azania, Namibia, Sahara and others under the leadership of their liberation movements and all other peoples fighting for self-determination, independence, freedom and social justice. We resolutely oppose, and join in the condemnation of, the policies aimed at progressive militarization of the world, regardless of its ideological motivation. We demand that the arms race be halted and prevented from spreading into outer space, that nuclear and other arms be destroyed, that military-political blocs be dissolved.

In order to attain those goals it may be of some help to follow the slogan, popular among the youth of Yugoslavia: "Politicians of all countries, fall in love."



Mr. PHAM NGAC (Viet Nam): Issues relating to youth on the agenda of the General Assembly are of particular importance since all activities regarding youth are an investment in the future well-being of mankind. The observance in 1985 of International Youth Year is a recognition of that fact.

The Year offers us an opportunity to assess the situation of youth in our respective countries and draw attention to their specific needs and aspirations. Activities and programmes in preparation for the Year have increased the awareness of and concern for youth, resulting in the exchange of experience and information and have encouraged a new perception of youth as a positive force for peace, development and social change.

The young people of today no longer want to participate by proxy; they are determined to play a more active role in building a better world to live in.

The three chosen themes of International Youth Year, namely: Participation, Development and Peace are evidently distinct, yet close interrelated.

Peace, to take this theme first, is a prerequisite for life itself. Without peace, there would be neither participation nor development. The desire for peace is world-wide. The responsibility for its attainment belongs to everyone.

Today, contrary to our aspiration, we are all deeply concerned at the sharp deterioration in the international situation, the frenzied arms race and the danger of a nuclear war which would completely destroy life on Earth. Equally deplorable is the continued existence of hotbeds of tension accompanied by the deepening world economic crisis. We are fully aware that it is the young generation which has the most to lose from it.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

In those circumstances, the pursuit of peace is of paramount importance. Young people must join in the efforts to halt the arms race, in the nuclear field in particular, to promote measures that will enhance confidence between States and to channel towards peaceful economic and social development. The lessons of the Second World War with great losses in human lives and untold suffering for the survivors must not be forgotten among youth and should stand out as a warning to those who attempt to rekindle the flames of war on our planet.

At the World Assembly for Peace and Life against Nuclear War held at Prague in 1983, representatives of young people the world over called for an end to the danger of a nuclear war and opposed the further deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe.

The Twelfth World Festival of Youth and Students held in Moscow last August is a major event of International Youth Year and a great contribution to its observance. With the slogan "For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship", the attention of more than 20,000 participants was drawn to the problems of preserving peace and preventing nuclear war, as well as to the objectives of International Youth Year, the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism, nazism in the Second World War.\*

---

\*Mr. Bouziri (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

The Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, states:

"since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." (resolution 33/73)

My delegation welcomes the positive results of the World Congress on Youth organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in July this year and its final report, known as the Barcelona Statement.

Participation and development are very worthy aims but only if they mean full participation in all aspects of society and full development pursued in peace and co-operation among nations.

Young people, in our perspective, should be viewed as positive, contributing members of society and not as a problematic group requiring the help of society. They should have the right to participate in economic, social, political and cultural life and should expect their participation to be meaningful and to be taken seriously. They should not be considered merely as resources for development but as equal participants in the decision-making process which enhances development, especially the full development of their potential. The participation of youth is thus both a goal in itself and a means of improving prospects for the attainment of development and peace.

How can we achieve the chosen goals of the International Youth Year and how can young people enjoy their sacred human rights when in different regions youth faces serious problems, when social injustice, inequality and insecurity continue to exist and when the young are the object of various forms of exploitation?

In various parts of the world young people are subjected to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The diversion of massive resources from ensuring the well-being of society to military expenditure, reduced spending on social welfare, rising unemployment and inflation hit the young hardest.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

It is a sad fact that the lack of opportunities for youth to apply their skills and education and the lack of faith in the future lead to the moral alienation of young people and provide fertile ground for social evils such as crimes, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and so forth. Who is then to blame for all this? It is certainly not the young.

Young people living in highly developed areas may enjoy material opportunities, but at the same time they may face various deep-rooted social problems, such as unemployment, underemployment, inequality and many side-effects of uncontrollable industrialization. In the less developed regions of the world, already high youth unemployment figures have been exacerbated by the economic crisis and stagnation in recent years and by the austerity measures that many countries have to adopt.

Young people may be lacking in experience, but they are not lacking in intelligence and strength. They have to unite to fight social evils and injustice and achieve a prosperous future for all. In other terms, they have to act to bring about innovative and radical changes in their own society, putting their creative potential at the service of peace, justice and co-operation.

My delegation is of the view that the problems facing youth are closely linked to those of the society. It is necessary to recognize the responsibility of Governments in facilitating thorough participation by youth in the process of the development of the society. The success of the International Youth Year greatly depends on practical measures at the national level. Action taken by Governments is a decisive factor.

My delegation shares the views expressed by many others that the observance and follow-up of the Year should be one of the regular activities of the United Nations.

(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

Along with this, the main objective of national co-ordinating committees is to engage in purposeful and long-term work during the years to come to satisfy the needs and interests of youth at the national level.

Joining in the great efforts of young people the world over to ensure the successful observance of the International Youth Year, Vietnamese youth have actively participated in numerous activities and programmes relating to youth. A national Co-ordinating Committee for the International Youth Year was established in Viet Nam, with high-ranking representatives from various governmental ministries and mass non-governmental organizations participating.

All possible efforts are being made to adopt a law on youth during the International Youth Year. The law on youth, once approved, would become a kind of charter of rights and duties of the young generation in Viet Nam.

In March 1985, an exhibition entitled "Young people's creativeness in science, technology and national defence" was organized in Viet Nam with more than 1,100 participants across the country. The best projects were selected and sent to the international exhibition of achievements by young inventors which is being held this month in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Vietnamese youth in the past fought heroically for national independence and are now engaged most actively in national reconstruction. They are the spearhead of the scientific and technological revolution which is taking place in the process of national development.

Numerous seminars on the promotion of peace and co-operation have been widely organized. Young people are deeply engaged in peace marches and anti-imperialist activities in solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa, the Middle East, Central America and the Caribbean.

International Youth Year should, like previous United Nations special events, leave behind a more precise international consensus on youth. Indeed, we hope the

(Mr. Phan Ngac, Viet Nam)

International Youth Year will promote practical measures, that will be of benefit to young people today and to future generations.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our belief that young people have a unique contribution to make to society and must play an active role in the struggle for peace, democracy and justice. The young people of Viet Nam look forward to co-operating with young people of other lands in their common endeavour to achieve these goals.

Mr. DAZA (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): Since we are celebrating youth, this, in essence, is a celebration of joy and optimism. Regrettably, Latin America today, in contrast to this celebration, is for the second time grieving over a major blow dealt by nature. This time, Colombia was affected by the eruption of the Ruiz volcano, which has left behind destruction, thousands of dead, victims and distress. We are certain that the international community will provide its valuable co-operation with a view to alleviating the sufferings of our brothers, the people of Colombia.

I should like to begin this statement by expressing to the delegation of Colombia and, through it, to the Government and people of Colombia, the solidarity and deep sorrow felt by Chile over the tragedy which struck it just a few hours ago.

It is but meet to give full credit to the work done in preparing and implementing International Youth Year, which is so successfully drawing to a close, by the Advisory Committee on the International Youth Year and by the International Youth Year secretariat of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

At a time when the work of the Organization is frequently discussed, the action taken here to celebrate the event is proof of the achievements that can be attained when efforts are concerted and lofty aims are sought together. The tremendous work done internationally, nationally and locally by young people in every country of the world is sure to bear fruit. We are certain that this seed will send out roots and that the action will long continue. It will grow further, enriched by the lasting creativity of youth.

The youth of Chile knows that it must pay attention to history and that building a future requires bearing the past in mind. That being the case, it does not, nor will it ever, allow its idealism, its healthy contumacy and its desire to

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

grow as persons and to work for the betterment of society to be viewed as mere instruments.

It is in this spirit that Chilean youth, within the framework of the International Youth Year and bearing in mind the concrete proposals contained in the guidelines and recommendations adopted by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, of which it is a part, is embarking on a number of activities in various fields. Those among them we wish to highlight are the national literacy campaign, which meant attaining a national literacy rate of 96 per cent; the book campaign, which meant creating 107 new libraries throughout the country and which will allow us to increase interest in reading among young people; the granting by the National Training and Employment Service of approximately 24,000 scholarships for workers, of whom 60 per cent are between 20 and 26 years of age; the youth health programme, which is intended to train 3,525 youth health monitors throughout the country, belonging to various educational institutions whose mission is basically to provide guidance to their peers with regard to drug and alcohol abuse; the creation of green brigades and ecological groups, more than 2,000 in number, whose aim is to arouse an awareness, not only among the youth, but in the entire community, of the importance of the ecology and the preservation of the environment to the quality of life and the development of mankind. Among the activities of these groups I wish to mention the afforestation of over 5,000 hectares and the anti-smog and anti-noise campaigns in large cities.

I also wish to mention here the work done by the youth volunteers of our country who, in a disinterested way and in Chile alone, have traditionally done social work in villages, clinics, and schools in order to create better standards of living among the most needy. In this framework we wish to mention the constant sense of social solidarity and public service of our young people, who have always



(Mr. Daza, Chile)

responded promptly and generously to the misfortunes of others. A clear example is its response to the earthquake of 3 March this year when, together with other sectors of the population, they worked in reconstruction and assistance.

In Chile over 61 per cent of the population is under 30 years of age. This, which may appear to be a mere statistic, has a much deeper meaning in our country. It is of transcendental importance to the future; it affects our educational policy and presents us with an enormous challenge in respect of our development and our capacity to offer jobs to the young, who will enter into productive activity. Thus, aware of the importance that youth has for a nation and as an expression of the Government's decision and will to seek strategies and formulas which will bring youth into the country's development process, an interministerial committee has been set up whose task it is to propose policies and programmes aimed at increasing the participation of youth and at giving priority to those initiatives which may clearly benefit youth.

Chile, with the clear conscience of a young country, with its commitment to peace and guided by the wise spirit and advice of His Holiness the Pope, has together with Argentina settled a dispute which seriously threatened peace between the two nations. That action sets an example for today's world and gives the lie to those who do not believe in man's dignity. It is a legacy of peace for today's youth and for future generations. But we must add another factor, namely the action which the young people of Chile and Argentina took to create in both nations a climate conducive to the conclusion of that agreement.

In the same spirit the Government of Chile has welcomed the Peruvian proposal on regional conventional disarmament, since it is fully convinced that the only path to peace and development is a generous spirit of renunciation and co-operation among peoples.

(Mr. Daza, Chile)

Unfortunately, the deeds I have enunciated, of which we are so proud and which point to an optimistic vision for the future for our country, are being undermined by the action of disordered minorities which, following instructions foreign to the nation and hoodwinked by the call of easy solutions, have opted for the mistaken and criminal path of terrorism.

This International Youth Year should serve to reiterate the universal commitment to peace and to reject, in tribute to youth and to the future, terrorism and violence.

Mr. YISMA (Ethiopia): It gives me great pleasure to participate on behalf of the Ethiopian youth in this World Conference for the International Youth Year. At the very outset I should like to express our thanks to the members of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, established to prepare the observance of International Youth Year, for their untiring efforts towards the successful discharge of the onerous responsibilities entrusted to them. Our deep and heartfelt appreciation and admiration also go to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his devotion and dedication to the realization of the aspirations of youth within the spirit of General Assembly resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979, which designated the year 1985 as International Youth Year.

The coincidence of the observance of International Youth Year with the Year of the United Nations and the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of our Organization remind us of the role played by youth in the fall of nazism and fascism, as well as of their enthusiasm for the establishment of the United Nations. We Ethiopian youth commemorate this historic day with a particular sense of pride, for our forbears in their youth have shown to the world their commitment to freedom and peace by waging a gallant struggle against the forces of fascism during the brief, yet painful and devastating, years of Italian occupation of our country. While paying tribute to their contribution to the victory over

(Mr. Yisma, Ethiopia)

fascism, we the new generation of revolutionary Ethiopia would like to express our determination to continue the struggle against all forms of domination and exploitation and for the establishment of a new world order based on freedom, justice and equality for all.

As is well known, in pre-revolution Ethiopia young people, like the broad masses of Ethiopia, were subjected to exploitation and domination by the feudo-bourgeois system. In the rural areas, although the youth belonged to the landless, its vigour and energy were exploited for the profit of the few landlords of the time.

As a natural extension of the peasantry, it was subjected to untold repression by the landed aristocracy. Health and educational opportunities were of course non-existent. The lot of the urban youth was hardly any better. For most young people, health and educational opportunities were beyond their reach, limited as they were to the very few who could afford them. Over and above that, the urban youth was exposed to the scourge of unemployment.

In spite of all that it was the youth, particularly young people in the colleges and high schools of the country, that fearlessly exposed the evil deeds of the feudo-bourgeois system. It was they who withstood the killings, mass arrests and torture perpetrated against them by the former régime and helped to ignite the revolutionary flames that engulfed the whole country in 1974.

Since the revolution, Ethiopian youth has served as an effective agent of change and remained in the forefront promoting and advancing the revolutionary process. Indeed, it was the young men and women of Ethiopia who were sent to every nook and corner of the country to implement the historic land reform proclamation of 1975, which brought to an end the obsolete feudal system. Besides acquainting the masses with the objectives and goals of the revolution, they played a decisive role in the distribution of land to the landless peasants, as well as the

(Mr. Yisma, Ethiopia)

organization of peasant associations throughout the country. Furthermore, the youth of Ethiopia, more particularly students at all levels, have made possible the success of the internationally acclaimed literacy campaign launched by the Revolutionary Government of Socialist Ethiopia in 1979. It is now an acknowledged fact that, without the full and enthusiastic participation of the young men and women of Ethiopia, many of the revolutionary gains of today would not have been possible. Moreover, to protect these gains and to safeguard the unity and territorial integrity of its motherland, Ethiopian youth is again in the forefront of the struggle against counter-revolutionary and secessionist elements bent on disturbing the peace and retarding the progress of the Ethiopian people.

All of that is fully recognized and acknowledged by the Workers Party and Revolutionary Government of Socialist Ethiopia. Both the Programme of the Party and the activities of the Government give particular attention and emphasis to the needs and aspirations of youth. In line with the objectives of the revolution, the national youth organization, namely the Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association (REYA), was founded in 1980 in order to ensure the full participation of youth in all national endeavours. Today this young association is able not only to mobilize Ethiopian youth for the purpose of nation-building but also to articulate the particular problems and wishes of the youth in regard to the political, economic and social life of the society.

At the present time, Ethiopian youth is engaged in alleviating and overcoming the consequences of the drought that has hit much of the country. In this connection, harnessing rivers by constructing dams and irrigation canals, clearing ponds, building houses and shelters, distributing food and other relief items are the daily tasks of our youth both in the drought-affected regions and in the resettlement areas. In fact, without any fear of contradiction, we can say that there is no sphere of national life in which the Ethiopian youth is not actively involved.

(Mr. Yisma, Ethiopia)

This has indeed been highlighted by the various activities that were undertaken during 1985 - International Youth Year - in observance of which a National Co-ordinating Committee composed of concerned governmental departments and mass organizations, including the Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association, has been established. In accordance with the programme of activities prepared by the Co-ordinating Committee to highlight the importance of the Year and to publicize its objectives, concrete measures and activities were also undertaken to enhance the contribution of youth in national development and to raise its political consciousness.

Accordingly, "Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Week", concentrating on activities in rural development, was observed throughout Ethiopia from 24 February to 3 March 1985. For seven days in March 1985, "Days of Primary Health Care" were observed in which young people undertook activities, such as building sanitary facilities and flushing springs, in order to improve the sanitary condition of their communities. Again, in the month of July a "Week of Afforestation" was marked in which thousands of trees were planted by young men and women. Among the many activities that have already been performed or are planned for the remainder of the Year are: a national symposium on the themes of International Youth Year, mass meetings, sports activities, contests among young artists, poets and musical troupes, and other such activities likely to enhance the creative ability of our youth.

We in Ethiopia attach great importance to International Youth Year and have accordingly observed it. We believe that it has helped to focus attention on youth and has encouraged Governments to take concrete measures to improve the situation of youth. Indeed, as the Secretary-General has stated in his reports, the Year has provided an opportunity for integrating policies and programmes pertaining to youth and for strengthening the linkages among national, regional and international levels at which these policies and programmes operate.

(Mr. Yisma, Ethiopia)

We are also of the view that a follow-up of the Year is imperative so as to ensure that the needs and aspirations of youth remain in the forefront of national development and international co-operation. In this connection, we fully support the idea of converting the Trust Fund for the International Youth Year into a permanent fund as proposed by the Secretary-General, and we also support the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth as recommended by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year. For our part, we shall endeavour to implement the guidelines in accordance with our priorities and build on the gains and experience already acquired during International Youth Year.

Finally, the problems of youth cannot be seen in isolation from the current deteriorating situation, respect both economic development and inter-State relations. For the situation of youth to improve, nations must grow and develop, and for the developing world to achieve this, international co-operation must be strengthened and the new international economic order must be established. Again, for this to be achieved, vital resources that are currently being squandered on the arms race must be released through general and complete disarmament. Peace, we believe, is essential for development, and development for full and effective participation. We also believe that the participation of youth is necessary for development and peace. Therefore, to Ethiopian youth, "Participation, Development and Peace" are not simply the themes of International Youth Year, but more important, the fundamental objectives of all our activities, at both the national and international levels. Together with our peers in the rest of the world, we are determined to build a better world not only for ourselves but for succeeding generations as well.

Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines): The international community has adopted for its theme "A Better World" to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, an Organization dedicated to the pursuit of universal peace

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

and development and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

The anniversary assumes a special meaning because the international community has likewise decided to hold a special debate on youth and youth-related issues to celebrate International Youth Year in conjunction with the anniversary.

