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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. HAMER (Netherlands)**

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 101: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/41/3 (chap. V, sect. A), A/41/70-S/17708, A/41/464, A/41/607, A/41/701; A/C.3/41/L.4 and Corr.1, A/C.3/41/L.5, A/C.3/41/L.34)

1. Mrs. COLL (Ireland) stressed that the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been jointly considered and adopted; that they formed a whole; that economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights were mutually reinforcing; that States should pursue policies conducive to their enjoyment by all persons; and that the two monitoring bodies established under the Covenants should perform their different functions with equal effectiveness.

2. It was regrettable that no progress had been made in the United Nations work on human rights towards identifying an approach conducive to enhancing the viability under international law of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The enjoyment by every individual of his or her right to an adequate standard of living would not automatically follow from the emergence at the international level of a particular set of economic conditions. The political will of States was always the decisive factor in determining whether individuals enjoyed their human rights. It was in the first instance States themselves had the responsibility to promote and protect all human rights. It was essential that United Nations human rights bodies should promote a sound grasp and appreciation both of the claims of each set of rights on its merits and of the inherent unity of the International Bill of Human Rights as an integral system of protection for the individual.

3. Her delegation saw value in the concept of the right to development, not as a new primary right, but rather as a potentially useful tool for integrating economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights in a manner which would serve to strengthen all human rights at the international level. The draft Declaration on the Right to Development (A/C.3/41/L.4) held out the promise that the concerns to which she had referred could perhaps be met. Subject only to its being amended so as to conform to common article 1.1 of both Covenants, her delegation would be able to join the consensus on the text.

4. Mrs. RODRIGUEZ PEREZ (Cuba) said that her delegation had repeatedly emphasized the need for recognition of the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. Individual human rights could not be viewed in the abstract and separated from collective rights such as the right to territorial integrity, the right to non-intervention in a State's affairs, the right to self-determination, the right of each people to select its own socio-economic and political system, and the sovereign right of peoples over their natural resources. One could not speak of human rights, individual or collective, when pressure was being exerted on peoples and individuals and when economic blocs were being established and attempts made to destabilize Governments.

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(Mrs. Rodriguez Perez, Cuba)

5. The right to development, as a collective and inalienable right, had been enshrined in various documents of the Non-Aligned Movement and in different resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Like peace, development was essential to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. There could be neither peace nor development without co-operation among nations based on the right of peoples to self-determination and on their right to development. Accordingly, the Non-Aligned Movement had promoted the elaboration of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

6. However, that Declaration had not been adopted because of the obstructionist attitude of some countries that historically bore the heaviest responsibility for the underdevelopment of the peoples of the third world. Her delegation, in a spirit of flexibility and co-operation, was prepared to work for a consensus on the matter and believed that if the recalcitrance of some delegations prevented that consensus, then the matter should be put to a vote.

7. Ms. ILIC (Yugoslavia) said the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development should be part of the continuing international process of defining human rights. The ultimate aim of development was the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and the fair distribution of its benefits. The pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially to enable them to achieve that goal and, to that end, international co-operation was essential.

8. The draft Declaration on the Right to Development (A/A.C/41/L.4) had been conceived as a consensus text and its adoption by consensus would contribute substantially to the future work and co-operation in that field and would enhance the cause of human rights. Some doubts had been expressed as to who would benefit from the Declaration. Her delegation wished to point out that the Declaration stemmed from rights already enshrined in various documents and would bring about a better and more meaningful life for everyone.

9. Mr. LEBAKIN (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the existing international human rights bodies and procedures required no major revision and that international co-operation in promoting human rights must be intensified through strict observance of the United Nations Charter and drawing the lessons of the past. Experience showed that better relations between States created a better environment for human rights. The International Covenants on Human Rights themselves had come into being at a time when the concept of peaceful coexistence and détente were gaining strength. A recent statement by the United States representative in the Committee had to be viewed within the context of an understanding of the relationship between human rights and the improvement of the international situation and removal of the threat of nuclear war.

10. The effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting human rights could be enhanced not by restructuring or innovation but by strengthening the existing system, acting on concepts already agreed upon and further accessions to the

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(Mr. Lebakin, Ukrainian SSR)

existing international human rights instruments. Any attempts at diktat or interference in matters relating exclusively to the domestic jurisdiction of States on the pretext of promoting human rights was inadmissible.