I should like, therefore, to address the United Nations anniversary's theme in the context of the contributions of youth towards evolving a better world as well as the need to build a world without war and strife or human deprivation which will afford young people the opportunity of strengthening their inherent potentials and capabilities.

My delegation is grateful to the Advisory Committee and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for their invaluable work in laying the foundation for the adoption of a comprehensive and enduring policy framework for improving the situation of youth, as contained in the Secretary-General's report in document A/40/701. My delegation considers this document useful in providing policy guidelines which can be adopted by Governments, the United Nations system, and regional and sub-regional organizations to sustain the momentum generated by the International Youth Year in achieving its broad objectives, namely, participation, development, equality and peace, even beyond the year 1985.

This framework containing wide-ranging policy directives, sectoral measures and specific activities that can be undertaken by governmental and non-governmental bodies, and by the organizations of the United Nations, constitutes a basis for the formulation of policies and programmes, particularly in political and socio-economic areas, and for addressing specific problems, such as unemployment and under-employment, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and discrimination in education, lack of shelter and housing facilities, deterioration and pollution of the environment and inadequate or even lack of primary health care.

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

My delegation subscribes to the principle that the achievement of the overall objectives of International Youth Year depends on the full and massive participation of youth in all aspects of life which are directly or indirectly related to youth concerns. At the same time, young people cannot participate actively and be involved meaningfully if they are subject to certain forms of exploitation, discrimination and abuse or if they are victims of sheer ignorance of their proper role in the communities where they live. The key, therefore, to the sustained implementation of the International Youth Year objectives and strategies is participation. If obstacles to youth participation still exist, every effort must be exerted to dismantle those impediments. The attainment of equality and the promotion of peace must necessarily stem from active participation. Conversely, lack of equality and inability to promote peace are the symptoms of non-participation imposed by external factors which are normally beyond the control of young people or about which they have little to say.

To demonstrate our support for this principle, the Philippine Constitution mandates that the youth sector be represented in the national parliament by presidential appointment, in addition to representation of young parliamentarians who compete in the general elections. To strengthen the political rights of youth, we have also lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years. Further, in recognition of the important rôle of youth in society, the Kabataang Barangay - the National Youth Organization - was established some 15 year ago and has been extensively engaged in activities such as primary health care, literacy programmes, elimination of drug addiction and drug abuse, crime prevention and elimination of juvenile delinquency, trade and export promotion, civic training, livelihood projects and sports development. The National Youth Organization now supports the Philippine Commission on the International Youth Year, which was created in response to the relevant General Assembly resolution.



(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

The Philippine Commission on the International Youth Year, in collaboration with the National Youth Organization, has initiated a special package of projects called "Alay sa Kabataan: Lingkod Agad", that is, "The Projects: Immediate Services for Youth". This activity has been designed to enhance public awareness of ongoing youth and youth-oriented programmes of the Government and of non-governmental organizations in education and training, in employment and manpower development, in agriculture and industrial development, and the delivery of social services. The entire government machinery is mobilized to ensure the success of this programme.

The objectives of International Youth Year must be set against contemporary developments in the political and socio-economic fields if those objectives are to be realistically appreciated. The increasing youth population in the Philippines, which has grown to 55 per cent out of a total population of 54.5 million, is likely to have adverse effects on socio-economic progress. The President of the Philippines, therefore, has decided to extend the mandate of the Philippine Commission of the International Youth Year even beyond 1985. It will continue to assist the Government in assessing the impact of a national youth policy and a national youth development strategy in the context of the complex needs of our young people.

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

My delegation is of the view that the International Youth Year has succeeded in bringing into focus the significant role of youth in the promotion of peace and international co-operation, particularly through cross-cultural exchanges; in political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological advancement; in the struggle against the denial and violation of fundamental freedoms, and towards the long-term goal of establishing a new international economic order.

Undoubtedly, youth have a contribution to make in the effective implementation of the various United Nations conventions and instruments in these fields. At the same time, the interpretation and application of those conventions and programmes of action must also address the concerns of youth, as earlier envisaged in the Third United Nations Development Strategy. Those instruments must be fully utilized in justifying the cause of youth and further strengthening youth potentials in the implementation of socio-economic, cultural, scientific and technological programmes.

The concept of development must imply that facilities and schemes must be available to youth for self-enhancement and to enable them to play their role effectively for the improvement of society. The obstacles to adequate education, gainful employment and access to technical training must be abolished to enable the young to develop their innate intellectual, moral and spiritual capacities and thereby to contribute positively to nation-building.

The success of our efforts must depend on the support of non-governmental institutions. For this reason my delegation suggests that the statement of the non-governmental organizations on youth be circulated to all Member States.

Because the youth of today will become the leaders of tomorrow, it is essential that they are educated and exposed to experiences that will deepen their understanding and love of peace and freedom, of brotherhood and friendship, and of co-operation and reconciliation. Special efforts must be undertaken to impress

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

upon them the value of interdependence, not confrontation, and respect for sovereignty and dignity, not intervention. What we make of our youth today will have a profound effect on the kind of world we will live in tomorrow. But with those positive attributes I am confident that we can depend on the young to assist us in building a better world today and in ensuring its continuation in their generation and the generations to come. Let us give them that momentous and historic chance.

Mr. KANDIE (Kenya): Kenya gave its full support to United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/151, of 17 December 1979, which declared and designated 1985 as "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace". Kenya attaches great importance to youth's participation in the development process of its country. Youth are seen as the foundation of all nations, since they form the majority and are the future of mankind. Kenya has placed great emphasis on programmes and activities relating to the development and welfare of young persons, because the present population is composed mainly of young persons, who are estimated to form over 60 per cent of the total Kenya population.

So that Kenya youth could participate as much as possible in and benefit from the activities and programmes of the International Youth Year, Kenya established, as recommended by the United Nations General Assembly, a National Co-ordinating Committee on the International Youth Year, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Social Services, which recommended programmes and activities for the celebration of International Youth Year, in consultation with youth and youth organizations and, further, decided to gather information on the affairs of young girls and boys. The membership of the Committee consisted of Government representatives and voluntary organizations, the National Christian Council of Kenya, Kenya Scouts Association, Kenya Girl Guides Association, and the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations.

(Mr. Kandie, Kenya)

The young people of Kenya, including the physically and mentally disabled, were greatly encouraged by the Committee to participate fully in the planned activities, both nationally and internationally.

For priority promotion and celebration during the International Youth Year, the National Co-ordinating Committee, in keeping with Kenya's development objectives, also identified the following particular areas of interest and necessity for the youth of Kenya: education, training, soil and water conservation and afforestation, credit schemes for the young wishing to engage in business, information and publicity on youth development and social programmes and activities. Youth exchange programmes aimed at promoting youth patriotism and nationalism also continued to receive very high priority.

Kenya youth were selected to attend workshops and seminars where they were also able to exchange views and interact with other young people in different regions of Kenya as well as with young people from various United Nations Member countries. Some of them also had the opportunity to attend international forums and seminars in countries such as Gambia, Canada, the USSR, Jamaica, Norway, Spain, Britain and Zimbabwe. They involved themselves in various other activities, including sporting events and competitions, the exchange of cultural activities, exchange of ideas, and many others.

One of the aims and intentions of the activities organized at the national level in Kenya which we feel has been successful to a great extent was to promote mutual understanding among youth, irrespective of their ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds, to foster love, peace and unity among them by encouraging them to think more responsibly and to be more resourceful as Kenyans, in keeping with the NYAYO philosophy of peace, love and unity propounded by our President, Mr. Daniel arap Moi.

(Mr. Kandie, Kenya)

In the field of information and publicity the work of young people has been given serious public attention during 1985. A special sub-committee of the National Co-ordinating Committee involving the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and other information-related organizations has worked to publicize the activities of the International Youth Year and bring about public awareness among youth and adults. Various International Youth Year programmes in specific fields were also launched by the respective Government ministries and concerned non-governmental organizations - for example, the Girl Guides, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association, to name but a few. The National Co-ordinating Committee of the International Youth Year, through its secretariat, also provided some financial assistance in the implementation of International Youth Year programmes, especially those that were basically community based.

The National Co-ordinating Committee also assisted in disseminating information through the distribution of posters, brochures, newsletters, magazines and T-shirts with International Youth Year emblems. International Youth Year issues have been relayed on radio and television programmes on a regular basis, and this is continuing. The young, through their own groups, also took the opportunity to conduct country-wide workshops where they discussed, among other issues, the following: family-life promotion, population growth and development, the adolescent years and its dangers, sexually transmitted diseases, counselling, and group work. Follow-up strategies and implementation procedures for the future were also mapped out.

(Mr. Kandie, Kenya)

A matter which may be only indirectly related to International Youth Year, but which nevertheless is of the utmost significance, is the fact that the Kenya Government has placed great emphasis on the right to basic education for every child in the Republic since 1980. This commitment has been apparent not only in its major policy pronouncements, but also in practice. The President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, has shown with many practical examples his love for children and young persons, and has given importance and great emphasis to all programmes relating to young people, and in particular to their welfare, development and education.

Education has continued to take a large share of the country's national budget, which is an indication of the Government's commitment to the education of its people, and in particular its youth. Thirty per cent of the national recurrent budget, amounting to K231.87 million, was devoted to formal education in 1984-85, as the Government embarked on its new format of eight years of primary education, four years of secondary education and four years of university education. In the same period the curriculum in primary schools has been revised to offer students some practical skills and to revolutionize education for young people in Kenya, to make it more practical and relevant to their needs and those of the country at large.

This year has seen a great expansion in the redesign of educational programmes and opportunities in Kenya. Whereas there was no university in Kenya before independence to serve the nation, we now have four universities. The programmes on health, population and family life education in our schools, in both urban and rural areas, have also been expanded and made available to schools that did not previously have them, with a view to motivating young people to be more responsible for their total growth and development.

(Mr. Kandie, Kenya)

Apart from those efforts to increase the quality of education, the Government has strengthened the National Feeding Programmes for schools and other institutions of learning, in an effort to offer a balanced and a more nutritious diet. It has also abolished some requirements - for example, school building funds, previously paid for by parents, which created a great burden for them and prevented some children from attending schools.

The Year has indeed brought a great deal of change for, and made much impact on, the Kenyan people in terms of understanding the resourcefulness and potential of young people, if given a chance, and the problems young people face today. Some of the implementation and development of relevant programmes for youth has been hindered by the serious economic situation that has prevailed during 1985, particularly since we in Africa have been hardest hit by the prevailing economic situation. Nevertheless, we believe that this Organization should, in the words of my Minister for Foreign Affairs to the General Assembly at the present session, take the opportunity of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, which also happens to be International Youth Year,

"to renew its commitment to the welfare of youth particularly in the provision of education, training, health and employment" (A/40/PV.33, p. 76) although much has been done during International Youth Year, much still remains to be done.

With this general awakening and understanding of the problems and needs of young people, the implementation of the youth programmes, among others, should not be slowed down. This is only the beginning, and therefore the years ahead should be more active.

It is the duty of all Member State Governments to consider youth development as one of their priorities. Meaningful and relevant programmes should be implemented, even with the meagre resources some Member States have. Young people

(Mr. Kandie, Kenya)

themselves should be mobilized to continue to participate voluntarily in the implementation of those activities and programmes, just as they have been encouraged to do during International Youth Year.

It is our hope and expectation that a framework of action-oriented strategies for youth in all countries will be agreed upon during this Conference, and that the momentum already created will be maintained and further strengthened in the years that lie ahead.

Mr. LANGMAN (Australia): I am the youngest member of the Australian delegation, and it is therefore a particular honour for me to address this Assembly. I was asked to deliver this statement in order to underline the importance which Australia attaches to providing opportunities for young people to participate.

International Youth Year has had a catalytic effect on activities to promote the interests of young people in many parts of the world. Australia firmly believes that the value of such international initiatives lies in their capacity to galvanize interest and generate action at the national level. For that reason, Australia has concentrated its energies on International Youth Year activities within Australia.

International Youth Year should also have helped to demonstrate that the needs and aspirations of youth must be integrated into all fields of human endeavour. International Youth Year should not be a convenient excuse to sidestep the problems of young people or to fall into complacency because token gestures have been made.

Participation is the first theme of International Youth Year, and rightly so. An important achievement of International Youth Year has been to encourage young people to involve themselves more actively in society and, as a corollary, to participate in important decision-making about their futures. Hopefully, if there is one lesson from International Youth Year, it is that we must avoid imposing



(Mr. Langman, Australia)

authoritarian solutions from above on our young people. The young must be allowed to enjoy their fundamental human rights to participate in the political, social and economic processes. Freedom of thought, conscience, belief, expression and association is a key element in ensuring that our young people are able to make their own decisions, and that those making decisions affecting young people are responsive to their needs and aspirations.

Participation has also been a hallmark of International Youth Year events in Australia, which have been designed to permeate all levels of government, as well as the wider community in all parts of our country. The Federal, State and Territory Governments established International Youth Year co-ordinating committees. Local governments, corporations, trade unions and other organizations have been closely involved in planning various International Youth Year initiatives and seeing them through to a successful conclusion. Crucial non-governmental organization input has not been ignored; the Youth Affairs Council of Australia has a large number of affiliate groups working under its umbrella to co-ordinate non-governmental organization activities.

A comprehensive public information campaign has been undertaken to make sure that all elements of Australia's diverse and multicultural society are made aware of the International Youth Year and can be involved. The Federal Government allocated some \$A2 million for International Youth Year activities in the three-year period from 1983.

The second theme of the International Youth Year is development, a broad term conjuring up many images associated with youth - growth, progress, dynamism and innovation. Young people must have the opportunity to make their own choices and to develop their full potential and individuality. We should be careful not to impose a monolithic concept of youth on the young, but rather, should seek to ensure respect for each young person as an individual with his or her own special ideals, aspirations and needs.

(Mr. Langman, Australia)

Our young people are our future; it is they who will shape the development of their wider communities. In this regard the increasing willingness of young people in many parts of the world to be involved and to help themselves is encouraging. Apart from participation in welfare and other civic projects, many young people have taken a special interest in the environment. The success of International Youth Year tree-planting projects in Australia exemplifies what can be done on a symbolic and practical level.

On the international plane, overseas development assistance must focus on the young as the engine of progress. Australia has traditionally given strong emphasis in its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to helping train young people from developing countries.

The third International Youth Year theme "Peace" may provoke two reactions: The cynics may ask what young people can do towards the maintenance of peace and an end to the arms race when their elders, with more wisdom and experience, have been unable to achieve those goals. Others may make simplistic and sweeping remarks about young people's idealism and misunderstanding of international realities. For its part the Australian Government does not underestimate current obstacles to achieving and maintaining peace. It is nevertheless firmly convinced that education for peace can have an impact on international efforts in the field of arms control and disarmament. In this regard, the clear objectives of the International Year of Peace are to focus attention and encourage reflection on the requirements for peace. To this end, a major public information and communications programme is to be undertaken in Australia during the International Year of Peace. It will involve advertising in the mass media, the provision of information kits to schools and other interested groups, public discussions, seminars and so on. A clear priority of these activities will be to reach young people.

(Mr. Langman, Australia)

In the past two years the Australian Government has made co-ordinated efforts to develop a constructive and coherent response to the problems facing young Australians. The first step is of course to understand the nature and dimensions of these problems. Several major reports and reviews have been commissioned from various organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Youth Affairs Council of Australia, the Committee of Enquiry into Labour Market Programs and the Quality of Education Review Committee. An internal review of Government income support provisions for young people has also been undertaken. On the basis of the recommendations and advice received from these fact-finding exercises, the Australian Government has adopted an integrated strategy for young people which is intended to ensure that the programmes and activities designed to assist and support young people are mutually supportive and do not overlap.

Unemployment is perhaps the most critical problem facing young people today all over the world. Such unemployment does not only have short-term undesirable social and economic consequences; it also has profoundly disturbing longer-term adverse consequences for the individuals concerned and the societies in which they live.

In its recent budget the Australian Government attached priority to urgent action to combat youth unemployment. Short-term measures, such as improving the assistance offered by the Australian Government's Employment Service to young job seekers, are important. In addition, there is a pressing need to improve the level of education, especially with regard to specific vocational training, if lasting success in tackling youth unemployment is to be achieved. All young people reaching the end of compulsory schooling should have a choice of constructive options in education and training leading to recognized and marketable

(Mr. Langman, Australia)

qualifications rather than to the emptiness of unemployment. We must break down artificial distinctions between education and work. Combinations of employment, training and education need to be explored and opportunities provided for further education after entering the labour market.

Young people need to have access to pertinent and high-quality training. More than 20,000 additional places for students in higher education in Australia have been provided. Technical and further education is being reviewed, especially in the light of the restructuring of the Australian economy over recent years. The full benefits of education must flow to girls and young women, who in the past have been disadvantaged by structural discrimination and neglect. Young women must also be allowed to enter non-traditional fields of employment.

To enable young people to pursue further training and study, the Australian Government is seeking to rationalize income support arrangements for them so as to remove some of the financial disincentives, especially for those from low income families. Education allowances and unemployment benefit payments for young people will, for example, be adjusted progressively to relate to age rather than the type of activity. By 1989 differences between rates of education allowance and unemployment benefit for persons under 21 should be eliminated. An intermediate rate of unemployment benefit for 18-year-olds to 20-year-olds will be introduced from this month. The Australian Government is also examining how to provide adequate income support most effectively to those young people in need but not covered by existing allowances.

One key objective of these initiatives is to reduce significantly unemployment among 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds in Australia by the early 1990s. Improving the employment prospects of the young helps them not only to manage their economic future but also to participate fully in the Australian community.