11. International co-operation in the area of human rights must also contribute to peace, mutual understanding and trust between countries and peoples, and that required the co-operation of States in exchanging objective information about the lives of their peoples. Human rights violations in situations that threatened international peace and security - situations arising from aggression, fascism, racism, apartheid and the suppression of national liberation movements - were the most serious ones and should be given due priority.

12. Mr. DAMASCENO VIEIRA (Brazil) said that his delegation welcomed the draft Declaration on the Right to Development because it set forth a balanced definition of that right, in both its collective and individual dimensions. It had been the need to provide a broader context and a more dynamic content to the economic, social and cultural rights recognized by the United Nations that had given birth to the idea of the right to development. The adverse consequences of underdevelopment were not confined to the sphere of economic and social rights, but rather spilled over into the realm of civil and political rights, threatening them in a very real way. Underdevelopment bred despair and people suffering from evils such as hunger and disease were not concerned with the luxury of the right to vote.

13. Democratic and pluralistic societies which many countries, including Brazil, were patiently and courageously trying to strengthen could not grow amidst unemployment, hunger and poverty. That was why Brazil deplored the burden of debt repayment requirements and condemned the protectionist policies of the developed countries which had exacerbated economic and social conditions in the third world and had made it more difficult for many Governments to adopt policies to ensure the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

14. The right to development could be realized only when the international community found the path to a just and equitable international economic order. For those reasons, Brazil reiterated its conviction that the right to development, in both its collective and individual dimensions, was an inalienable right and that it was necessary to embody it in a United Nations instrument such as the proposed draft Declaration which he hoped would be adopted by consensus.

15. Mr. FRAMBACH (German Democratic Republic) said that the current situation of human rights in the world made it clear that States would have to go further along that road. The goal set forth in the Charter was far from being attained. Under present international conditions of the arms race, fueled by certain imperialist States and their confrontation tactics and the ensuing threat of war, the progressive realization of human rights, indeed the survival of mankind, were jeopardized more than ever before. Peace was the primary prerequisite for the enjoyment of human rights and the right of peoples and individuals to live in peace was the foremost human right. Any true human rights policy must at all times also serve peace, disarmament and détente.

(Mr. Frambach, German Democratic Republic)

16. Besides peace, the most crucial issue today was the economic development of all States and peoples, the elimination of poverty, the protection of the environment and a meaningful utilization of resources. The complex nature of those problems added to the urgent need for co-operation in tackling them. The credibility of the human rights policy of any State at the international level was to be judged by the extent to which it assisted in the prevention and combating of human rights violations of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 32/130.

17. The human rights aspects of the establishment of a new international economic order were of crucial importance to the future. Many developing countries were suffering under the burden of oppressive debts and a host of social problems while developed capitalist countries were affected by crises and unemployment. The German Democratic Republic therefore shared the view that developing countries should strive for a new international economic order. Consequently, it advocated the codification of the right to development as a human right.

18. Mr. PARASHAR (India) said that any approach that sought to divide human rights into civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other, would lead to an artificial compartmentalization which would not serve the cause of promoting the full enjoyment of human rights. The right to development was also a human right, and one that could not be implemented without narrowing the gap between the standard of living of the developed and the developing countries. For the poor, human rights remained an abstraction, and bread without freedom was as much an affront to human dignity as freedom without bread. Hence the establishment of a new international economic order was more important than wondering whether bread or freedom should come first. The draft declaration was a step in the right direction and he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

19. National institutions were among the most effective guarantees for the promotion and protection of human rights and should be strengthened. Such institutions should help Governments remain aware of the needs and desires of their people and help disseminate information to make people conscious of their rights. Despite its uniqueness as a forum for dealing with human rights, the United Nations had inherent limitations and a balance therefore must be struck between the concept of sovereignty, the common law of civilized nations and the inalienable rights of human beings in order to promote fuller enjoyment of human rights.

20. Mr. ZHANG Zifan (China) said that China, like other developing countries, had always attached great importance to the right to development and hoped that the Declaration on the Right to Development (A/C.3/41/L.4) would be adopted at the current session of the General Assembly. The concept of the right to development as an undeniable human right, a concept long acknowledged by the international community, was also an expression of the desire of many third world countries that had achieved political independence to achieve the economic independence and strength they required to promote their social and cultural advancement and improve

(Mr. Zhang Zifan, China)

living standards. Human rights had to include the right to development, which must be interpreted as more than just an individual right because the development of individuals and that of countries and nations were complementary and inseparable. The draft Declaration had rightly stressed self-determination, sovereignty over natural resources and making man the subject of development.

21. Development meant not only economic, social and cultural advancement but also national independence and political democracy. China had learned from its own experience that the participation of the people in management and decision-making was an important prerequisite for economic development, which in turn provided the basis for economic, social, cultural and political rights. His delegation agreed with the preamble of the draft Declaration that all human rights and fundamental freedoms were interdependent and inseparable.

22. The right to development was indispensable not only to the developing countries, where human rights were currently being threatened by poverty, hunger and backwardness arising from a serious economic situation, but also to the developed countries, whose prosperity, in an economically interdependent world, could not survive the perennial underdevelopment and poverty of the others.

23. Mrs. DIEGUEZ (Mexico) said that the right to development was an inalienable human right. Effective promotion of human rights required effective national and international development policies. Unfortunately, with the adverse international economic situation, the problem of development had become much more difficult. Elaboration of the Declaration on the Right to Development, however, was not a response to temporary circumstances, but was rather part of the evolution of international human rights norms.

24. In 1982, the Mexican Government had decided to incorporate the principles of development into its Constitution. Mexico's efforts in favour of a new international economic order and the adoption of disarmament which would release resources for economic and social development were well known. In that context, Mexico viewed development as an overall internationally co-ordinated process of steady economic growth and equitable distribution of wealth.

25. Development was also a political issue, which presupposed national independence, the rights of peoples to self-determination and equal opportunities for all individuals. For that reason, it was incorrect to assume that promotion of the right to development could undermine individual guarantees, or that there was a basic incompatibility between recognized human rights and the right to development. Development was the right of every human being individually, and the right of peoples collectively.

26. It was Mexico's firm conviction that member countries should adopt the Declaration on the Right to Development. Much time had been invested into drafting a text that truly reflected all the concerns of the international community. In particular, the developing countries and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and regional groups had displayed a spirit of co-operation. That same constructive attitude must prevail in order to achieve a consensus on the Declaration on the Right to Development.

27. Mr. SCHWANDT (Federal Republic of Germany) said that legitimate international concern over human rights violations was not a form of interference in internal affairs, as certain Governments contended. Rather, it was the obligation of the international community to support all efforts to give practical effect to the rights of the individual.

28. The Federal Republic of Germany attached special importance to the consideration of new procedural, institutional and conceptual approaches to guaranteeing human rights. For, notwithstanding the Organization's impressive normative achievements, there were still inadequacies in the relevant human rights mechanisms. The credibility of the United Nations depended upon its willingness to deal with human rights violations. Although the primary responsibility for protecting human rights lay with States, the United Nations must be rendered more capable of addressing the issue effectively. In the past, differences in culture and legal systems had been obstacles to the application of human rights standards. It was time to focus on procedures and mechanisms which would give effect to human rights instruments.

29. The Federal Republic of Germany was committed to both improving existing machinery and creating new machinery to ensure the observance of human rights. His delegation believed that a High Commissioner for Human Rights would be able to deal with serious violations at times when the Commission on Human Rights was not in session. It also welcomed a number of proposals made previously in the Third Committee and in the Commission on Human Rights, including the establishment of fact-finding bodies and a thorough reporting system. Of particular importance were advisory services, which should not be limited to countries emerging from a period of human rights violations.

30. His Government approached new concepts with an open mind, among them the right to development. A precise definition of the right to development would avoid friction arising from different interpretations. The Federal Republic of Germany was therefore deeply concerned that the General Assembly had taken up the question of the right to development before the Working Group had formulated recommendations on the issue.

31. Although it might prove difficult, a consensus on the right to development was essential. It was important to distinguish clearly between the rights and responsibilities of individuals, on the one hand, and of States in international relations on the other. The concept of human rights dealt with individual rights and freedoms, and his Government saw no reason to change that concept.