Direct financial support is only one aspect that should be considered. There is also a growing need for more extensive social support services for young

(Mr. Langman, Australia)

people. With this in mind, the Australian Government has established a youth services development programme which includes youth worker training, and a group volunteer community service scheme. The problem of shelter for the young has become more complex and pressing with changing social patterns. Young people are being given better access to public rental housing in Australia.

Government-supported accommodation assistance programmes are also being introduced in recognition of the special problems encountered by young people with limited means.

We cannot, however, be complacent. The Australian Government has pledged to keep in continuous contact with young people and their organizations about their needs and priorities and to review government programmes against these benchmarks.

Mr. WANG Shenghong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We should like to extend our warm congratulations on the convening of the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year. This Conference provides us with a good opportunity to take stock of the results and experiences gained in the International Youth Year, discuss the follow-up actions, lay down policies and guidelines for future work, and give a further impetus to the work concerning youth. We are convinced that, with the concerted efforts of all participants, the Conference will be crowned with success.

This year is International Youth Year. Countries all over the world have launched various activities centreing on the theme, "Participation, Development, Peace." The Chinese Organizing Committee for the International Youth Year successfully held a "Friendly gathering of youth from the Asia and Pacific region" in May this year, with "Peace, Friendship, Development" as its theme.

(Mr. Wang Shenghong, China)

Sixty delegations from 46 countries and regions and twelve international organizations attended the event. On questions such as the role of youth in peace and development, the representatives had animated discussions and exchanged experiences on how to involve youth in these activities. That friendly gathering has effectively promoted the friendly co-operation of youth in the Asia and Pacific region and enhanced their understanding and friendship.

The activities that have marked International Youth Year since the beginning of this year have not only embodied and inspired the strong desire of youth to participate in peace and development but have also made people more conscious of the important role played by youth. At the same time those activities have given fresh impetus to the enthusiasm and creativity of youth in various countries, to their involvement in State and social affairs and to their efforts to promote social progress, strengthen international co-operation and safeguard world peace.

In reviewing the results of International Youth Year we should also soberly recognize that in the world-wide context youth is still faced with many problems. The turbulent world situation, the harsh economic situation of numerous developing countries, different forms of racism and aggression and occupation by foreign troops have seriously hampered youth's participation in peace and development efforts. The social position and legitimate rights of youth have not yet received due attention and protection. They have yet to enjoy equal rights to education, employment and cultural undertakings. A considerable number of young persons are still subjected to the threat of starvation and disease. Youth unemployment, drug addiction and delinquency have already become, or are becoming, a serious social problem in many countries. Solution of those problems awaits the co-operation and efforts of the international community and the Governments of various countries.

(Mr. Wang Shenghong, China)

We share the view that the emphasis of the guidelines for follow-up action on International Youth Year should be placed on the national level. In order to facilitate a full role for youth, Governments should lay down policies and guidelines regarding youth, taking into account the special needs and demands of young persons in their respective countries, and their own concrete condition. Youth should be encouraged to make more contributions to national development, and efforts should be made to bring about more young talent. At the international and regional levels, full use should be made of the network of co-ordination and co-operation among States, between States and regional and international organizations, as well as between youth organizations, so as to improve the channels of communication. In the contacts and exchanges between the young persons of various countries we should promote the principle of independence and the spirit of seeking common ground while reserving differences, enabling young persons to learn from one another and develop friendly relations and co-operation. The relevant organs of the United Nations should make in-depth studies on the conditions and problems of youth, provide effective advisory services, hold symposia and workshops to exchange experiences and promote the development of work concerning youth in various countries.

China has one billion people, of whom nearly 300 million are young persons. The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to its work concerning youth, looking to them as the future and hope of the country. It has clearly defined as the two basic tasks of Chinese youth the building up of their own country and the development of friendship with all other peoples. In formulating national development plans, the Chinese Government has taken into account the special position and role of youth, stressing the importance of involving youth in various social activities and helping them develop their skills in practice and important work posts.

(Mr. Wang Shenghong, China)

In the last few years a large number of young persons have been promoted to leading positions at various levels of the Government, and tens of thousands of them are now occupying leading positions in the management and administration of enterprises. At the same time the Chinese Government has adopted measures encouraging youth to acquire cultural and scientific knowledge, providing them with job opportunities as well as cultural and physical facilities and protecting the legitimate rights of young women and handicapped youth, and has thus solved a lot of practical problems for youth. Take youth employment as an example. Between 1979 and 1984, the Chinese Government arranged employment for over 46 million young people. The main measures taken in this regard have these objectives: first, to support and assist youth in starting collective and individual businesses; secondly, to actively develop commercial and social services and increase investment in the infrastructure of light industries; thirdly, to set up labour-service companies to co-ordinate efforts in cities and towns to provide job opportunities for young people awaiting employment; fourthly, to strengthen vocational training for youth, gradually transforming regular middle schools into vocational schools so that a majority of students will receive vocational training in their secondary education. We have also established various training centres, providing youth with training before employment. These measures have basically solved the employment problem of urban youth, which is expected to be further alleviated in the near future.

However, China is a developing country and there are problems and difficulties in our youth-related work. For example, opportunities to receive higher education are very limited. There is room for improvement in the material conditions and schooling of the large numbers of rural young persons. Taking the country as a whole, cultural and sports facilities fall short of the demands of the young people. The solution of those problems will require great efforts for a long time to come.



(Mr. Wang Shenghong, China)

In China, young persons are participating as masters of the country in various activities beneficial to society. The young workers are carrying out emulation activities and technical innovations in different forms. In the Wisdom Cup emulation drive alone, good results were achieved on 400,000 items, creating a value totalling 700 million yuan for the State. Since 1979, Chinese youth have planted trees covering 2.95 million hectares, making a great contribution to afforestation in China.

Youth in China understands that a peaceful international environment is essential to the achievement of national development objectives. It loves peace and regards opposition to war and striving for and defending world peace as its sacred international duty. It supports the open policy of the Chinese Government. In accordance with the principles of peace and friendship, independence and sovereignty, equality and mutual assistance, learning from one another, young persons have established various forms of friendly relations with over 300 youth and student organizations in more than 130 countries and regions, promoting exchanges and co-operation in the political, economic, scientific technological and cultural fields. The youth of China would like, under the banner of peace, to make friends with the youth of all countries, strengthening friendship and trust and making its due contribution to world peace and development.

International Youth Year is drawing to a conclusion soon, but we are convinced that the theme of "participation, development, peace" will continue to be the goal of the youth of the world. Mutual understanding, friendship and co-operation among the youth of all countries will certainly promote the peace and development of the whole world.

Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas): The Foreign Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas noted in his address to the General Assembly last September that one of the most valuable resources of any country is its youth and that by the year 2000 it is expected that there will be one billion young people in the world between the ages of 15 and 24. The Bahamas has paid considerable attention to the development of its young people, whose average age is 25. The Minister stressed further that it is a vital necessity, and not mere idealistic fantasizing, to ensure that the needs and aspirations of young people are met.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

In recognition of International Youth Year the National Co-ordinating Committee organized a number of activities geared towards identifying and seeking solutions to the problems of young people. These activities included: having the media focus national attention on the tasks of nation-building; familiarizing youth with the work scene through the Junior Achievers Programme; encouraging the Youth Newsletter to create awareness of, and to promote community action to counter the serious effects of, alcoholism, drug abuse and teen-age pregnancy. The focus on sporting activities, both nationally and internationally, succeeded in creating a sense of national pride and discipline, as well as exposing youth to diverse cultures. On 30 September this year, which was Commonwealth Youth Day, Government ministries appointed youth as ministers and permanent secretaries for that day. And, recognizing that education is the basis on which youth must concentrate, this vehicle is being strengthened in order to prepare youth for their role in society, with a view to providing each person with the tool commensurate with his or her ability. This perspective played an important role in helping to alleviate unemployment and underemployment.

It is anticipated that since the National Co-ordination Committee, established in 1977, is actually the Bahamas National Advisory Youth Council - a standing body in the Bahamas - the achievements of International Youth Year will continue to be consolidated well beyond that year. The Advisory Youth Council is comprised of youth groups, churches, community leaders and Family Island Commissioners - all working towards the common goal of providing better opportunities for young people.

As the International Youth Year comes to a close, my delegation would like to comment on some comparisons that could be drawn between the International Youth Year theme - "Participation, Development and Peace" - and some of the issues of international import.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

When we reflect on the theme of peace, for example, my delegation is convinced that there can never be a peaceful world in which the aspirations of youth can be realized, while the arms race continues to promote fear and gloom in the world. Equally, one can draw the connection between disarmament and development and the effects on youth, the majority of whom live in developing countries. It is a sad indictment that billions of dollars are spent annually on armaments rather than on those areas that would allow young people to get a good education, proper food and health care and adequate housing. This leads us to hope that, as preparations are made to begin the disarmament negotiations in Geneva, the parties concerned will bear in mind the comments and observations made by the youth at their world Conference. Young people deserve to hope for a stable and secure world in which to grow.

The theme of development also leads my delegation to comment on the crisis situation in the sub-Saharan African region. The fact that numerous persons, among them many young people, have perished because of inadequate and inappropriate developmental assistance impels my delegation to reiterate the call made by the Commonwealth Heads of Government at the recent Summit Conference in Nassau

"for urgent consideration of measures to ease the debt burdens of countries in sub-Saharan Africa". (A/40/817 p. 21)

This is also a timely occasion to recall the many young people who have given their lives to the struggle for freedom in South Africa, and it is hoped that the abominable apartheid system which continues to deny the right to "Participation, Development and Peace" to the youth of South Africa will soon be eradicated.

The Bahamas has been deeply concerned with the problem of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, and the pernicious influence which they have had on the social fabric and security of many countries. In particular, drug abuse and trafficking have threatened the well-being and sense of direction of our youth, who are our hope for the future. The Foreign Minister of the Bahamas has pointed out

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

during this fortieth session of the General Assembly that drug abuse and trafficking cannot be permitted to retain its pervasive influence in our societies and that the Bahamas will spare no effort to ensure that the future of young people is not dominated by the fear of the damaging effects of drug abuse and trafficking. It is no wonder, then, that my delegation welcomes the convening of the international high-level conference in 1987 to deal with all aspects of drug abuse and trafficking.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to note the interrelationship between the concerns of youth and the concerns of women, as pointed out at the Nairobi Conference for the Decade for Women, and in particular those sections of the Forward-Looking Strategies which dealt with the problems of young women are indeed commendable. This is an area which has not been given sufficient international focus, and it is the hope of my delegation that the needs of young women will continue to feature prominently on our agenda.

My delegation has also noted with interest the relevant documents of the Milan Crime Congress, which proposed ways and means not only to treat juvenile offenders in a sensitive manner, but also to take the necessary measures to prevent juvenile delinquency. This is a clear indication of the international sense of commitment to ensure that young people develop in the most fruitful manner possible.

I should like to express the gratitude of my delegation to the Advisory Committee for its tireless and determined efforts to give the Year its correct focus. The guidelines which provide the framework for long-term strategy and which are now being considered by this Conference will be a valuable instrument in helping national committees or other national bodies to continue to work beyond International Youth Year. Also, the Romanian delegation must be commended for the great service it has rendered in its efforts to promote International Youth Year.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

In closing, my delegation would like to echo the concern shown by the Commonwealth Heads of Government on the question of youth. The Commonwealth Heads sympathized with the views expressed by the Commonwealth Conference of Young People "that there should be genuine participation by youth in the activities of their communities and countries ... They resolved to ensure that resources pledged to the Commonwealth Youth Programme are at least maintained in real terms and to assist the evolution of the programme along the lines recommended by the conference of young people".

That commitment of the Commonwealth Heads is one that can be adopted by all Members of this Organization, in recognition of the genuine obligation to ensure that our youth inherit a world of "Participation, Development and Peace".

Ms. SHOPOVA (Bulgaria) (interpretation from Russian): The youth of today is one of those "succeeding generations" in whose name, 40 years ago, the founding fathers of the United Nations shouldered responsibility for the maintenance of peace on Earth. At the same time, youth itself is already bearing its share of responsibility - responsibility for world peace and for implementing the most progressive ideals of mankind, such as justice, free and creative work and the harmonious development of each individual.

Bulgarian youth welcomed the proclamation of 1985 as International Youth Year, as an expression of the genuine aspirations of today's young generation. The basic goals of International Youth Year - "Participation, Development, Peace" - are intricately linked with, and embody, the determination of youth throughout the world to participate in solving the most urgent problems of our time.

(Ms. Shopova, Bulgaria)

Most important among those problems are undoubtedly the prevention of nuclear war and the maintenance of international peace and security. All sober-minded people have come to that fundamental conclusion, for the international situation has remained tense and explosive due to the most aggressive imperialist circles, which are intensifying the arms race and undertaking action aimed at the militarization of outer space. They are pursuing a policy of world supremacy, flagrantly interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign States and raising obstacles to the peaceful settlement of disputes. All this endangers world peace and the basic right of all peoples and of each individual - the right to life. The expenditure of vast resources on armaments impedes the attainment of the objectives of development and in a number of cases has drastically aggravated the situation of millions of people, particularly young people. The deep economic, social and moral crisis of the developed capitalist countries has inevitably led to growing unemployment, crime, drug addiction, alienation and the despondency of the younger generation.

Young people in many developing countries live in trying conditions. The neo-colonialist policy of imperialism towards those countries, combining as a rule political pressures with economic and financial exploitation, deepens and exacerbates the hardships on the road to development and aggravates the poverty and hunger of hundreds of millions of people. The most acute problems concerning youth in developing countries cannot be resolved without the elimination of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, Zionism and apartheid and without the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, and the establishment of a new economic order.

The young people of Bulgaria consider that International Youth Year is designed to mobilize the efforts of all Governments, countries and peoples and of youth and youth organizations, to tackle the most important problems facing mankind

(Ms. Shopova, Bulgaria)

through international co-operation, and further to strengthen and implement the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Today the bitter lessons of the most destructive and bloody war in the history of mankind also call for this to be done. The fortieth anniversary of the historic victory over fascism and nazism is a powerful stimulus for vigorous action in support of peace and against the threat of nuclear war.

Together with the other countries of the socialist community, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has been following a consistent peace-loving foreign policy aimed at terminating the arms race on earth and preventing its extension into outer space. In his message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of this world Organization, the President of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, said:

"We shall continue to work on behalf of peace, disarmament, security, confidence, co-operation and lasting détente."

The Sofia Declaration adopted by the Political Consultative Committee of the member States of the Warsaw Treaty is an eloquent illustration of the commitment of the countries of the socialist community to the cause of peace. The proposals put forward in the Declaration are a constructive basis for mutually acceptable solutions in the cause of peace.

Concern about the younger generation is a constant preoccupation of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and of our whole people. Our Communist party and our State have a long-term scientific programme for working with young people, the principal goal of which is the comprehensive training and effective social fulfilment of the younger generation.

Our youth policy is of a nation-wide rather than a specific nature, of strategic rather than passing importance. It ensures the timely and equitable ~~solution~~ solution of the problems of youth, the satisfaction of its needs and



(Ms. Shopova, Bulgaria)

interests in accordance with the interests of society as a whole, as well as of unity and continuity between generations.

In socialist Bulgaria efforts to solve the problems of youth are undertaken not merely among young people but also through and with the participation of young people themselves. Young people represent a genuine social force, as has been eloquently demonstrated by the facts: 25 per cent of the present composition of State organs belongs to representatives of youth and in a country of 8 million people more than 250,000 young people take part in the leadership in State, economic and public bodies and organizations.

The Constitution and other laws of the People's Republic of Bulgaria grant extensive rights to the younger generation, such as the right to work, free choice of profession, right to leisure, free education and health care, social security, access to cultural amenities and freedom of scientific, technological and artistic creativity. Real socialism breeds an atmosphere of confidence in the present day and in the future.

The Constitution of my country also ensures the right of the Dimitrov Young Communist Union as the most representative public and political organization of Bulgarian youth to represent the interests of the younger generation, to promote legislative initiatives and to exercise public control over the activities of State organs, as well as an opportunity to help them solve problems relating to youth. As laid down in the most fundamental documents of our Communist party:

"The Dimitrov Young Communist Union enjoys wide-ranging rights and powers which enable it to be a direct exponent and advocate of the interests of Bulgarian youth, to emerge and establish itself as a political organizer of youth and as a major public catalyst for the effective fulfilment of the younger generation and its growing participation in all aspects of all public and political life."

(Ms. Shopova, Bulgaria)

For us, International Youth Year is an important occasion for reviewing the implementation of our youth strategy and policy. This year, in accordance with the programme of the National Co-ordinating Committee, all Government ministries and departments are carrying out the tasks set out in their youth programmes, a number of legislative acts are being improved, the machinery for the comprehensive study of the needs of youth is being expanded and scientific research on the problems of youth is being stepped up. All leading local and territorial organs of the State and the economy have drafted their new five-year programmes aimed at creating conditions for youth education and fulfilment.

In International Youth Year, Bulgarian youth is carrying out many and varied international activities. It has participated actively in preparing for and holding the Twelfth World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow. That major youth forum was fully in accord with the purposes of International Youth Year. It has become the most significant contribution of youth to the cause of the maintenance of peace and has served as a forum for a frank and democratic discussion of all basic questions of concern to the younger generation today.

The Twelfth World Youth Festival and the unifying strength of its slogans and ideas have left a profound imprint on the international youth movement and will continue to exert a positive effect on its future development.

(Ms. Shopova, Bulgaria)

We regard the promotion of international youth co-operation as a major contribution to the cause of the maintenance of peace and restoration of détente. We oppose the attempts of certain forces to use International Youth Year to undermine the unity of the international progressive and democratic youth movement.

Our young people also participated actively in the World Congress on Youth in Barcelona, in the World Conference of National Co-ordinating Committees for International Youth Year in Bucharest, in the European Conference on youth co-operation in Budapest and in a number of other forums.