32. Mr. VARKONYI (Hungary) said that the United Nations had successfully fulfilled one of its most important tasks - the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. And yet, despite the significant progress made, the international community had not always been able to put an end to massive and flagrant human rights violations such as apartheid.

(Mr. Varkonyi, Hungary)

33. Indiscriminate violence and human rights violations were assuming distressing proportions in a highly unstable world. That made it all the more necessary to ensure strict compliance with relevant United Nations instruments. A general improvement in the international situation and the elimination of the threat of nuclear war would intensify international co-operation in the area of human rights.

34. Any successful discussion of human rights, however, would first require a genuine appreciation of the diversity of social, political and legal systems in the world. That would be the first step toward guaranteeing the most important human rights: the right to life and the right of peoples to peace, freedom and independence. The right to live in peace was the essential prerequisite to the full enjoyment of human rights, especially in a nuclear age. Peace, more than the absence of armed conflicts, meant a dynamic process of friendly relations among States.

35. The right to development had increasingly become the subject of discussion. The International Covenants on Human Rights were powerful instruments for the promotion of national development and international co-operation, and greater attention should be given to them. As a number of States represented in the Committee were not yet parties, universal participation in those Covenants should be a priority task. Adoption of the draft Declaration on the Right to Development (A/C.3/41/L.4) would represent a further step forward. Implementation of the right to development was of crucial importance at a time when the world's future depended upon reducing disparities within the international community.

36. There were many obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights, ranging from inadequate legislation, to complicated bureaucratic structures. Still, it was necessary to improve international legislation on human rights from time to time. Hungary, however, was convinced that increasing the effectiveness of the existing arrangements would be more fruitful than the creation of new ones. Establishing the post of United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, for example, would not automatically yield the anticipated results. On the contrary, that would lead to increased bureaucratization of the system. Hungary was prepared to co-operate with all other delegations in future human rights endeavours, and to contribute to the full implementation of the existing human rights conventions.

37. Mr. TOBAR-ZALDUMBIDE (Ecuador) said that Ecuador's innovative proposal for an annual report by the Secretariat on the observance of human rights in each Member State would enhance the objectivity and impartiality of the Organization. The document could be modelled on other United Nations reports dealing with social and economic conditions throughout the world. It could be drawn up with the participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the bodies established under existing international human rights instruments. Participating countries would lend strength and credibility to such a system by informing world public opinion on the observance of human rights in their own territories.

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(Mr. Tobar-Zaldumbide, Ecuador)

38. In Ecuador, human rights were scrupulously observed. Under a democratic system, free, universal elections, unrestrained activity by political parties, freedom of opinion and freedom of the press were guaranteed. Ecuador also defended human rights at the sub-regional and regional levels in Latin America, and had ratified all the international human rights instruments.

39. Proclamation of the right to development would lead to a more comprehensive appreciation of the whole range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The right to development was based on equal access to its benefits, and was a logical extension of the right to self-determination. The international community must understand how important it was for development to occur simultaneously and equally in every part of the globe.

40. Although the draft Declaration on the Right to Development did not fully meet the aspirations of the developing world, a consensus was none the less necessary to adopt it. Ecuador was certain that in the interest of achieving a consensus, there would be less insistence at the forty-first session on amendments that had been presented at the fortieth session.

41. Mr. DAZA VALENZUELA (Chile) said that on numerous occasions, Chile had already declared its support for the Declaration on the Right to Development. Indeed, that right was a pre-requisite to the full realization of all other human rights. The Chilean Government attached great importance to the right to development, and in fact, 65 per cent of its budgetary expenditures were earmarked for social programmes, such as housing, health and education. A consensus on a declaration on the right to development would be a significant step within the international community.

42. Once a purely national concern, human rights had increasingly become a matter of international competence, and in that connection, the United Nations had a singular responsibility. Chile had always demonstrated its acceptance of that competence and its willingness to co-operate with the United Nations. As a matter of fact, Chile's co-operation remained unsurpassed by any of the other countries levelling accusations against it. However, alongside the legitimate adoption of international human rights instruments, a disturbing tendency had developed. Far from promoting respect for human rights, it exploited the cause of human rights for the attainment of biased political objectives. Those objectives were being pursued by harsh dictatorships which denied the very concept of human rights to their own citizens. Such was the case with the countries within the Soviet orbit.

43. Selective criticism on human rights issues had marred the credibility of the United Nations. Silence was another of the Organization's serious faults. Through its silence the Organization had been transformed into a passive accomplice of intolerable situations. It had not monitored the observance of human rights universally. Neither had its political bodies - the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Human Rights Commission - discharged their responsibilities fully.

(Mr. Daza Valenzuela, Chile)

44. The accusations against Chile were concrete evidence that delegations were politically biased and lacking in objectivity. His delegation therefore enthusiastically supported the establishment of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights who would act on the basis of universality, objectivity and non-discrimination. Paradoxically, the countries which had strongly opposed the establishment of such a post were the very countries which had made use of human rights instruments for political ends and had blocked any action against ideological allies. Those countries could never withstand the test of serious, objective scrutiny. His delegation was convinced that through the establishment of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations would regain the respectability it needed to promote such a noble cause.

45. Mr. OGURTSOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the important existing international human rights instruments were an expression of the international community's concern for human rights. They should be supplemented by additional ones covering such matters as the rights of children and migrant workers, as well as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

46. All human rights were indivisible and interrelated, but primary attention must be focused on combating those gross and mass violations that resulted from apartheid, racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign hegemony and occupation, and on the establishment of a new international economic order to provide the material basis for giving effect to those rights. The human rights bodies of the United Nations could be most effective if guided by the excellent principles laid down in General Assembly resolution 32, 190. Those bodies were already well equipped to deal with human rights issues and any attempt to supplement them with some kind of Commissioner for Human Rights could only be harmful. Such a politically motivated proposal ran counter to the Charter, would undermine the work of existing bodies and result in inadmissible interference in the internal affairs of States.

47. His own country had ratified the most important human rights instruments, and reported regularly to their monitoring bodies on its faithful implementation of them. In his country, human rights were constitutionally protected and implemented in practice.

48. International co-operation in promoting human rights was possible only in a climate of international peace and security and measures must therefore be taken to prevent a nuclear war, stop the arms race, achieve disarmament, eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and racism and establish a new international economic order. His delegation approved the text of the draft Declaration on the Right to Development (A/C.3/41/L.4) as a good basis for the final Declaration, but felt that it should contain a provision stipulating that safeguarding the rights of all States to peaceful and free development was an essential pre-condition for the effective implementation of all human rights.

49. The representative of the United States, a country in which the army of the homeless and the unemployed was growing, had asserted the shameful notion that the State and its organs had no obligation to stop the activities of Fascist, Nazi and

(Mr. Ogurtsov, Byelorussian SSR)

extreme rightist and racist organisations. That showed a lack of respect for all the principles upon which the United Nations, an organization born of the struggle against nazism, was born. His country hoped that an international conference covering the whole range of human rights issues, where many problems remained, could be organized with a view to finding a peaceful solution to them.

50. Mr. MEZZALANA (Italy) said that, while the United Nations had achieved remarkable success in the comprehensive codification of generally accepted rules in the field of human rights, much still remained to be done. Nevertheless, while it was important to relate efforts to the changing realities of the contemporary world, caution should be exercised in introducing elements of confusion in the already well-developed system of international human rights instruments.

51. In recent years, the international community had been confronted with the emergence of the new concept of the right to development, the very definition of which was indeed the first obstacle on the way to its full recognition. Many facets of that right had already been dealt with through international covenants and conventions, declarations and resolutions. It might therefore be speculated whether the present exercise should not be regarded as the summing-up of results achieved so far.

52. A distinction should be drawn between the right to the development of human beings, and that of States as such. The human being was the centre of the development process and consequently must be the main subject and beneficiary of development. If that basic assumption was connected with the prime responsibility of States to make the development of peoples possible, the outcome might well be the overall weakening of human rights protection.

53. The ambitious programme developed by the United Nations over the years aimed at reviewing the overall structure of economic relations among States so as to give special consideration to the problems of developing countries was still far from arriving at a framework of generally accepted rules of behaviour. It was necessary for all to be aware of the risk of weakening the protection of human rights by linking the rights of the single person with the rights or obligations of States in regard to development.