During International Youth year my country has become a sponsor and organizer of, and a host to, a number of major undertakings.

A striking example of this was the resolution entitled "The role of youth in the field of human rights, in particular in implementing the objectives of International Youth Year" adopted by consensus at the forty-first session of the Human Rights Commission.

The twenty-third session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently concluded its work in Sofia with enormous success. My country actively participated in the consideration of the role of UNESCO in improving the situation of youth and of the contribution of UNESCO to implementing the objectives of International Youth Year.

The International Children's Assembly, "Banner of Peace", took place for the third time after having been held initially at the initiative of Ludmila Zhivkova in 1979 - the International Year of the Child. This unique forum for children's creativity under the motto of "Unity, Creativity, Beauty", in which children from

(Ms. Shopova, Bulgaria)

109 countries took part, reaffirmed the desire of children from all continents to live in conditions of peace, friendship and co-operation.

Only a few days ago the World Exhibition of Young Inventors, "Bulgaria-85", opened in Bulgaria. This was organized by my country jointly with the World Intellectual Property Organization. Inventors from more than 70 countries are taking part in the exhibition with over 4,000 inventions on display.

I would mention also the meeting of experts on "Children - transition to youth" sponsored by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the international meeting, "Children in the computerized world - tomorrow's problems today", the meeting of young people from the Balkan countries in Cyprus devoted to the transformation of the Balkans into a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the international youth meeting on the peaceful uses of outer space and the International Symposium on youth innovation for development.

All these are our own Bulgarian contributions to the success of International Youth Year.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year on its successful work, and express our support for the Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-Up in the Field of Youth, set forth in document A/40/256, as well as our satisfaction with the constructive spirit and useful exchange of experience and ideas taking place at the current World Conference. Loyal to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to work to reaffirm the ideas of International Youth Year in the name of peace and social progress, happy and dignified future for young people all over the world. - The forthcoming International Year of Peace provides of us all with an auspicious opportunity for this.

Mr. AKPO (Benin) (interpretation from French): In resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979, the General Assembly of the United Nations designated 1985 as International Youth Year, with the threefold theme of participation, development and peace, and invited all States, all specialized agencies and the international, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as youth organizations, to exert all possible efforts for the preparation and the observance of International Youth Year.

In so doing, the General Assembly acknowledged that young people were capable of making an effective contribution to economic, political, social and cultural development among nations. Consequently, the United Nations should pay more heed to the part which can be played by young people in carrying out a qualitative transformation of today's world in the light of what they expect of tomorrow's world.

In the People's Republic of Benin, since the historic date of 26 October 1972, we have had an opportunity to realize the capabilities of young people and the considerable contribution they can make to the task of national construction in all areas.

Politically, young people played a major part in installing the democratic people's political régime in our country. They participate in decision-making and are represented in all political bodies of the country, in including the National Revolutionary Assembly, which is the supreme body of the State's authority.

In the economic field, the youth of Benin are playing a fundamental part, particularly in the agricultural sector, which is the basis of our economy. They also do considerable work in agricultural co-operatives and in the economic groups of all kinds which have been initiated by the State of Benin.

(Mr. Akpo, Benin)

This considerable participation in production by young people from both rural and urban areas has made it possible for them to improve their own standard of living. The emergence of production groups in both town and country in the form of co-operatives represents one of the main weapons in the struggle against the rural exodus, one of the scourges which is undermining the economy of developing countries such as ours. This effort to combat the rural exodus has been further reinforced by a considerable campaign of public information.

Similarly, the new social relationships which have been growing up in our country enable young people to find new solutions to problems of marriage outside the feudal and patriarchal framework which had constrained them in the past.

The very successful literacy campaigns in the villages and the towns have made it possible for a population which is becoming increasingly young to have access to a knowledge of reading and writing in our national languages, thus freeing them from constraints on their development.

In the field of education, it should be noted that the State of Benin, in an effort to adapt the training of young people to the needs of the country, has undertaken a reform of the education system which has resulted in the New School, characterized by the democratization of knowledge. The New School has promoted access to education for a growing proportion of young people from both town and country. The special attention is given to this area because education is the main prerequisite for a greater participation by young people in efforts to realize the ideals of development and social progress.

(Mr. Akpo, Benin)

It is against this general background that we should view what has been done by our country to organize young people in Benin, which came into being just over two years ago. In effect, the Benin Revolutionary Youth Organization, in response to the appeal of the United Nations, turned the International Youth Year into a year of increased participation in development programmes and efforts to strengthen friendship and international peace among young people of the world.

By way of example, I should like to refer to some of the activities which have been included under that heading: the organization of voluntary work projects throughout the entire national territory, projects under which young people participated actively in work of community interest, such as of reafforestation, road mending and public works; the organization of cultural events as part of the participation of the People's Republic of Benin in the World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow; the participation of young artists, both men and women, in this Festival made it possible for the youth of Benin once again to express their commitment to the ideal of peace and friendship among all young people in the world; the invitation which was extended to the young people of Burkina Faso, through artists who spent a week in our country, and the arrival of many other youth delegations from friendly countries were a positive expression of the interest which our young people have in this International Year; finally, the organization of a week devoted to the topic "The international situation of young people throughout the world, particularly in South Africa". These are some of the activities which the Benin Revolutionary Youth Organization has undertaken as part of International Youth Year.

The ongoing participation of young people in the socio-economic development of our country is seriously hampered by the worsening international economic crisis which affects small countries such as mine in the framework of the unequal relations which exist today in the international economy.

(Mr. Akpo, Benin)

In the light of this situation, my delegation invites the United Nations to make active efforts to establish a new international economic order, to put a stop to the arms race, to eliminate apartheid completely, to bring about the independence of Namibia, to achieve a just and equitable resolution of the question of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as well as the rights of other oppressed peoples throughout the world, for whom we would like to reiterate our support.

The young people of Benin are fully prepared to endorse all the actions taken by our Organization in order to ensure the triumph of the noble ideals to which world youth and the international community aspired.

Mr. NORTON (Guyana): The delegation of Guyana is most gratified that the General Assembly has devoted a series of plenary meetings to policies and programmes relating to youth. We consider the designation of this year - the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, - as International Youth Year a clear indication of the importance which the international community attaches to the place and role of youth in national societies. This importance was eloquently underscored in the Barcelona Statement adopted at the World Congress on Youth held in Barcelona, Spain from 8 to 15 July this year. In that document it is stated:

"the Congress recognized the profound importance of the direct participation of youth in shaping the future of humankind and the valuable contribution that youth can make to the implementation of a new international economic order based on equity and justice." (A/40/768, p. 2, Annex)

The Barcelona statement also declared that there was:

" ... a manifest need to pursue national, regional and international initiatives; governments and international organizations must continue



(Mr. Norton, Guyana)

treating the youth sector as one requiring priority and sustained attention

... " (ibid, p. 5 Annex)

My delegation therefore considers the holding of these meetings at this juncture to be particularly timely, and it is our sincere hope that they will lead to decisions which will result not only in the strengthening of national initiatives but also in the promotion of closer regional and international co-operation in order to ensure that youth can play a more direct and meaningful role in all sectors of their respective societies.

For us in Guyana the theme of International Youth Year - Participation, Development, Peace - is particularly relevant. As emphasized by our Constitution, the preparation of our youth for participation in the national development effort, through their active involvement in the political, economic and social life of the country, has always been a top priority.

Consequently, this year Guyana implemented a policy decision which provides for youth to be represented on the Boards of Directors of major corporations and educational institutions in all sectors of our society.

The observance of 1985 as International Youth Year also provided an opportunity for the even greater concentration of attention on the role of youth in our society while at the same time stimulating an intensification of contact with youths throughout the world. In this regard Guyana acted as host to an International Youth Camp for youths of the Commonwealth Caribbean, and participated in a similar camp in Saint Lucia. Both camps were held in August 1985.

Apart from developing skills and other attributes, special attention is also given to the continuous nurturing of the highest standards of character and performance in our youth. The responsibility which devolves upon youth requires

(Mr. Norton, Guyana)

their full and active involvement in the political, economic and social life of the country including, of course, participation in decision-making and in activities connected with the implementation of those decisions. Such activities include agriculture, which holds special importance for the future development of Guyana and receives specific focus from our Government.

Education has also been an area of particular attention. Education in Guyana is not a privilege but a right. The Government provides free education from the nursery to the university level. We continue to facilitate the training required by young people through the granting of Government scholarships for studies overseas where required.

In this International Youth Year an innovation was made in our educational system with the opening of the President's College. The President's College seeks to prepare our young citizens for the development of Guyana. Its curriculum comprises a wide range of subjects including computer studies. It combines theory and practical work with a view to producing citizens who are relevant to the development of Guyana. The selection of students who are to attend the college is based on merit and the free will of both parent and student.

Guyana continues to improve its health services so as to ensure that our youth is healthy and vibrant. In this regard the recent opening of our Medical School offers more scope to our youth for training in medicine and the prospect of vastly improved health care.

The new system of local democracy provides for the active involvement of young people. Youths chair many democratic organs and carry out important functions in others.

(Mr. Norton, Guyana)

Six months ago, youths from all 10 regions in Guyana came together in Georgetown for the first National Festival of Youth and Students. This Festival included a national convention, which considered a number of issues relating to youth and their participation in national life. A significant result of the convention, which was held on 23 and 24 May, was the agreement to establish a national broad-based committee on the question of youth. This committee has attracted support from many professional adults who are interested in sharing their skills with youths in an advisory capacity. It will function as the institutional and co-ordinating mechanism among the various bodies having to do with youth questions and it will operate between national conventions, to be held biennially. This is important, since the future holds many youth problems that are to be surmounted.

While we struggle assiduously for the development of Guyana, we cannot ignore the present world economic situation, which militates against our development. This is of much concern to the youth of Guyana, as it should be to youths all over the world.

Of equal concern should be the issue of peace, which threatens not only the youth of Guyana. Is it not true that peace is also threatened by the perpetuation of the infamous system of apartheid practised by the Pretoria régime and by the many acts of aggression which that régime commits against the front-line States of southern Africa? The youth of Guyana are in full solidarity with the youth of South Africa and of Namibia, who languish under the cruel yoke of apartheid and who are thereby denied all opportunity for the enjoyment of their basic inalienable rights and for participation in the national life of their respective countries in a manner consistent with the rights inherent in their status as human beings. We are also in full solidarity with the youth of Palestine, who continue to be

(Mr. Norton, Guyana)

dispossessed of their homeland, and who struggle for their own independent state and have the overwhelming support of the membership of this General Assembly.

Let us recall that this World Youth Conference is convened at a time when there are many areas of tension in the world and the yearnings of the youth for peace, freedom and development remain unsatisfied. My delegation hopes that this Conference, in the pursuit of its mandate, will by its conclusions contribute to the peace, security and stability that are desired by all. Let us work for this with the increased participation of youth.

Miss PELLON (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): Allow me at the outset, on behalf of the youth of Cuba, to express our satisfaction at the opportunity offered us to take part in this United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, which constitutes important evidence of the interest taken in this commemoration.

As we approach the culmination of the period which the United Nations declared as the International Youth Year, we must remain aware, despite the advances made towards the objectives we set, of how much remains to be done and the need to continue urgently to attend to all of the problems that today affect young people in various parts of the world until we have managed to make a reality of the motto that has presided over this year: Participation, Development, Peace.

In our country, on the basis of the proposals of the United Nations during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly and the agreements reached in the meetings of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) in San José, Costa Rica, a National Co-ordinating Committee was established with the function of being involved in all the activities of International Youth Year. That Committee is made up of State organs and all of the political, social, youth and student organizations of my country.

(Miss Pellon, Cuba)

Taking as a point of departure that the International Youth Year, more than a period of celebration, should be a stimulus to working on concrete achievements, we set to work on a variety of tasks, including the realization of a campaign of publicity devoted to youth; the conducting of the National University Sports Games and scientific forums; the programming of cultural and recreational activities celebrating this event; and the selection of the best literary works that exemplify the attitudes of our youth during the 26 years of revolution, which will be published and receive prizes.

A particularly important incentive was the holding of the Twelfth World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, the results of which were most positive for the international youth movement. The preparations for this served as the framework for the development throughout my country of marches for solidarity, peace and friendship, in which thousands of young people took part. Similarly, 16 million trees were planted in Friendship Forests, and a festival was held on the Island of Youth, where the approximately 12,000 young people from Africa and Latin America studying in that island took part.

This year special impetus has been given by State institutions and bodies, to the norms contained in the Code for Children and Youth which guarantee, as an expression of the very essence of our society, a secure future for our young people and children, in the face of the dramatic panorama of economic crisis, unemployment, drug addiction, prostitution, illiteracy, delinquency, repression and murders which today are taking place in various parts of the world.

Many activities were conducted in our country as a tribute to International Youth Year. This enables us to affirm that the youth of Cuba has shown itself capable of providing a concrete reply to the appeal of the United Nations and of making use of the energy, enthusiasm and creative spirit of youth in carrying out initiatives conducive to the fulfilment of their common objectives.

(Miss Pellon, Cuba)

We, the young people of Cuba, are sure that our socialist State will continue to dedicate its greatest efforts to the education and training of the present and future generations and will continue giving the highest place to their life and happiness, aware that youth has the strength and energy to provide a brilliant future for our homeland.

We are holding this Conference in the midst of a complex and tense international situation, characterized by the most unbridled and irresponsible arms race launched by the Government of the United States, which not only threatens peace but also the very survival of mankind. The creation of new systems of nuclear weapons, including the so-called Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), is an example of the irrationality of that warlike policy, which goes hand in hand with increased support for unpopular reactionary régimes and direct or covert aggression against peoples who have chosen the path of independence, social progress and justice.

(Miss Pellon, Cuba)

This Conference is also taking place at a time when the struggle of the peoples of the third world to carry out and establish the new international economic order is moving forward leading towards the economic integration of our countries and the abolition of the unpayable external debt that is besetting them to the extent that it has made life impossible for the long-suffering under-developed peoples, as has been expressed in the recent Young People's and Students' Dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, an event where more than 600 young people were in attendance and freely, openly and in a spirit of brotherhood exchanged views on the economic situation of their respective countries, their problems, their concerns and the uncertain future of our region.

At a time when uniting all the young revolutionary, progressive and democratic forces of our planet is more needed than ever, we express from this rostrum our unyielding solidarity with all young people who, as an inseparable part of their nations, are struggling for upholding the rights now being denied them, endeavouring to defend peace on Earth as the sole alternative for human survival and facing imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism and all other forms of exploitation and discrimination that still prevail in the world.

A significant role has been played by the United Nations in this noble purpose. Our Organization has recently reached its fortieth anniversary, and on behalf of Cuban youth I wish to express our deepest appreciation for the distinguished work it has done through the years for the sake of peaceful coexistence among States, self-determination and national independence for the peoples. In particular, we salute the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and the specialized agencies of the United Nations that have devoted valiant efforts to bring to the fore the lofty objectives at the centre of this International Youth Year.

(Miss Pellon, Cuba)

Given the enormous responsibility and the inescapable commitment we have to our peoples, we young people trust in the future in the certainty that over and beyond all obstacles the yearning for peace, brotherhood and happiness that motivates us today will tomorrow become a beautiful reality.

Mr. WIJEMANNE (Sri Lanka): The delegation of Sri Lanka, and particularly the youth of Sri Lanka, are glad that the United Nations has designated these three days of its plenary meetings for the observance of the World Conference for the International Youth Year. This happy gesture in this fortieth anniversary year of the United Nations signifies the importance and relevance of the items under consideration - "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace" and "Policies and programmes relating to youth".

Since the inception of this question in the United Nations, Sri Lanka has participated enthusiastically in international forums as well as domestically to promote the cause of youth. Sri Lanka has been a member of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year since its establishment and has supported all United Nations programmes for the advancement of youth.

Sri Lanka has followed with keen and close interest the preparatory process set out in the guidelines for the observance of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. In the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of the national policies and projects, our Ministry of Youth Affairs and Employment has made every effort to set out and adhere to the guidelines it formulated, which are more or less in accordance with the United Nations guidelines. We believe the guidelines contained in the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year in its fourth session are of great importance in furthering national efforts. It is therefore important that Member States and international and national non-governmental organizations take this opportunity to pursue beyond the Year its broad objectives: Participation, Development, Peace.



(Mr. Wijemanne, Sri Lanka)

In this context it is important that the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, should continue to play an active role in all issues relating to youth. My delegation also supports the recommendations set out under specific guidelines on international action which underline the importance of strengthening the role and authority of the United Nations Commission for Social Development with regard to specific youth issues.

Sri Lanka recognizes the importance of effective channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations as set out in the additional guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication. An active involvement of youth in the work of the United Nations, particularly in the issues concerning youth, not only enhances the knowledge and awareness of youth of their right and the rightful role in society but also widens their horizons thus enabling them to contribute towards mutual understanding and peace in the world where they are expected to play an active role as citizens and future leaders of their respective societies.

The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka states that

"The State shall promote with special care the interests of children and youth, so as to ensure their full development, physical, mental, moral, religious and social, and to protect them from exploitation and discrimination."

In the light of this Constitutional provision, the Government of Sri Lanka is committed, through institutional and other means, to provide full opportunities for youth to participate in the formulation and implementation of policy in the organization and self-management of schemes of economic development and of individual and collective advancement in the building of the new society in which they will live. In Sri Lanka youth between the age group of 15 to 29 comprise

(Mr. Wijemanne, Sri Lanka)

nearly one-third of the total population, of which the rural sector constitutes more than 80 per cent. Consequently, Sri Lanka has inherited a vast potential of human resources which it has to channel towards accelerated development efforts.

The establishment of the National Youth Services Council (NYSC) as long ago as 1969 could be considered a landmark and a pioneering step taken by the Government for the full participation of youth in development and peace and communal harmony in Sri Lanka. Its scope of activities further broadened and got fresh impetus by the decision to set up a Ministry of Youth Affairs and Employment in 1979. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Employment, the NYSC and the National Apprenticeship Board are the State organizations that are charged with the responsibilities for policy-making, planning and co-ordinating youth activities and technical training at the national level with the objective of promoting the interest of youth so as to ensure their full development and participation. Their main objectives range from fostering among youth a spirit of national consciousness, sense of discipline, an awareness of social and economic problems, a sense of dignity of labour, promoting goodwill and mutual understanding between youth in Sri Lanka and in other countries to developing the characteristics of the individual.

(Mr. Wijemanne, Sri Lanka)

The Council has initiated a large number of projects and programmes providing various kinds of services to the young generation throughout the country, such as national service projects, youth clubs which promote leadership qualities, self-reliance and a variety of youth activities and sports and recreation and self-employment schemes, vocational training programmes specifically aimed at developing the skills of the youth labour force in various trades, industry and agriculture, and cultural activities which provide them opportunities of displaying their talents and creative ability. In this connection, I am proud to say that the National Dance Ensemble of Sri Lanka is composed of youth drawn from all communities. They have already performed at international gatherings both in the East and in the West.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Foreign Affairs Division of the NYSC promotes international understanding through its various programmes, such as international seminars, tours, fellowships, goodwill missions, and youth exchange programmes.

Since the felt needs of the young generation are changing with time, youth development programmes should be adopted to suit such needs. Research in this field has thus become a prime necessity. The Research and Development Division of the NYSC continues to undertake various research projects for the identification of youth problems and of necessary areas for improving the services provided by the NYSC, thus enabling the Research Division to craft their future programme planning in keeping with the changes. In addition, the NYSC, in collaboration with State and non-governmental organizations, provides vocational guidance and counselling services with a view to helping youth in seeking solutions to their individual concerns and problems, including any physical disabilities.

I should like at this stage to touch briefly upon the National Youth

(Mr. Wijemanne, Sri Lanka)

Programmes which the International Youth Year secretariat of Sri Lanka has inaugurated for the observance of the International Youth Year on the theme "Participation, Development, Peace". The various ministries, departments, governmental institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations have planned and pooled their resources to hold 12 such weeks, one in each of the months of the year, on 12 themes relevant to youth. These are in addition to the already ongoing wide range of programmes which had been planned. The Youth Week Programme will be conducted as a national programme using resources available locally and giving prominence to youth participation. Taking pride of place in this programme is the quest to develop, in the mind of youth, mutual understanding, trust and unity among the various ethnic and religious groups living in the country. Before I leave this subject, it is worth recalling here that 29 ministries and the presidential secretariat are all involved in the special programmes arranged for International Youth Year.

Just as we perceive youth in the context of the theme Participation, Development and Peace, we see the involvement of youth as an integral part of the special efforts we are making in Sri Lanka to promote the worth and value of each individual, assuring him of his human worth and dignity and his rights. The Constitution of Sri Lanka is, as I said earlier, committed to uphold those rights and, at the same time, requires the State to promote with special care the interests of children and youth, ensuring their full development and protecting them from exploitation and discrimination.

My President, His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene, in his address to Parliament in 1983, stated,

"We hope to lead our youth into the technological age, ... . Already plans are being prepared for the establishment of centres for education and for the

(Mr. Wijemanne, Sri Lanka)

assembly and manufacture of the necessary equipment ... It is not so much an adoption of Western ideas or a return to national ways but an urge among youth to be free to think and live as free men and women, sweeping away insularity, history and traditions. We must help them to adjust themselves to the new world opening before their eyes."

In keeping with this concept and the significance of International Youth Year, Sri Lanka has taken steps with a view to the adoption of a National Youth Charter in Parliament.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure to express, on behalf of the delegation and youth of Sri Lanka, our sincere appreciation to the Advisory Committee and, in particular, its Chairman, Mr. Nicu Ceausescu, the Minister of Youth Affairs of Romania, whose untiring efforts and dedication have helped during International Youth Year to arouse increased awareness of and interest in youth issues throughout the world.

Mr. AL-KAWARI (Qatar) (interpretation from Arabic): Whereas most young people throughout the world hope to participate in the activities of International Youth Year, protected from oppression and persecution, in a context of national sovereignty and in a life which is imbued with dignity, we cannot overlook two groups of young people which the forces of injustice and racism have deprived of the rights enjoyed by other young people, namely, the young Palestinians and the young people in South Africa. The inhuman practices of the racist forces in occupied Palestine have targeted young people in particular. Those forces resort to violent means against peaceful demonstrations, imprison innocent young persons, attack educational institutions and close their doors, and kill students. Apart from the other odious practices of the occupiers, the national youth in South Africa, which is in the forefront of the struggle against their arbitrary treatment by the Pretoria Government, the real tragedy of those young people is that they

(Mr. Al-Kawari, Qatar)

have no opportunity to participate in the social life of their country and the fact that they are deprived of the opportunity to lead a decent life; they are submitted to the will of the white minority who have decided to monopolize power as well as the fruits and advantages of the economy.

In observing International Youth Year, we must salute the young people in Palestine and South Africa assure them that, in commemorating the Year and taking part in its activities, we cannot overlook or be heedless of their cause. We eagerly await the day when they can live a decent life full of hope and with a bright future.

The celebration of International Youth Year this year under the theme Participation, Development and Peace, shows the interest of the international community, as represented by the United Nations, in young people and in their concerns, hopes and ambitions. The international community is convinced that the future is in the hands of young people. That is why we have to be aware of the importance of young people and the major role they play in determining the future, as well as the fact that we should provide them with sufficient assistance and the means properly to discharge this heavy responsibility.

(Mr. Al-Kawari, Qatar)

If the future of every country is in the hands of young people, that is particularly true in the case of the developing countries, which have such a crying need for the contribution of young people, for their determination to improve standards of living, to increase production and to promote the well-being of the economy. That means that young people will have to evince even more determination and to make constant efforts to mould their future and the future of their countries so that they may achieve economic and social progress in the same way as other countries in the world.

We should like to congratulate the United Nations bodies and its specialized agencies and other international organizations on what they are doing during the course of this International Youth Year. We have no doubt whatsoever that these activities will have very laudable effects which will go well beyond the context of International Youth Year. Those activities will give rise to programmes and long-term policies which will be responsive to the needs of young people internationally, regionally and nationally.

In my country, at the national level, we set up the Supreme Committee for International Youth Year in 1982, which is part of the Supreme Youth Council, and is directed by that Council. It is a standing governmental body. It should be noted that all of the ministries are represented on that Committee, as well as the University of Qatar, the Red Crescent of Qatar and other national non-governmental organizations which are particularly concerned with matters relating to the young.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive study of the situation of young people in the country and in the light of that study they established specific programmes which were essentially geared to ensure the participation of young people in economic and social development, by paying particular attention to improving policies and programmes which deal with young people.

(Mr. Al-Kawari, Qatar)

In 1985 we carried out a number of programmes, the purpose of which was to make it possible for the youth of Qatar to participate in serving society and to be integrated in the process of socio-economic development. By way of example, I should like to quote the following activities: we inaugurated sports grounds, organized work camps nationally and regionally. As part of the co-operation among the Gulf countries, we organized a series of conferences, lectures and seminars on International Youth Year, and their topics were participation, development and peace. We organized a number of seminars on sports and symposia on leisure for young people and the question of how handicapped children can participate in society. We published a book on International Youth Year. Internationally, we took part in the Conference of the Advisory Committee for International Youth Year in Bucharest from 3 to 10 September 1985 as well as the International Youth Conference in Chicago from 6 to 9 October 1985. Also, we intend to participate in the Conference of Young People's Organizations from Non-Aligned Countries, which will take place in New Delhi from 19 to 21 November 1985.

All of that reflects the importance my country attaches to matters relating to youth, and the achievement of their goals as a part of 1985 and beyond this year.

As a result of this meeting of the fortieth session of the General Assembly, which has been designated United Nations Conference on International Youth Year, the international community should attempt to evaluate the progress achieved to date as part of this year and, in the light of that assessment, to try and establish policy guidelines and follow-up measures to promote the status of young people and to integrate them in the lives of their societies, so that they may become elements of strength in their society, and to alert them internationally to the role they have to play in promoting peace, participation, co-operation,



(Mr. Al-Kawari, Qatar)

understanding and friendship among peoples. That should be done in co-ordination with the national co-ordinating committees within the various Member States.

We consider that all of that is no less important from the point of view of the future of the world than the question of disarmament or the allocation of military expenditure for development purposes. It is quite possible that the international community might be more successful in matters relating to youth and the pioneering role of youth as far as the future of the world is concerned. That could act as a catalyst and a stimulus to make progress in the resolution of these extremely complex issues. As we have moulded our own contemporary world, we think that the young people can also mould a better world in the interests of mankind in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. HALLHAG (Sweden): We, the young people in Sweden, want and claim a right to participate in shaping a better future in a better world. Therefore, the three themes of International Youth Year - participation, peace and development - form a framework of interacting concerns and hopes of youth today.

It is only through active and genuine participation in society that we as young people can bring our concerns, our outlook and our enthusiasm to bear on the work for peace, on the development of our own societies, and on international co-operation to improve conditions in the developing countries.

It is therefore quite natural that in my country, when deciding upon national activities during Youth Year, the emphasis, as also stressed by the youth organizations, has been on participation. The Swedish Parliament and Government, recognizing that youth activities have to be carried out by young people themselves on their own conditions, and preferably at a local level, have formulated the following objectives for their policy in regard to youth organizations: further to develop democratic participation; to promote equality; to stimulate interest and

(Mr. Hallhag, Sweden)

engagement in questions of public concern; to contribute to a better environment; and to create solidarity between generations.\*

As long as over fifteen years ago a State Youth Council was set up by the Government to give effect to this policy. Its main tasks are to support youth organizations in their own activities and to finance research related to youth issues. One research report supported by the State Youth Council pointed to a feeling of lack of participation often experienced by young people, and they put it in the following words: "It is like growing up in a vacuum. We are not needed. We are given no responsibility." That study - entitled "Not for Sale" - certainly highlights not only the desire of young people to be active participants in society but also their readiness, if given a chance, to be responsible citizens as well.

In the old days in Sweden young people were often given too heavy tasks in the form of hard work in the fields, in the factories or in the homes. Today we have the opposite situation. We are not given enough responsibility in society. We are not always needed - we might spend several years waiting for a role in society, for a job, or for a meaningful task. These years are often crucial to the future orientation of life for a young person. It is important that this period be used in an active and positive way.

---

\* Mrs. Castro de Barish (Costa Rica), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mr. Hallhag, Sweden)

At the national level in Sweden, the struggle against youth unemployment continues to have high priority. Another positive sign is the effort being made to the same end by a growing co-operative movement among Swedish youth itself. The Swedish Government has allocated the sum of 30 million Swedish kronor to various youth projects, especially at the local level. Financial aid has thus been made available to the kinds of projects that involve teamwork among generations and that promote internal democracy, social commitment and new work practices in youth organizations.

Activities associated with International Youth Year are not restricted to 1985. Financial assistance was already forthcoming in 1984, and some projects will continue into 1987. It is hoped that activities inspired by International Youth Year will have their effect for a long time to come.

Youth organizations in Sweden are part of a system of active popular movements. Although they are often based on different political outlooks and focused on different fields of activity, a common denominator is that they are all independent of the authorities. The youth organizations, some of which were founded as early as the latter part of the nineteenth century, are engaged in activities in a variety of fields, and in recent years we have seen several examples of dedicated work and a strong commitment as regards important questions.

The concern for peace is widespread among young people. The Swedish delegation endorses the right of youth, in Sweden and in any other country of the world, to express its ideas about peace and disarmament without being directed to do so, or hindered in doing so, by State authorities. Young people understand, as a matter of course, that real peace also means respect for fundamental human rights and for international law. We are devoting much personal effort to that cause, which is also a good example of the connection between work for peace at the local level and the International Year of Peace, 1986.

(Mr. Hallhag, Sweden)

Less public and spectacular, but equally important, are the everyday activities carried out at the neighbourhood level, which might include, for instance: a support group against drug abuse; a study circle investigating the local history of a village; a rock band rehearsing in a garage; or an amateur group involving young and old working on the production of a musical play. Particular importance is attached to the task of involving young immigrants in these activities. Immigrant children, particularly girls, growing up in Sweden can easily get squeezed between two cultures. One set of demands is made by the family and the other by the school and schoolmates. Youth activities often help to mitigate such conflicts.

A most promising manifestation of solidarity set in motion during International Youth Year by young people - not only in Sweden, but initially in France and rapidly all over Europe - is the anti-racist campaign with the motto "Don't touch my pal!" This is a gentle but powerful mobilization in defence of immigrants and their right to enjoy and enrich the societies and cultures in which they live and work. In Sweden, this campaign has been promoted by the youth leagues of all political parties, acting in co-operation - in itself an unusual feature.

The human rights violations committed by the apartheid régime in South Africa are particularly offensive to young people in Sweden. During 1985, 500,000 secondary school students in all the Nordic countries left their classrooms for a day, carrying out all sorts of odd jobs and giving their earnings to young South African refugees. That action, named "Operation one day's work", raised more than \$3 million to help finance schools for South African students in Tanzania, managed by the African National Congress of South Africa. Part of the money has also gone to support vocational training in Zimbabwe. Participation in the campaign was decided upon at thousands of local student council meetings in the schools of the

(Mr. Hallhag, Sweden)

Nordic countries, and was in itself a very useful educational experience which has helped to mould opinion against apartheid, racism and oppression.

In its defence of the abominable apartheid system, the régime in South Africa seems to strike with particular ruthlessness against youth organizations and their leaders. Information available to us indicates that the largest category of political prisoners and detainees consists of student-union activists. The banning, on 28 August, of the Congress of South African Students, a union of secondary school students, illustrates that policy of trying to silence the voice of the young.

In a developing and more complex world, international understanding requires more contacts among young people. In this connection, we should like to mention the informal meeting held in Geneva. We believe that it could, if revitalized, provide a better opportunity for youth representatives to meet regularly. We also urge all Governments to facilitate direct contacts among young people - and not only among their representatives. Every young person should be given the possibility of finding friends abroad. The experience of friendship across borders will serve as a foundation for the achievement of our common goals of participation, development and peace.

Mr. ALI (Bangladesh): On behalf of the Government and people of Bangladesh, my delegation brings warm greetings to young men and women all over the world on the occasion of the United Nations celebration of International Youth Year. Resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979, which designated 1985 as International Youth Year, will undoubtedly go down in the annals of the United Nations as a significant landmark: for the first time, the world community formally recognized the need to discuss the problems and prospects of youth the world over.

(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

During the current plenary meetings of this Assembly, which have been appropriately designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, speakers are making observations on the theme of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. In so doing, they are addressing issues concerning 922 million people.

Youth, which was described by Wordsworth as "the fair seed-time of the soul", is looked upon in almost all the world's cultures and civilizations as synonymous with beauty, creativity and intelligence. Youth has been at the heart of much that mankind can truly be proud of. Young people all over the world are quick to respond to causes that stir their innate sense of justice, equity and fair play. No sacrifice is too great for them to make and no human goal too distant to strive for. My delegation takes this opportunity to recall with gratitude the heroic role played by our young men and women in our war of liberation in 1971, in which hundreds of thousands of them made the supreme sacrifice.

(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

My delegation also pays homage to the memory of the youth in Palestine and South Africa who have laid down their lives in their struggle for a homeland and for establishing fundamental human rights and salutes those who still carry on that fight.

Advances in modern science and technology have opened up opportunities, immeasurably vast, to young people of today for their own individual development as well as for their capacity to contribute to the welfare of their fellow human beings. While this is by and large true of the developed countries, it is only a theoretical possibility in the developing countries. Owing to various kinds of constraints young people in those countries find themselves in positions of disadvantage and deprivation, to which I intend to turn now.

Immediately following the Second World War - and for understandable reasons - we observed the emergence of a group of young people who left their mark primarily on the arts - literature, music and painting. By their unorthodox views on life as delineated in their works they had set themselves apart. Their prototype was called, with a mixture of contempt and indulgence, "the Angry Young Man".

But the anger of young people we notice today, whether it is in Europe or Asia or, for that matter, anywhere in the world, is not just a philosophical or artistic stance with very little to do with things in mundane life. It is anger, disquietingly real anger, generated by the realities young people perceive in their workaday life.

The younger generation is growing up today under the threat of a possible nuclear annihilation. It is growing up in a world that has in the past three and a half decades witnessed a number of regional wars. The members of the younger generation have been, like the rest of mankind, helpless and horrified onlookers to

(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

crimes committed against humanity - in the form of apartheid in South Africa, genocide by Zionists in the Middle East, the mass killing of men, women and children in mindless, communal frenzy in a number of countries. They have seen human rights grossly violated on grounds of differences of opinion and ideology. In certain countries young people live under conditions that bear close resemblance to those grimly predicted by George Orwell in his novel, Nineteen Eighty-Four.

It has been their unfortunate lot to grow up in a world where the strong perpetrate aggression against the weak with impunity, leading to hundreds and thousands of people being driven from their own homelands, compelled to live a subhuman life and very often becoming a perpetual burden on international charity.

Today, young people almost everywhere in the world betray in their behaviour and conduct a cynicism compounded of boredom and frustration. Even in countries that lay claim to highest levels of affluence and prosperity, there is the unfortunate propensity towards violence and crime. Juvenile delinquency is dangerously on the rise.

These are warning signals of which the world community must take serious note. Today, the younger generation seems to be less moved by profession than by practice. They are obviously contemptuous of the many lofty values to which their elders pay lip service but to which in their conduct of their lives they honour more in the breach than in the observance. Young people are remorselessly taught to be ambitious, efficient and, above all, successful. But success at what price? Success cannot be its own end; there must be a correlation between ends, on the one hand, and means, on the other. In other words, success must have a moral coefficient. Otherwise it might end up in a rat race of self-aggrandizement, devoid of any moral dimension.