54. Mr. BASHIR (Pakistan) said that his delegation attached the utmost importance to the adoption by consensus of the Declaration on the Right to Development, that right being a logical corollary of the right of peoples to self-determination. The right of newly-independent peoples to development was being subverted by new forms of hegemony, threats or the use of force, foreign intervention, occupation, aggression and the prevailing inequitable international economic order. The effective realization and enjoyment of what was an inalienable human right called for concerted international efforts as well as clear recognition of the responsibility of the developed countries to redress the prevailing inequality in international economic relations.

(Mr. Bashir, Pakistan)

55. His delegation regretted that efforts to draft a consensus text of the Declaration had entailed the dilution and, indeed, the erosion of the normative positions justifiably adopted by the non-aligned and the developing countries. It hoped that their demonstration of flexibility would not be construed as a sign of weakness and would be reciprocated by commensurate goodwill and co-operation. While appreciating the Yugoslav initiative in presenting a draft of the Declaration, his delegation was prepared to co-operate fully with all interested delegations to evolve a satisfactory text.

56. Mr. LY (Senegal) said that the right to development was derived from a process of far-reaching change in international economic, political, social and cultural relations. A genuine right to development should draw its moral strength from international solidarity and a sense of shared responsibility between the richer and poorer nations. The right to development had an individual as well as a collective dimension. Even though the individual was the active participant and beneficiary of that right, each State had the sovereign responsibility for determining values and objectives in accordance with its resources, political system and economic policy.

57. Another very important aspect of the right to development was its cultural dimension, namely, respect for the authentic cultural identity of peoples. Senegal had long been committed to developing the concept of the right to development. The draft text of the Declaration did not fully meet its expectations, particularly in placing inadequate emphasis on certain factors such as the socio-cultural aspects of development. However, the draft text did have the merit of representing a valid compromise between different viewpoints and deserved favourable consideration in a spirit of consensus.

58. He urged all delegations to work together in a spirit of compromise in order to secure acceptance as a universal principle the right to development in all its aspects. Adoption of the Declaration would, moreover, be in conformity with article 1, paragraph 3 of the Charter. Once the Declaration was adopted, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights could continue its useful work on the question by considering in depth ways and means of implementing the Declaration, in accordance with resolution 1986/16 of the Commission on Human Rights. The composition and working methods of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts could be reviewed, if deemed appropriate by the Commission on Human Rights, in the light of past experience.

59. Mrs. BOKOVA (Bulgaria) said that the United Nations possessed a full-fledged system of organs dealing with social and humanitarian issues which had accomplished positive results in the progressive development and codification of international rules in the field of human rights. Possibilities for improving the effectiveness of United Nations action in that field lay first of all in the strengthening of co-operation and in the universalization of international human rights instruments. Prompted by their concern to promote co-operation in the humanitarian field, several socialist countries, including Bulgaria, had proposed the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. In their view, the security of States was inseparable from the struggle for full enjoyment of human rights.

(Mrs. Bokova, Bulgaria)

60. Fresh consideration should also be given to the question of improving the effectiveness of the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights by renewing their agenda and decision-making methods. That applied particularly to bodies dealing with social matters such as the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women.

61. Today the immediate task and one to which Bulgaria attached great importance was to draw up and adopt a Declaration on the Right to Development, which would make a significant contribution not only to the development of international law but also to the efforts of many countries to gain economic independence, solve their social and economic problems and make progress in general. The interest of her country in that issue was predicated on its own socio-economic development and experience and on its consistent policy of promoting co-operation with developing countries. By providing economic assistance to developing countries equal to 0.88 per cent of its gross national product, Bulgaria was promoting the right to development by deeds and not just words.

62. Seeking to improve the effectiveness of United Nations activities in the social and humanitarian field entailed facing the real problems and seeking solutions to them. More attention should be accorded to a representative and balanced distribution of items given priority in the Sub-Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The selection of Rapporteurs should similarly reflect more varied experience, knowledge and approaches. However, other proposals for improvements, such as structural modifications of organs and the establishment of new organizational units reflected a purely formal approach which would impede the search for solutions to the problems. As in other areas of international co-operation, it was important to have political will and a desire for co-operation which could not be achieved by such structural measures alone.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.