Societal behaviour must, of necessity, be so structured as to engender in youth a sense of direction that will, in the ultimate analysis, be purposeful and



(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

altruistic. Regrettable as it is, a great distance has evidently developed between the professions and the practices of those who are usually at the helm of affairs in our societies. That has not done much good to the psyche of the younger generation, and hence their recourse to cynicism.

The world community must realise that only an open society based upon egalitarian principles can assure its youth a stable future and a meaningful life. It therefore logically follows - and I speak from the perspective of a developing country - that an integrated youth policy has to form a vital part of the development-planning strategy, as envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General on the "Situation of Youth in the 1980s". All possible measures have to be adopted for solving the socio-economic problems confronting the youth in the developing countries.

But, too often, in the words of T.S. Eliot,

"Between the conception

And the execution

Falls the Shadow." (The Hollow Men)

Policy adoption will have little impact unless this receives full executive and implementational support from the State machinery. Unemployment poses a serious problem in most developing countries, and unemployment is acute not only among educated youth - employable, able-bodied young men and women remain unemployed or underemployed and are often driven to marginal situations leading to tragic consequences.

My delegation firmly believes that educational institutions in general, and universities in particular, can and should play an important role in ameliorating the situation of young men and women. The concept of education that hinges on the fashioning of a gentleman by teaching him the Aristotelian private and public virtues, albeit essentially noble, is hopelessly out of tune with the exigencies of

(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

the modern world. There has occurred in the past few decades a wide gap between formal education and the world of work. Radical restructuring of university curricula, with the necessary stress on modern social needs, is thus called for so that young men and women with formal schooling find their rightful place in the job market and do not become misfits.

While on the subject of education, I would like to draw attention to an aspect of our present-day educational system which, although it has no direct linkage to job opportunity, is important in so far as it relates to the building up of the minds of our youth. While educational systems should accord due importance to social needs, it is highly undesirable that there should be a complete schism between the scientific and the liberal concepts of education. However undesirable, that is precisely what has happened in most modern systems of education. Specialization very often leads to a complete divergence between the two streams of education to which I have just referred. Such divergence is bound to give rise to apparently irreconcilable attitudes and visions of life. For the harmonious growth of the youthful mind, a balance has to be struck between the two concepts of education. Such a balance is likely to promote compatibility in young people, making communication of ideas and modalities easier among them.

While each nation is free to decide how it should educate its younger generation, the world community should, while celebrating International Youth Year, emphasize the need for a free flow and exchange of objects of art, of literature and of music among nations in order to instill in youth the essential unity of the human family. Let youth all over the world have an opportunity to be acquainted with the best and finest that man has ever thought and created. Let youth identify with the great heritage of man and be inspired to preserve and enrich it for generations to come.

(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

We observe, not without pain, a growing tendency in certain fields of sociological research that seeks to place in the foreground racial and ethnic differences rather than essential affinities among human groups. As it is, the world witnesses differences of all conceivable kinds - race, colour, sex and religious and political beliefs - as well as conflicts resulting from those differences. We cannot wish away those differences, but the essential affinities that should bring mankind together. Young people all over the world should be persuaded and indeed educated to explore for themselves the areas of harmony and unity that keep the human family together. As A.L. Goodhart has said: "We must hang together or we shall hang separately."

Bangladesh, a country that is largely indebted to youth for its emergence as an independent entity, is acutely aware of the great potential of young people and this was reflected in the statement of our President, General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, at the commemorative session of this Assembly. He said:

"We believe that at its mature age of 40 it is the most appropriate time for the United Nations to place due emphasis on the enrichment and ennoblement of the life of youth. To tap this vitality, we suggest that an international corps of young volunteers should be created by the United Nations to integrate youth more effectively into the development process at both the national and the international levels." (A/40/PV.41, pp. 53, 54-55)

My delegation solemnly pledges all possible support, in spite of our extreme resource constraint, for United Nations programmes devoted to the betterment of the condition of youth the world over.

Mr. AGIUS (Malta): The year 1985 is very important for the United Nations. It is important, first and foremost, because it marks the fortieth anniversary of the founding of this unique Organization when the war-weary world turned to the task of building peace. It is important also because it marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which paved the way for more than 70 dependent Territories to gain independence. And it is important because it has been designated International Youth Year with the aim of bringing about greater awareness of the situation of young people and seeking solutions to the problems of youth, which in a larger sense are the problems of society as a whole.

Many efforts had been made in the past to focus on youth-related issues at the international level, and it was not long before the General Assembly resolved, on 17 December 1979, to proclaim 1985 International Youth Year. The proclamation was evidence of the international community's growing recognition of the important contribution which that almost one fifth of the world's population - youth ranging in age from 15 to 24 - could make in reshaping the character of their own heritage and above all shaping mankind's future through participation, development and peace.

My Government takes great pride in what it regards as the main pillar of future generations. It has for many years given high priority to the concept of learning for youth by linking education with work. My Government believes that education and work offer the best potential for overcoming the most pressing global problems, which young people are facing in a very difficult international environment made worse by the current unemployment problem and all its related consequences.

With the objective of ensuring a better future for our young people, radical educational reforms were introduced in the late 1970s. A pupil-worker scheme at the upper-secondary level and a student-worker scheme at the University of Malta were successfully launched. Through these schemes pupils and students, while

(Mr. Aqius, Malta)

carrying out their studies, are given employment through sponsorships by Government departments, parastatal industries and private undertakings, whereby students alternate work periods with study phases. An extended skill training scheme is also in operation. Successful ex-trade-school students selected by industry undergo a three-year course which alternates six months' work in industry with six months' training in specialized centres. We are now in the process of reviewing these schemes to improve their effectiveness and gear them to our country's needs.

Now youths, whatever the stratum of society to which they belong, have all the means and opportunities to move to higher levels of our society. The introduction of a new study-work scheme has to a large extent been devised to confront the serious problem of unemployment, especially among youth, which is doing irreparable damage to many societies, leading to intellectual and social impoverishment, with the unhappy result that drugs and alcohol are often chosen apparently as a way out.

This brings me to the other problem which is a major scourge of our modern society - drug abuse. It is impossible to talk about youth without talking about drugs. This problem is also on the increase in Malta; however, it has not yet reached the dimensions prevalent in a number of other countries. In order to safeguard our young people from using and trafficking in drugs we are trying to co-ordinate our actions with regard to prevention, especially in respect of control of the importation and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances. Moreover, legislation has been enacted to increase the penalties for offences relating to drug pushing.

National legislation, together with international action, will surely be a strong deterrent in drug-abuse control. Being a small, developing country, we need external support as regards aspects of education on matters of drug abuse and rehabilitation facilities for drug addicts.

(Mr. Agius, Malta)

The question of youth involves other areas of our social and economic development, including social security, health, retirement and housing.

In Malta various policy measures have in recent years contributed to a better social environment, including the introduction of children's allowances and a national minimum wage in 1974, the compulsory payment of yearly bonuses to all workers as from 1975, the granting of parity in wages to women for work of equal value in all sectors, the compulsory granting of cost-of-living increases to workers in private employment equivalent to those in the public sector, and the introduction in 1977 of adult wage rates for employees on reaching the age of 18 years.

Young people are playing an important role in the health sector, in particular through their recruitment to form the nucleus of the nursing profession, including the many paramedics needed to operate sophisticated equipment in the operating theatres and other departments of a modern hospital.

Under the home ownership scheme young couples are assisted in building their own houses through the allocation of plots of land and loans with subsidized interest rates.

In Malta - and I am sure in many other countries - culture, sports and leisure are promoted as part of the human development process. Cultural activity in Malta has in recent years accompanied progress in economic development and the resurgence of a fresh national cultural awareness with the attainment of full national freedom. Cultural policies have one overriding principle - the promotion and consolidation of cultural participation at all levels. In this context cultural policies have been set out in terms of individual needs and capacities, rather than in terms of bringing individuals to a cultural pattern which has already been decided for them. Also, all activities provide an equal chance, at the local

(Mr. Agius, Malta)

as well as at the national level, for all forms of cultural expression. This is further mobilized by cultural manifestations and festivals by many groups, assisted by the Culture Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, throughout the year at traditional venues and at places of work.

(Mr. Agius, Malta)

Cultural exchanges based on the principle of reciprocity are encouraged through cultural agreements between Malta and foreign countries. Those exchanges, mainly involving youths, provide Maltese groups with opportunities to participate in festivals abroad, while foreign artists and performers are given an opportunity to entertain, as well as exchange ideas and experiences with, their Maltese counterparts. Workshop facilities and hostel services are provided for visiting artists and groups participating in such activities.

On the premise of "A healthy mind, a healthy body", the Government has set up a Ministry of Sports, which is directly responsible for the implementation of policies and programmes for the promotion of sport and the general development of sports facilities. We believe that the physical education and coaching of young people, as well as community recreation, keep the mind healthy, ease psycho-social tension and strengthen the values and attitudes of young people.

Malta's efforts in the field of sports were recognized at the international level when in May this year we had the honour to act as host to the Council of Europe's Fourth Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport. At the Conference, chaired by the Maltese Minister of Sport, various resolutions were adopted on problems of sport, including violence and drug abuse.

The particular attention being directed to the development of our young people and the creation of the necessary conditions that I have just outlined, which enable young people to realize their full potential for the benefit of society, gave us all the confidence necessary to support in earnest the celebration of International Youth Year in Malta. In preparation for that important event, our Ministry of Culture, through its Youth Section, set up an official National Youth Co-ordinating Committee to co-ordinate activities during 1985 and beyond. Three sub-committees were then set up - the first to organize activities during



(Mr. Agius, Malta)

International Youth Year; the second to deal with information; and the third to act as a liaison body between the Committee and other youth organizations.

The National Youth Co-ordinating Committee has organized many activities over the course of the year. They included a project to mark the World Day of Handicapped Youth during International Youth Year; an exhibition, "Youth for Peace", and the unveiling of a commemorative monument dedicated to "Youth for Peace"; a musical programme on World Youth Music Day; the issue of a commemorative set of postage stamps; an art exhibition and research on cultural psychology by the well-known artist Steven Doma; "Youth and Music", an evening of music, singing, mime and dance, as youth's expression of music; a public youth forum on social and educational topics and theatrical performances; tree planting; photographic competitions; participation in an environmental campaign; and production of a weekly radio and television programme.

My country is also very conscious of the need to act in concert with neighbouring countries. In the regional context, Malta has made great strides to promote and develop good-neighbourly relations and co-operation with the littoral States of the Mediterranean. We all realize that youth are part of the answer to the question of ensuring peace.

Malta's objective of fostering a Mediterranean identity among the States bordering on the crossroads of civilization - the Mediterranean sea - is amply demonstrated in the initiatives taken by Maltese delegations in forums as diverse as the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth and the United Nations Environment Programme.

As a reflection of Malta's involvement in the search for peace and co-operation in the Euro-Mediterranean context, Malta had the honour last July to act as host to the Fourth Mediterranean Youth Camp, which brought together over 50

(Mr. Agius, Malta)

young participants from the Mediterranean cities of Barcelona, Marseilles, Palermo, Tetouan, Tripoli, Tunis and Valletta.

The meeting considered as its main theme the role of youth in development and peace. Ideas and suggestions concerning the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean region were discussed. At the end of a lively and friendly encounter, a Final Document was adopted. It outlines, among other things, the steps to be taken so that young people everywhere will have equal opportunities in employment and in other areas of social life; so that the threat of war may be reduced and eventually eliminated in the region and in the whole world; so that there will be an improvement in secondary and tertiary education; and so that the less fortunate may be assisted by those who are in a better position to do so.

Agreement was also reached on the establishment of an international organization for the youth of Mediterranean cities. To this end a programme has been prepared for future action, which includes a meeting to be held in Tunis this month with a view to preparing a draft statute. Representatives from Algiers, Barcelona, Genoa, Palermo, Marseilles, Tunis, Tetouan, Tripoli and Valletta are being invited to take part.

Another regional activity will be a meeting to be held in Tripoli in February 1986, when preparations for the Fifth Mediterranean Youth Camp will start.

We believe that maximum benefit should be derived by all young people from such international youth gatherings. Malta has also participated in previous Mediterranean Youth Camps, Commonwealth Youth Programme Conferences in the United Kingdom, Cyprus and, most recently, in Canada. We have also attended youth meetings in Italy, Romania and Austria. Besides actively participating at the parliamentary level in the World Conference of National Co-ordinating Committees for International Youth Year in Bucharest, Malta participated in the World Youth

(Mr. Agius, Malta)

Conference organized in Barcelona, Spain, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Under the auspices of UNESCO, Malta organized an International Conference on Youth Exchanges.

The benefit that Malta derives from those international gatherings we shared with less fortunate countries. To the extent of its modest and limited possibilities, Malta has been contributing to the education of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the idea that those young students will one day, in the not too distant future - we hope - lead their fellow countrymen on the road of peace and development. A large number of students from what was once called Rhodesia and is now the proud, independent nation of Zimbabwe made Malta their learning base for many years. Likewise, students from Palestine and Tanzania have in the past followed educational courses in Malta. Thirty Namibian students have this year finished a four-year course in our trade schools, while 12 others are starting a nursing course lasting about two years.

It is therefore evident that Malta's commitment to the ideals of the United Nations and to the youth of the world does not stop in the United Nations itself, but finds practical expression in the activities, particularly of its youth, to promote the ideals which prompted the holding of International Youth Year during 1985.

Malta also makes sure that students and young people appreciate the role and strong moral force of the United Nations. Part of our school curriculum teaches our young people how the United Nations has mobilized action and devised ways of achieving self-determination; how United Nations programmes encourage political, economic, social, cultural and technological development; and how efforts are being made to promote human rights all over the world.

The commitment of my country to youth will not end with International Youth Year. The programmes and activities which have so far been launched will have a

(Mr. Agius, Malta)

long-lasting effect on young people and indeed on the whole Maltese population. The Federation of Youth Organizations, which represents more than 20 Maltese youth organizations, has been working on a youth policy which encompasses the aspirations of youth from various bodies, such as political, cultural and religious organizations.

Malta's Prime Minister himself is paying personal and special attention to the youth perspective, thus giving our youth a sense of pride in their national heritage, an opportunity to involve themselves and actively participate in the running of and the formulation of policies in our country. When in 1974 the voting age was lowered to 18, the Government recognized the role which youth can play in the advancement of our political, economic, social and cultural development. From that day youth has not looked back. On the contrary, youth have influenced to a large extent the course of their own development, having gained access to the legislative and advisory bodies of our Government.

Through participation, development and peace, my country has endeavoured to give our young people the dignity and the power to choose between good and evil, the means to avoid the pitfalls of delinquency; to look for constructive solutions to their problems; to contribute to the development of society; to promote peace, mutual respect, solidarity, tolerance and understanding between peoples; and to involve themselves in decision-making.

If the aspirations of our youth are to be realized, we all have to protect humanity from the ills which it is experiencing, and ensure that the threat of nuclear war is eliminated for ever. Only by working together, taking positive and practical action, can we ensure that our young people face up to the challenges of everyday life and contribute their fair share to the well-being of our peoples - thus making a better world for all to live in.

Mrs. ABRAHAMS (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): I remember having heard a famous lawyer, also a great Spanish orator, Don Fernando de los Ríos, say something which has remained engraved on my memory, and which I think I should quote at the beginning of my statement as we commemorate the Year of Youth. He said:

"He who wastes his morning, wastes his day. He who wastes his youth, wastes his life."

The world today is filled with young people. In my country, Venezuela, 44 per cent of the population consists of people under 24, of whom, according to United Nations indicators, 20 per cent are concentrated in the 15-24 age group. Much the same is true for a large part of the world.

Using the words of another famous Spanish philosopher, José Ortega y Gasset, writing on the rise of the masses, we could say that today we are facing the rise of the young. What a great tragedy it would be if the world were to lose its young people. But we can also say, what a great blessing for mankind it would be if the rise of the young, that is to say, the preponderance of young people in the age composition of our nations, were to be transformed into a source of votive power for the building of a better future.

Consequently we are fully justified in holding this commemorative conference, whose spirit we fully share through the work done by the Advisory Committee, of which Venezuela is a member, in view of the initiative taken by the Romanian delegation which sponsored the General Assembly resolution designating this year as International Youth Year, an initiative which has earned Romania the congratulations of all.

If the proportion of young people is so much higher in the world today than ever before, it is logical that in the United Nations, an Organization so committed to the future, we should ask ourselves what we are doing to give young people a

(Mrs. Abrahams, Venezuela)

creative role in which they can use their potential.

Naturally, there may be different approaches to the problem. We may be tempted at first to discuss the philosophical aspect of youth. That is a broad subject and I do not wish to become involved in arguments that might be more appropriate to another forum. But something can be said on that score without going too far. Young people are living in a difficult world which we need not describe in detail here. But that leads us to understand without further argument one conclusion, which is, that difficulty involves being troubled, and young people are troubled today by many factors. To defend themselves they need training but also experience. This indicates to us that facing today's world of upheaval young people should heed, as the saying goes, the voice of experience, that wisdom which only time can give us, but which is not difficult to learn, because it may be found in books, in the lives of other outstanding individuals, and in the lessons of history.

To look at things philosophically would be piece of advice that young people could bear in mind when dealing with the bewildering difficulties of today's world.

We arrive in the world and we wish to act as if nothing had existed before us. Existentially, in the terms of the French philosopher, Jean Paul Sartre, each man is his own project. "I am myself and my circumstances" was another phrase of Ortega y Gasset. But it is not always so. That "I" is conditioned by many factors, by the past. No one ventures into life absolutely alone. And that is what we must understand if we wish to give our time a more organic vision, free of facile forms of individualism and juvenile intolerance.

There have been times when there has been talk of conflict between the generations. Today this has become more complex than in the past. There have been historic conflicts. Young people have asked their elders to yield their places.

(Mrs. Abrahams, Venezuela)

It is natural that one generation should take over from another. Sometimes this call for change is linked to past failures in the older leadership. At other times it is a matter of intellectual or political issues. But today it is a much broader problem. It can be found at all levels of life. The communications media, which disseminate everything, also disseminates the reasons for this generational conflict. Unbridgeable spiritual gaps seem to be opening up between all the elements of the social order.\*

At the end of the last century and at the beginning of this century the term "generation gap" became fashionable. The famous Russian novelist Turgenev wrote the novel Fathers and Sons. It dealt with the drama of the era when the continuity between the generations was broken. Once the dialogue was broken, and the experience of others became irrelevant, it was easy for conflict to arise.

In Latin America, which is a new continent, to be a young continent is as if by natural right, and young people have played a very important role in our historic and cultural achievements.

But whatever the role of young, be they rebellious or accustomed to order, the past experience throughout the ages always teaches us one lesson: we cannot build on nothing, we must learn from others, and we must give up false ideals. The French poet, Alfred de Vigny, was right in saying that a true life is a youthful ideal fulfilled in maturity.

How different is this problem of young people dealt with in this unique forum of the United Nations from what it would have been in past times, when the media were not so powerful, when we did not have today's knowledge of a global and largely decolonized world, and when there was not such a variety of analyses and problems. This is the new dimension in which we are dealing with the problem of

---

\* Mr. Agius, (Malta), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mrs. Abrahams, Venezuela)

youth; which leads me to think, in somewhat philosophical terms, that our era being the era when the conflict between the generations has emerged most violently and in so many different forms, we must provide young people with a bridge of understanding with other generations and place them in a more integrated situation. The United Nations has essentially been an ideal of co-operation, and one of the most essential forms of co-operation. Given the magnitude of the challenges that face young people today, our Organization should serve as a broad setting and provide a fundamental link so that the generations can understand each other, so that history can play its role as a great teacher, so that the past and the present can transmit their message to the future.

We have seen generations going off to war, we have seen countries losing the flower of their youth, we have seen the errors committed because of the lack of give-and-take between generations, we have seen hatred sown between fathers and sons. The United Nations could be a force for better understanding, and play the role of a spiritual or moral mediator. We might think that this is an additional burden, a far-fetched view of the aims of this Organization; but who knows whether the world of the future may not consider us right in saying this, and that a world divided between States may be replaced by a united world, while at the same time there may be a continuing dialogue and a sense of unity between the young and their elders.

Our delegation is aware that we must also address the problem of youth from a more specific standpoint. This statement affirms the high priority my country gives to attending to this vast stratum of society.

In this regard we can say proudly that we have incorporated into our national five-year plans policies designed to carry out activities to meet the needs of children and young people in the areas of health, nutrition, education, employment,



(Mrs. Abrahams, Venezuela)

recreation and culture. We are fully aware of our responsibility to this sector, and we believe that one of the ways of accelerating the process of development in Venezuela is to achieve the aims and objectives designed to meet the needs and aspirations of this ever-increasing sector of the population.

(Mrs. Abrahams, Venezuela)

To meet that challenge, Venezuela in its national plans has given a key role to education, and we were satisfied to see that it was a priority shared by all countries that attended the Second Regional Latin American-Caribbean Meeting for the International Year of Youth, held in Montivideo, Uruguay, from 26 to 29 August 1985. At that meeting, organized by the the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the meeting's President said, "A policy for youth is basically a policy for education". She also put forward, on behalf of the delegations present there, the role education can play in the process of nation-building and in establishing democratic forms of social life. We fully agree with, and consider very important, the statement that "restricted access to education and the consequent lack of vocational training perpetuate the cycle of poverty and hamper participation by young people in development".

As regards the results of the Second Regional Latin American-Caribbean Meeting for the International Year of Youth, my delegation is deeply satisfied to note that among the resolutions adopted by consensus is one dealing with solidarity with steps taken in favour of peace in Central America by the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group and another on measures to eliminate drug trafficking. Venezuela, together with other Latin American countries, has played an active part in subsequent implementation activities and initiatives which have a close link with the well-being of youth, the family, the community and society in general.

Without disregarding the invaluable role of education in youth policies, as I said earlier my delegation believes that Governments should carry out an integrated policy, and by that I mean that health, nutrition, recreation, culture and employment are closely interrelated and that, for the achievement of aims in the sphere of youth, they must all be seriously considered together without losing sight of the family setting when it comes to planning these integrated actions.

(Mrs. Abrahams, Venezuela)

Unfortunately Venezuela and many other countries of the third world are suffering the impact of one of the most acute economic crises mankind has experienced. This has taken the form of the cancelling or postponing of social projects and programmes for the most vulnerable groups of society, including children, women and young persons. That should be cause for joint reflection by governmental and non-governmental institutions and, in general, all who are related to the sphere of youth in order to formulate a global strategy designed to overcome the problems that beset youth and their participation in development. From all of this should emerge a common interest in enhancing activities for technical co-operation for the benefit of youth in developing countries. Such activities obviously should be stimulated within the United Nations and its system and should include the continuation of the Fund for the International Youth Year beyond 1985, thus giving applicability to Article 3 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Similarly, we consider that the Commission for Social Development of the Economic and Social Council should pay more attention to the subject of youth.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to emphasize, as we have ever since the creation of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, of which we are a member, that my country is prepared to co-operate in all activities that will lead to the achievement of well-being for that broad sector of the population.

For that reason, we shall be one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/40/L.3, through which, inter alia, we shall be endorsing the norms established by the Advisory Committee and urging Governments and organizations to fulfil them.

Mr. CSERVENY (Hungary): For the Hungarian delegation it is of symbolic significance that the present World Conference for the International Youth Year is being held during the fortieth anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly. It is symbolic because the main concerns of youth, the interlinking aspects of "participation, development and peace", fittingly express the efforts of

(Mr. Cserevny, Hungary)

the world Organization to arouse international interest in a whole series of global questions and to encourage the joint search for a solution to these problems, including the situation of youth. For this reason my Government considers it extremely important that throughout its 40-year history the United Nations has always devoted special attention to youth problems.

It will be impossible to solve the problems of the youth of the world without taking into consideration the international political conditions fundamentally influencing the situation of youth. In this context special priority should certainly be given to the fact that the problems of youth can only be solved if peaceful and secure international conditions are created. My generation has a specific vested interest in lasting peace. What kind of future we shall inherit from our elders is a matter of great importance to us. The arms race has particularly severe economic effects on those who wish to study, work and found a family. It is youth that reacts to conflicts most rapidly. Since peace is a precondition for every meaningful activity, work for peace and disarmament is our primary concern. Therefore, in the present situation, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic considers it the common responsibility of all countries to do their utmost to reduce the threat of nuclear war, to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space, to mould international relations in the spirit of détente and mutually beneficial co-operation, to continue actions aimed at doing away with the vestiges of colonialism, apartheid, all forms of neo-colonialism, including cultural and information neo-colonialism, to search for ways and means to prevent local wars and conflicts by collective efforts and to move towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

International Youth Year has offered a good opportunity for the different Governments and States to take stock of their achievements in youth policy and of the tasks still awaiting solution.

(Mr. Cservedy, Hungary)

In our country it is important for young persons starting their careers to know what their proposals are. Above all, young people expect from the future meaningful work, material prosperity and a possibility of participating in the management of the common affairs of society. We in Hungary can satisfy that demand only by examining and handling the problems of youth as part of the endeavour to attain our general social and political objectives. Consequently we are striving to take into consideration the present and future needs of the young generation in the stage of elaboration of social policy programmes. It is generally recognized in my country that the elaboration and implementation of such programmes are inconceivable without the responsible, active participation of youth. In our view the relationship between adult society and youth should be characterized not by paternalism but by recognition of shared responsibilities and burdens and by partnership.

I can confidently state in this Assembly too that the principles being realized in my country in the spirit of those objectives have proved to be correct, have stood the test of time and have become an integral part of our political life and public thinking.

In 1971 our National Assembly passed the Act on Youth, which, in harmony with our youth policy objectives, defines the rights and obligations of youth and the responsibility of society as a whole for youth.

We have established a system of youth parliaments under which responsible State, economic and other leaders of work places are required to report to those forums on local experiences in the implementation of the Youth Law and to define future tasks in agreement with young people.

(Mr. Cservedy, Hungary)

The State Committee for Youth has been set up to co-ordinate and control the youth-related activities of the Government. The past decade has seen an improvement in the situation of youth as a whole. In keeping with its level of development, our society ensures the conditions for study, work, access to culture and a balanced life. At the same time, it is true that differences in family incomes, family backgrounds, cultural levels and ways of life still cause differentiations among young people as to choice of career, possibilities for further study, and creation of conditions for an independent life. In the past years, important measures have been taken to help those starting their careers and setting up a family. As a result, the conditions for bringing up children have also considerably improved.

In the Hungarian People's Republic almost 40 per cent of the economically active population are under 30 years of age, and full employment is guaranteed. In the past years young people have also acquired higher levels of professional skill.

Work is a decisive factor both in the integration of youth into society and in the prosperity of the individual. Ensuring suitable employment opportunities for those finishing school, and, as far as possible, openings corresponding to their qualifications, continues to be in the basic interest of our society, including youth.

In working for the attainment of the objectives of its youth policy, the Government actively relies upon the most varied social organizations of youth as well. It considers the Hungarian Communist Youth Union - the united political mass organization of Hungarian youth - to be an important political factor in the institutional system of the country. That organization plays an active part in the formation of the policy of the Hungarian Government, representing and promoting the interests of young people.

(Mr. Cserveny, Hungary)

From the very beginning my Government has been actively committed to the preparations for the observance of International Youth Year, recognizing it as an important step towards the further promotion of United Nations activities dedicated to the needs, problems and aspirations of youth and, at the same time, to providing the young generation with better opportunities for involvement in the work of the United Nations system.

The events organized within the framework of International Youth Year have offered good opportunities in our youth-related political work. In this context the historic anniversaries celebrated in 1985 have been of great importance for us. I refer in particular to the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the historic victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism; that was the outstanding event, for that victory brought the Hungarian people liberty, the most important condition for our national advancement.

A renewed assessment of the lessons of the past, the identification of the problems of the present and the definition of our tasks in creating a peaceful future are also at the focus of the documents submitted by the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly to this World Conference for its consideration. These reports and the draft resolutions are useful and valuable and can provide, on the basis of the experience accumulated during the International Youth Year, a framework and orientation for future actions aimed at achieving the objectives formulated in the three-part motto of the Year. The guidelines for further planning and appropriate follow-ups in the field of youth, elaborated by the Advisory Committee of the International Youth Year, are the first attempt in the history of this world Organization to collect the experiences that can be useful for Member States in realizing their national youth policies. On behalf of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, I propose for adoption the draft resolutions that have been submitted. At the same time, I should like to underline

(Mr. Cserevny, Hungary)

that, in our opinion, more active attention to youth does not necessarily mean renewal of the form of the present structure of the United Nations. What is needed is a renewal of substance, and for that the proposed resolutions can be of great help to us.

Allow me to focus now on two initiatives, without attempting to cover all aspects of the various events of International Youth Year. In September of this year, at the initiative of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, the Conference on European Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policies took place in Budapest, with the participation of representatives from 23 countries and three international organizations. The event, organized on the occasion of International Youth Year, was attended by Government experts, who exchanged views on the structures, methods, results and problems of youth policy in the countries of Europe. It was the first time in the continent's history that representatives of so many European Governments came together to define the framework and possible methods of co-operation in youth policy. The summary report submitted to the Assembly on behalf of my Government reflects the spirit of that Conference and the common willingness of the delegates to extend European co-operation to a new field - namely, youth policy. As is stated in that document, the Government representatives agreed that only peace, the stopping of the arms race, and nuclear disarmament can be the basis of any kind of co-operation. We consider it a historic step that the possible concrete framework and new forms of bilateral as well as multilateral co-operation in this field have evolved from the Budapest Conference.

The other event I should like to mention is the Twelfth World Festival of Youth and Students. This was a major youth event, organized by non-governmental organizations in Moscow within the framework and in the spirit of International Youth Year. My delegation believes that, given the present international



(Mr. Cserveny, Hungary)

situation, the significance of that event, which was attended by youth representatives from 157 countries and West Berlin as well as from 86 international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, is reflected mainly in the timing of the Festival, in the political and geographical breadth of participation, in the variety and comprehensive nature of the themes discussed, in the high standard of different political and cultural programmes, and in the content of its final document. The Festival contributed to the continuation of dialogue and co-operation among youth organizations of different political and ideological orientations.

I consider it important to mention that the political programme of the World Youth Festival laid particular emphasis on extensively publicizing among the 20,000 young participants the objectives of International Youth Year and of the United Nations. In our view, the Festival once again underlined the importance of the involvement of youth and student non-governmental organizations in the activities of the United Nations. It is in that context that we advocate an improvement of the channel of communication between the United Nations and the international youth and student non-governmental organizations within the framework of the Geneva informal meetings.

The Hungarian delegation is participating in this World Conference with the intention and mandate to contribute, by its activity and proposals, to the full success of this event. I can assure this body that our Government is ready to act and work for the realization of the jointly elaborated programmes and the adopted resolutions in the spirit of the objectives of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. We are confident that our World Conference will contribute to improving the international climate and strengthening the forces of peace, which have to carry on their consistent work for peace in 1986 as well, the year proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year of Peace.

Mrs. ASHTON (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): Although there are features common to the problems facing youth in all parts of the world, there is not the slightest doubt that youth in developing countries such as Bolivia is facing challenges much more acute than those faced by youth in the developed countries. Consequently, we applaud the initiative of the representative of Romania in sponsoring the resolution that gave birth to International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace.

At the Second Regional Latin America and Caribbean Meeting for International Youth Year, held in Montevideo from 26 to 29 August 1985, the Secretary-General of the Economic Commission for Latin America characterized the present period as one of the existence of challenges born of ethical reasons and the need to advance towards more equitable societies based on their own resources and the innovative and creative capacity of the region itself. The document emanating from that meeting shows evidence of the situation of conflict as far as our young people are concerned. At that meeting complementary policies for the regional plan of action for Latin America and the Caribbean in connection with International Youth Year were adopted.

The historic mission that youth should fulfil in our developing countries is painfully restricted by the extent of the economic crisis which, inter alia, has brought about a high rate of unemployment that has especially affected youth. It is painful to note that because of the great migration of young people from the rural areas to the cities the number of young people in situations of poverty and hunger is increasing. This is due to the economic recession, which affects young women and the young rural and sub-urban population in particular.

The social function of the State is completely constrained because of the lack of resources caused by the foreign debt. It is difficult for our Governments to provide greater resources for education, health and housing for young people

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

if the barriers preventing the full participation and integration of young people of both sexes, who are living in difficult circumstances - because they belong to ethnic or cultural minorities, or are refugees, or are living in conditions of extreme poverty - are obstacles to the understanding of their situation. The direct participation of youth in laying the foundations for mankind's future and the valuable contribution youth can make to the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equity should be considered of fundamental importance to the economic and social restructuring of the developing countries.

We have before us a discouraging picture: malnutrition, which affects hundreds of millions of children, instead of being overcome is being aggravated, and that does not make a future generation of strong and healthy young people very likely. In the contemporary world there is deep dissatisfaction and concern and these are reflected very clearly and evidently in the attitudes of contemporary youth. Young people today have acquired a certain sense of uncontrolled violence, of which there are extremely alarming manifestations. One does not have to be particularly discerning to see the signs of their discontent in their social behaviour.

The constant danger of a possible outbreak of nuclear war and at the same time the inability of man to find formulas for peaceful and civilized coexistence have aroused justified fear among young people throughout the world. For that reason, and in order to celebrate International Youth Year in the best way, the nuclear Powers should arrive at a clear and responsible compromise in order to achieve peace on our planet.

During the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations we heard assertions of peace and friendship from many quarters. We should echo and

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

support all initiatives in favour of disarmament and international détente so that they may become a true process of peace and just international coexistence. Once that objective has been achieved, the young will recover their confidence in their own future and at the same time commit themselves to the task of creating a better future for all. Youth, given encouragement and prospects of peace, will devote their full energies and personal resources to the economic and social development of the peoples.

The motto for International Youth Year is "Participation, Development, Peace". Without peace it is not possible to achieve development and without development peace is precarious.

The participation of young people in political life does not depend mainly on the institutional recognition of their rights; it depends also on the level of development of their social life, their social involvement and their capacity to organize themselves and on the mobilization of resources and the administration of services.

Similarly, the commitment of young people to a democratic social order constitutes the basis for the continuing existence of that order and the condition for its ongoing renewal. Consequently we should try to prevent difficulties and feelings of exclusion among young people that may make it impossible for them to identify with the democratic activities of their country. Furthermore, young people may find themselves in situations of economic want and political disenfranchisement when it comes to decisions of their Governments which could affect their lives.

My delegation wishes to draw attention to the commendable work of the Secretary-General, who says in his report:

"Efforts have been intensified, despite limited resources, to ensure that

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

youth and youth organizations are informed of activities of the United Nations system and of the importance of the direct participation of youth in economic and social development." (A/40/631, para.101)

Recently, in another forum, during the World Conference on women, in Nairobi, and in the context of International Youth Year, emphasis was laid on the importance of the specific needs of young people in the recommendations formulated by the United Nations Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and the actions planned at the national, regional and international levels for young women throughout the world, particularly in the field of education and within the framework of International Youth Year, were welcomed with satisfaction.

We cannot fail to note the concern recently expressed at the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in particular with regard to the prevention of crime, and social justice in the related trials, including the ultimate fate of the victims of the offence, the role of young people in contemporary society and, particularly, research into youth delinquency and juvenile court systems. Principles, guidelines and priorities were approved with regard to research into juvenile delinquency, and we hope that the result will be that young people who may be potential delinquents will instead have a healthy future, filled with peace.

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

Drug trafficking which is on the increase and which corrupts consciences, undermines customs, destroys health and limits productive capacity, has become a quagmire into which our defenseless and condemned societies are being dragged. This social scourge finds that young people are its easiest victims. This is the best reason to protect young people from the tentacles of the drug traffic.

Among the most serious concerns of my Government is its tireless struggle to find the most effective way to fight drug trafficking. It wishes to enlist young people in an educative and preventive crusade against this evil, but little progress can be made if we act in isolation. Offences related to drug trafficking are numerous and international in character. Consequently, they must also be tackled at the international level if we wish to achieve some possibility of success, which is feasible only if multilateral, concerted and co-ordinated action is taken.

It is absolutely necessary that the national committees set up for the preparation and observance of International Youth Year should incorporate in their programmes appropriate measures to instruct the masses in and increase their awareness of the dangers of drugs and the need to achieve their complete eradication.

In Bolivia, activities connected with International Youth Year are the responsibility of the National Directorate of Youth, which is subordinate to the General Secretariat of Youth and Sports. It is this latter organization that is entrusted with this important task, whose basic objective is the preservation and maintenance of the cultural, moral and civic values of the Bolivian people through the promotion, training and organization of young people, so that they can participate actively in the formulation of the decisions that will of course affect their future.

(Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia)

Among the main objectives of the General Directorate are programmes to promote among young people a greater social awareness of joint constructive efforts to promote regional and national development. We have also found that there is a need to train the personnel responsible for the advancement and orientation of youth in programmes aimed at ensuring their broader participation in community development.

The activities planned by my Government demonstrate that International Youth Year is accorded the greatest possible importance and it is felt that we must undertake a commitment to improve the situation of young people, by enabling them to participate more actively and on a larger scale in the economic and social development plans of my country.

As was stated by the Secretary-General, the achievements during the Year should be consolidated in a general strategy and with the creation of appropriate machinery, making it possible to maintain interest at all levels in the situation and priority needs of young people.

We believe that young people should be trained in techniques of youth organization and leadership for their participation in national tasks, participating likewise in the objectives and aims of the nation's development plans. Young men and women who are active in national endeavours are the repository of our future.

Mr. GOKTURK (Turkey): It is indeed a pleasure for me to address the United Nations World Conference for International Youth Year at this fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. This solemn observance of the Year is a testimony to our common desire to address more effectively the problems and the expectations of our younger generation.

As has been rightly pointed out in the Follow-up Guidelines in the Field of Youth submitted to the General Assembly by the Advisory Committee for International Youth Year, the three themes of the Year, Participation, Development, Peace, are distinct, yet interrelated.

(Mr. Gokturk, Turkey)

Participation is described as the recognition that each person has the potential to judge and decide on matters that concern his or her life and has every opportunity of doing so. This, in our view, is the manifestation of basic individual rights inherent in human dignity, and must be safeguarded accordingly.

On the other hand, economic and social development contribute significantly to the effective enjoyment of these rights and enable the individual to enhance his or her own capabilities. Needless to say, an uninterrupted development process requires, among other things, a peaceful environment.

Therefore, all these themes are completely relevant to what we are discussing today.

As regards my own country, the formulation and effective implementation of policies and programmes relating to youth have always been in the forefront of the political, economic and social development efforts of the Turkish Republic, ever since its inception in 1923.

Census figures in Turkey reveal that the number of people between 15 and 25 years of age constitute approximately 23 per cent of the total population. An active policy is being pursued to promote the well-being and progress of this segment of the population, and far-reaching programmes are being implemented, whose main tenets are reflected in our legislation and in the five-year development plans.

The main principle underlying Turkey's policy on matters relating to youth can be described as one which considers the younger generation as an active participant in the democratic process and in national efforts for development and for the maintenance of peace and stability.

This approach was initiated by Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, who entrusted the safeguarding of our State and our independence to Turkish youth. In line with this approach, we have always placed enormous trust in our youth as the foremost guarantee of our future and as the driving force of our society.



(Mr. Gokturk, Turkey)

Based on this historical tradition, policies and programmes relating to scientific and creative education, better living conditions, employment opportunities, eradication of illiteracy, combating the root causes of crime, violence and terrorism, encouragement of young people to participate in organized and voluntary activities at all levels of social life with the aim of enhancing their knowledge and readiness properly to address the problems affecting the country, and promoting peace and stability at national, regional and international levels, are being vigorously implemented.

Although the primary responsibility for policies relating to the problems of youth lie with the policy makers and authorities at national level, sound international co-operation and understanding is necessary to augment the opportunities for and to diminish the feelings of insecurity of, future generations who will also be called on to take over the same responsibilities to promote the well-being of their children.

It is with these considerations in mind that Turkey has always actively participated in activities within the framework of the United Nations aimed at finding ways to improve conditions for young people.

In connection with the observance of International Youth Year in Turkey, which was inaugurated by His Excellency President Kenan Evren on 28 December 1984, I should like to inform the Conference that 450 different activities were planned and implemented by the relevant Ministries and various organizations. These activities include a tree-planting project carried out all over Turkey; preventive education pertaining to drug and alcohol abuse; seminars on juvenile delinquency and youth criminality; a conference on international terrorism and youth; numerous social and cultural exchanges with other countries; professional training for disabled youth; protection and housing for vulnerable segments of youth; a campaign against illiteracy, and the establishment of a nation-wide youth theatre.

(Mr. Gokturk, Turkey)

We are now approaching the end of International Youth Year. However, our efforts should not lose their momentum. Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth already set forth a whole range of arrangements for activities at the national, regional and international levels. We commend the Advisory Committee for its meticulous work on the guidelines for action. These guidelines constitute a conceptual framework for our co-ordinated activities. Therefore, the list for proposed action is of an indicative nature for future work in this field and it should be implemented with flexibility, taking into account also the political, socio-economic and cultural differences and varying priorities of each country and region, which have been highlighted in a number of regional and international meetings on youth held throughout the Year.

Our task is a continuous one and we have every reason to maintain our spirit of co-operation in the years to come. One of the most important aspects of our common efforts is undoubtedly the promotion of mutual understanding among our younger generations. If we succeed in achieving this objective, it will constitute, we believe, a significant step forward in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Since Belgium's youth policies fall within the purview of the three cultural communities, each of them set up their own separate committee for International Youth Year, that is, the Youth Year committees of the Flemish, French and the German-speaking communities, respectively. Each committee set up its own programme of specific activities respecting the cultural identity of the community concerned. The spirit of co-operation which obtained among these three committees was one of the elements indicating the positive record of the International Youth Year in Belgium. This was particularly marked by a common approach to the significance of its themes.

(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

All the three committees immediately considered that the Year could not be simply regarded as a solemn celebration, a festive and prestigious occasion, but was rather an auspicious opportunity, through the creative expression of young people themselves, to draw up new forward-looking youth policies between now and the end of the century. The idea, therefore, was to launch lasting programmes responsive to the problems confronted by the new generation.

This is why the theme of participation was one which enjoyed pride of place, particularly since in Belgium this is the traditional way in which we approach youth policies, because this should not only be carried out "for young people" but particularly "with them".

This approach in all three committees was particularly evident because our country has a widespread and numerous network of associations which comprise different types of organizations, movements, services, youth hostels and centres whose working methods, as well as their philosophical and political options, are extremely varied.

The democratic topic of participation was not only in evidence at the level of these organizations, which were often the initiators of projects. Emphasis was also laid on the need better to organize the involvement of young people at the local level, particularly by setting up a number of committees as part of International Youth Year.

In this context, it was evidently necessary to engage in activities which were designed to promote the social and professional integration of young people in order to deal with anti-social attitudes, aloofness, reactions of rejection, or dropping out, various kinds of delinquency, violence, xenophobia, racism, disenfranchisement, alcoholism and drugs, which may affect young people, faced as they are with an economic and social crisis.

(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

Thus, a number of projects were designed to serve the most under-privileged categories of young people living in Belgium: young people out of work, young immigrants, young people who come from the most economically and culturally deprived environments.

Nevertheless, all these grave concerns in Belgium did not mean that equally intense activity was not devoted to the other two key issues; peace and development. First, a number of young people's organizations of different persuasions led to activity designed to arouse awareness on the questions of disarmament and the relationship between peace, the new economic order and the requirements of development. Furthermore, it was young people themselves who got themselves involved in a number of international co-operation projects, particularly in the form of the exchange of young people and work projects.

To sum up, the three Belgian committees felt that the Year would not have failed in its goal if the projects carried out in 1985 could be continued, intensified and developed in subsequent years.

Henceforth, in the three communities, the promoters of the most significant projects have already announced their readiness to continue the work which has been begun with the help of the public authorities.

The Flemish community's Steering Committee for International Youth Year, which was made up in equal numbers of representatives of non-governmental organizations and the competent ministries, initiated their work in accordance with the principles laid down by the United Nations by emphasizing the ideas and the desiderata which were most in keeping with the essential concerns of young people in Flanders.

The three international themes of the United Nations were spelled out in the form of eight priorities: community participation, young immigrants, the school

(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

situation, unemployment and young workers, peace, co-operation with developing countries, the legal status of young people and interesting schoolchildren in world affairs.

Within the Steering Committee, eight working groups were set up in order to devise appropriate legislative and structural measures to resolve certain problems or at least to make some start at improving the position of young people.

To avoid the Year ending on a barren note, various working groups also concern themselves with devising structures which would guarantee adequate participation of young people in all areas of political, economic, cultural and social life.

These working groups comprise, apart from young people, spokesmen of the non-governmental organizations concerned and, of course, representatives of the various ministries involved.

The Steering Committee used special techniques for presenting these themes to facilitate the discussions on these priorities. We should particularly single out, inter alia, the basispakketten. For each priority a kit was produced containing basic information, ideas for games, a bibliography, video cassettes, films, etc. These kits particularly demonstrate their utility where young people are meeting to deal in more detail with the various aspects of one of the priorities and to review the situation. Other techniques included a publicity campaign, which visited 20 towns in Flanders, involving musical and theatrical programmes chosen by the cities themselves and highlighting the eight priorities and a travelling exposition of eight art works called "Focus op jongeren", which illustrated these priorities.

To date, we can refer to the following as the principal achievements: a ministerial circular concerning the participation of young people at the community level; the projected exchange of young military personnel between the East and the West as part of the Helsinki Accords; a day on knowledge of world events in all

(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

schools; solidarity in the "S.O.S Racism" action ("Hands off my pal"); a meeting between young people, experts and representatives of labour and management dealing with the question of unemployment among young people; a ministerial circular regarding community development policies; a proposed bill for the equal treatment of young immigrants; a pamphlet which informs young people about their right to choose between military service and other possible options; a forum on the priorities of young immigrants, covering the subjects of unemployment, repatriation, the right to vote and racism.

Within the French-speaking community, the Committee for the International Youth Year based its action on the following options. In so far as possible, an effort was made to gear the initiatives of the community to activities based essentially on the self-expression and creativity of young people rather than on "services" which are thought up and organized to benefit them but without their actual direct participation; active participation in international events, focusing this participation on specific goals and in so far as possible avoiding academic contributions whose contents are simply designed to gratify their proponents rather than to serve the interests of young people.

(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

The Youth Council intends to prolong this activity, in both a critical and a constructive spirit, at international youth events likely to make a contribution towards international peace and solidarity: the drafting and enactment of legislation promoting the development of youth organizations, youth centres and community policies dealing with youth matters; developing the international mobility of young people; and upgrading the civil service and improving the status of conscientious objectors.

Apart from the implementation of these activities, I should like particularly to single out, without its being exhaustive, the list of some of the specific achievements of the French-speaking community: various groups of young people received support in organizing an IYY workshop, which made it possible for young people to make their voices heard on the following topics - education, employment, social involvement, peace, tourism, theatre, agriculture, racism and vandalism. Several young people from the French-speaking community were able to gain experience in a developing countries in the form of in-plant work, and various development projects. A number of social professional projects for young people put forward by youth organizations and youth centres were supported. The high point of the IYY in the French-speaking community was "Youth Week", which was held from 11 to 19 October 1985, providing a variety of events in the relevant fields throughout the French-speaking community. The opportunity provided by IYY was grasped to enable young people to express themselves on the main questions affecting their lives and their futures by means of a book of thoughts, called a White Book. This Book contained both a statement of the problem as well as certain proposals. It made it possible to foster numerous discussions in schools, young people's centres and hostels and also to get in touch with young people that were not members of organizations. The discussions and the reflections which were

(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

engendered by the White Book led to the publication of a second document, the Green Book, which will contain the proposals and claims of the French-speaking Youth Council for the promotion of medium-term global policy for youth.

International Youth Year has made it possible, above all, to establish the following key ideas within the German-speaking community.

Youth affairs should no longer be considered in terms of sensible use of leisure time but also as prophylactic social work. The growing complexity of our system, as well as the impact of the economic crisis, mean that there have to be resources making assistance and guidance available to young people. This implies that increased funds should be allocated to the persons employed in these centres.

In 1985 the Council of the German-speaking Community declared that it was prepared, to make such increased funds available in future.

The community as a global political and social structure should be geared, more than previously, to youth matters, for it is the public authority in the best position to access young people. That is why the Committee set up by the Executive of the German-speaking community for the International Youth Year attempted to draw up, in co-operation with community leaders, an approach to youth affairs at the community level which would help to create structures guaranteeing appropriate representation of the interests of its young people.

For the German-speaking community, which is the smallest of the three communities in Belgium in terms of numbers, contacts abroad are of particular importance. After all, the autonomy of a minority should not simply mean that young people are cut off from international events and withdraw into their immediate environment. The initiatives taken in this area during the Year will undoubtedly help to integrate young people from the German-speaking community adequately in existing and future systems for international exchanges among young people.



(Mr. Trouveroy, Belgium)

International Youth Year in itself has not led to any cataclysmic changes. Nevertheless, it has had a catalyzing effect and has contributed to bringing together during this period those active forces concerned with youth policies. There has thus been provided impetus for the changes that are needed.

Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The three words of the theme of International Youth Year - Participation, Development, Peace - in themselves constitute a broad agenda of the objectives we wish to achieve under this item.

The element we should emphasize as indispensable for the achievement of the three objectives is international co-operation, because in today's interdependent world it is not possible to achieve global results acting in isolation.

The full integration of young people and their participation in the various aspects of the life of each society, in such a way as to prepare them for the responsibilities they will assume in adult life, is the final goal towards which all of our efforts in this field should be aimed.

To achieve that participation, one must reach a level of development that provides real opportunities to all young people, enabling them to blossom and give free rein usefully to their creative capacity and their concerns.

The economic crisis we are experiencing, especially harsh for the developing countries, constitutes one of the main obstacles to the advancement of youth. It is precisely the young sectors of the active population who take the brunt of the effects of unemployment and under-employment. This is a serious matter economically, but even more so socially because of the enormous fund of frustration it generates, which is reflected in many cases in the negative way youthful energies are channelled.

(Mr. Villagra Delgado, Argentina)

In the promotion of youth we attach special importance to teaching and training, and we are convinced that all societies should make a special effort to provide genuine opportunities for young people to apply the knowledge they acquire.

Education should play its role by using differences between young people from various cultures or geographical areas in order to stimulate mutual understanding, tolerance and respect. This will allow us to derive a better understanding of our neighbours and facilitate the achievement of a peaceful future.

We also believe that the international community should adopt concerted measures designed to resolve the grave problems of young people particularly young women, in the developing world.

In order to achieve the harmonious social and economic development needed for the full participation by young people in society, peace is indispensable. Real progress is not possible in a climate of spreading violence or conflict, and threats to international peace and security constitute another major obstacle to the advancement of youth.

I should like to commend here the work done by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and to say that we are satisfied with its results.

The report presented to us by the Secretary-General in document A/40/256, contains the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the guidelines and directives providing a sound identification of many of the problems we must resolve in this sphere. We are convinced that all Governments and the international community as a whole should devote serious efforts to the implementation of those guidelines and directives.

The work of the Advisory Committee has been done and it is now the turn of Member States to demonstrate that they have the will to proceed to achievements.

(Mr. Villagra Delgado, Argentina)

This year in Argentina we have conducted a series of activities for International Youth Year; however, I shall confine myself to mentioning only the most important.

In May the first national multisectoral Congress of Argentine youth was held, with the participation of some 1,200 delegates from all sectors of society, political orientations and geographical areas of the country. The goals of the Congress was to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and dialogue among young people, to promote the participation of youth, to analyse the problems and requirements of today's Argentine youth and to prepare concrete proposals.

(Mr. Villagra Delgado,  
Argentina)

Some problems dealt with were related to politics, education, culture, health, work, peace, the family, community action, sports and leisure time, social communication media, national integration, Latin American integration, human rights, the environment, consumerism, rural life, indigenous communities, disenfranchisement, drug addiction and sexuality.

That Congress enabled Argentine youth to have a broad forum in which they could freely express their ideas and it provided an opportunity for dialogue in the exercise of democratic rights. I should point out that in my country youth participate actively in the political process and enjoy the right to vote from the age of 18.

Under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Centre for Social Development, a meeting took place in June on strategies and policies for youth participation in Latin America, at which numerous specialists analysed the situation of young people in our continent.

In addition, a meeting took place in Buenos Aires in July with the participation of youth on the subject of the abuse of drugs, and a meeting was held in August on voluntary work.

These are some of the many activities that took place in my country during the year. However, the most important aspect of all these events is that they provided an appropriate opportunity to increase awareness of the fact that the needs and objectives of youth are only a reflection of the needs and objectives of the world in general, of the world of today and of tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 9.35 p.m.